

SESSION 2: GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH

Various Passages

Saturday, February 15, 2025

1) What is the Church?

-The true Church, called in Scripture the Body of Christ, is a spiritual organism. Every person who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation is a part of the true Church.

-As established in Scripture, the local church is made up of redeemed individuals who have joined together for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service.

2) Pictures of the Church:

- Body: Romans 12:5
- Building: I Peter 2:5
- Temple: II Corinthians 6:16
- Bride: Ephesians 5:22-32
- Flock: John 10:16
- Vine Branches: John 15

3) The Structure of the Church

- Elder: I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:4; 14:23
- Deacon: I Tim 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6
- Members: Romans 12:4-8

4) Task of the Church

a. Early examples:

- Expand (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:41)
- Teach, fellowship, break bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42)
- Gathering, preaching, teaching. Encouraging, giving, sending (Acts 11:19-30)

b. Pastoral epistles: (I Timothy 3:14-15)

- Protect God's people from false teaching (I Tim 1:3; 4:1-6)
- Pray for government leaders (I Tim 2:18)
- Instruct women (I Tim 2:9-15)
- Read the Word publicly (I Tim 4:13)
- Exhort and teach (I Tim 4:13)
- Confront sin (I Tim 5:1-2; 20-21)
- Care for widows (I Tim 5:3)
- Ordain some for service (I Tim 5:22, 24-25)
- Instruct slaves, instruct the rich (I Tim 6)
- Cling to truth and faith and love in Christ (II Tim 1:13)
- Disciple men (II Tim 2:2)
- Rehearse the Gospel (II Tim 2:8-13)
- Teach holy living (II Tim 2:19-23)
- Refute and correct false teaching (II Tim 2:23-26)
- Sniff out wolves (II Tim 3:1-9; 4:15)
- Prepare God's people for persecution (II Tim 3:10-12)
- Continue to teach, reprove, correct, and train with the Word (II Tim 3:14-17) -Preach the Word (II Tim 4:1-4)
- Do the work of evangelism (II Tim 4:5)
- Appoint qualified leadership (Titus 1:5-9)
- Silence rebellious men and false teachers (Titus 1:10-16)
- Speak sound doctrine (Titus 2:1)
- Instruct men and women (Titus 2:1-8)
- Encourage godly living (Titus 3:8)
- Avoid foolish controversies (Titus 3:9)
- Reject factious people (Titus 3:10-11)
- Encourage God's people to meet pressing needs (Titus 3:14)

c. The One Another's:

- Accept one another (Romans 15:17)
- Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- Be at peace with one another (I Thessalonians 5:13)
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)

- Be hospitable to one another (Peter 4:9)
- Be humble toward one another (Inter 5:5)
- Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:33)
- Be of the same mind with one-another (Romans 12:16; 15:5)
- Be subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; I Thessalonians 5:11)
- Care for one another (I Corinthians 12:25)
- Comfort one another (I Thessalonians 4:18)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Do not challenge one another (Galatians 5:26)
- Do not complain against one another (James 5:9)
- Do not envy one another (Galatians 5:26)
- Do not judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)
- Do not repay one another evil for evil (I Thessalonians 5:15)
- Do not speak against one another (James 4:11)
- Do not sue one another (I Corinthians 6:7)
- Encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25; I Thessalonians 5:11)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
- Greet one another (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; II Corinthians 13:12; I Peter 5:14)
- Fellowship with one another (I John 1:7; Hebrews 10:25)
- Love one another (Romans 13:8; I Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Prefer one another (Romans 12:10)
- Regard one another as more important than yourself (Phil 2:3)
- Seek good for one another (I Thessalonians 5:15)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13; I Peter 4:10)
- Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
- Speak truthfully to one another (Ephesians 4:25)
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
- Tolerate one another (Ephesians 4:2)

- Wait for one another (I Corinthians 11:33)
- Wash one another's feet (John 13:14)

"The New Testament knows nothing of a "Lone Ranger" Christian. Christians have been placed by God into the body, the building, the church universal...and that placement is intended by God to be manifest in a local body of believers." -Smedly Yates

5) Blessings of being a part of the Church

- Unity [Acts 4:32].
- Purity [Acts 5:11-14].
- Encouragement [Acts 5:11,13].
- Evangelism [John 13:34-35].
- The wisdom of God on display [Ephesians 3:10-11].
- Growth according to God's design [Ephesians 4:16].