

“When the Church Needs CPR”

Revelation 3:1-6

Intro: The CAB of spiritual CPR: *Circulation*: the blood of Christ (through Word and Sacrament); *Airway*: prayer; *Breathing*: the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without these vital signs, the church is dead.

The church at Sardis, however, didn't *look* dead! Here are three ways a church may have a reputation of being alive, when in reality it is dead.

- I. Worldly Reputation
 - a. It's all about numbers
 - b. It's all about activities
 - c. It's all about appearances
- II. Pharisaical Attitude
 - a. We are better than you
 - b. We are more religious than you
 - c. We do more than you
- III. Lacking Confession
 - a. The cancer of unconfessed sin
 - b. The blindness of unconfessed truth
 - c. The asphyxiation of unconfessed faith in Jesus

Close: Jesus telling the church to “Wake up!” is akin to him telling Lazarus to come out of the grave. Except the church didn't know it was dead, and it didn't look dead to others, and it—the people—needed to hear, obey, and repent in order to live in Christ again.