

Marks of a Healthy Church

Session 3

A. Biblical Understanding of Church Membership.

- a. George Barna found in a poll that _____ of adults who say they are Christians are “absolutely committed to the Christian Faith.”

1. What is a church?

- a. _____ - you don't hear people talk about Buddhist churches.
- b. It is not a building
- c. Dever: 9 Marks: pg 149: “According to the New Testament, the church is primarily a body of people who _____ and _____ that they have been saved by God's grace alone, for His glory alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.”
- d. Composed entirely of _____

2. Why join a church?

- a. To _____ Ourselves
 - » Church membership does not save, but is a _____ of our salvation.
 - » Accountability - we ask others to _____ us of when we have seen God's work in our lives and to _____ us when they see that we may be moving away from God.
 - » Further reading: Jonathan Edwards: Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God

b. To Evangelize the World

1) Partnering together to “send”

- 1. Trips to _____
- 2. (SNAP) _____

- c. To Expose False _____
- d. To Edify the Church – Following Christ in many ways boils down to how _____ other people, especially those in your church.
» “One-Anothers” handout
- e. To _____ God

3. Desert Springs Covenant of Faith – *handout*

B. Biblical Church Discipline.

1. Church discipline is not primarily negative.

- a. _____ discipline – _____ discipline.

Like braces on teeth or a stake that helps a tree grow straight.

^{ESV} **Matthew 7:1** "Judge not, that you be not judged.

- b. God calls us to _____ and _____, so the best interpretation of this verse is to say don't assume you know someone's _____ when you are practicing church discipline.

b. Biblical Steps.

- 1) Step One: Confront in a _____ and gentleness.
- 2) Step Two: Confront with _____ to confirm the brother has _____ and that he has or has not _____
- 3) Step Three: Witnesses are to tell it to the _____
- 4) Step Four: _____ – “Let him be to you as a Gentile and tax-gatherer” Treat him as if he were outside the fellowship.

2. Biblical Example - **1 Corinthians 5:1**

- a. The man was deeply _____. He thought he could be a Christian while deliberately _____ the Lord.

3. Five Benefits of Church Discipline

- a. For the good of the person who is _____
- b. For the good of other _____
- c. For the health of the _____ as a whole
- d. For the corporate _____ of the church
- e. For the _____, as we reflect his holiness

C. *A Concern for Discipleship and Growth.*

- a. When growth occurs it is because of _____. The growth of the Kingdom of God does not finally depend on _____.
- b. We should have a _____ to grow. We have a _____ to grow.
- c. How do we grow?
 - 1. Expository _____
 - 2. Biblical _____
 - 3. Biblical Understanding of the _____
 - 4. Biblical Understanding of _____
 - 5. Biblical Understanding of _____
 - 6. Biblical Understanding of _____
 - 7. Biblical Understanding of _____
 - 8. Biblical Understanding of _____
- d. There is no such thing as a _____ Christian.

D. *Biblical Church Leadership.*

- A. Pastor = “ _____ ”
 - » Job description or _____ -- not a _____ office

» “pastor” found only once in some translations (NASB), none in others (ESV)

B. Elders

1. A biblically qualified _____ that jointly pastors the _____ church.

2. Shared _____

3. _____ leadership

4. Qualifications

» List of qualifications from all three

a. Above _____

b. Husband of _____

c. Temperate

d. Prudent

e. Respectable

f. Having children _____

g. Not self willed

h. Not quick _____

i. Not under _____, but voluntary

j. Not for _____ gain

k. Not as _____ it over, but proving to be examples

5. Servant Leadership

In summary, using Paul’s great love chapter, we can say that a servant _____

“is patient...is _____, and is not _____...[a servant

elder] does not _____...[a servant elder] is not

_____, does not act _____... does not

_____ [his] ... own... [a servant elder] bears all

_____, believes all _____, hopes all

_____, endures all _____” (1 Cor. 13:4-7).¹

¹ Strauch, Alexander, *Biblical Eldership-An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership*, Lewis and Roth Publishers, Colorado Springs CO. 1995. p. 98.

6. Hebrews: Obey Your Leaders

to you.

a. Submission

1) Submission is fundamental to the _____.

Christians are to be responsive to their _____, yield to their authority, and _____ themselves to them even when they have a difference of _____.²

b. Watch over your souls -- Greater accountability before God

» Pray for your _____ !

» Count the _____ !

c. Make their work joy, not grief

» Not With _____...

» Contentiousness - _____ takes the joy away from the work of elders.

The One-Anothers of the New Testament

The Gospels

1. "...Be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet" (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17)

Paul's Letters

Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians

4. "Love one another" (Romans 13:8)
5. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
6. "Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10)
7. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
8. "...Stop passing judgment on one another" (Romans 14:13)
9. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
10. "...instruct one another" (Romans 15:4)
11. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26)
12. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other" (I Corinthians 11:33)
13. "...Have equal concern for each other" (I Corinthians 12:25)
14. "...Serve one another in love" (II Corinthians 13:12)

² Ibid, p. 268.

Galatians, Ephesians

15. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
16. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other" (Galatians 5:15)
17. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other" (Galatians 5:26)
18. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2)
19. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
20. "...forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
21. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19)
22. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21)

Philippians, Colossians

23. "...in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3)
24. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)
25. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
26. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another" (Colossians 3:13)
27. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
28. "...admonish one another" (Colossians 3:16)

I Thessalonians, Hebrews

29. "...make your love increase and overflow for each other" (I Thessalonians 3:12)
30. "Encourage one another" (I Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 10:25)
31. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
32. "Encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13)
33. "Spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)

Other Letters

James, I Peter, I John, II John

34. "...Do not slander one another" (James 4:11)
35. "Don't grumble against each other" (James 5:9)
36. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
37. "...Pray for each other" (James 5:16)
38. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart" (I Peter 1:22, 4:8)
39. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
40. "Greet one another with a kiss of love" (I Peter 5:14)
41. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (I Peter 4:9)
42. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
43. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (I Peter 5:15)
44. "Love one another" (I John 3:11, 23, 4:7,11,12; II John 5)