

Section 10

THINGS I BELIEVE ABOUT THE CHURCH

This area of study is often called ECCLESIOLOGY
(a study of the Church)

WHAT DOES THE WORD 'CHURCH' REALLY MEAN?

There is a lot of confusion about “church” because of multiple uses of the word.

The church is built by Jesus on the basis of _____
Matthew 16:18 – The “rock” is not Peter, but faith in Christ.
(Catholic error)

The church is tied to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13)

We get the word “church” from the Greek word “ekklesia”
“Ekklesia” simply means an _____.
Originally the term was used for political
gatherings (*as seen in Acts 19:32, 39, and 41*)

A conservative estimate of New Testament usage
of “ekklesia” shows that:

_____ % refer to the Universal Church
_____ % refer to the Local Church

The focus of the New Testament is on the _____ CHURCH

The basic mission of the local church is tied to the Great
Commission (*Matt 28:19-20*)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL?

The UNIVERSAL CHURCH is that company of people who are _____ and baptized with the Holy Spirit to form the Body of Christ (Barackman, 285)

- The Universal church is _____ a continuation of the nation of Israel (Covenant Theology)
(1 Corinthians 10:32 – “... whether Jews, Greeks, or the church of God”)
- The Universal church is _____ made up of all church members or attendees.
- The Universal church is _____ the Roman Catholic church.

The LOCAL CHURCH is a local body of _____ Christian believers who are associated together in a biblical pattern of organization for the goal of meeting the _____ and fulfilling the biblical outline of local church functions.

- The Local church is _____ the continuation of the synagogue. (Matthew 16:18 – “... upon this rock I will build my church”)
- The Local church is _____ a building.
- The Local church is _____ a denomination

IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE AN ORGANIZED CHURCH?

Without some form of organization, it is not possible to _____ the New Testament teaching.

(This is what led to the founding of the Brethren / Grace Brethren in 1708)

The pattern of organization in the Local Church involves:

- 1) Organized _____ – they knew who was in, who was out, who were added.
 - There are no distinctions between members (all equal)
 - There are differences between members (various spiritual gifts / roles)
- 2) Chosen _____ –
 - Leaders are chosen based on spiritual qualifications & godly character.
 - The key leaders are seen in the New Testament as overseers/elders.
 - The overseers are assisted in some of their functions by a group of deacons and deaconesses.

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT LOCAL LEADERSHIP?

- 1) _____ = _____ = _____
 - The authority granted to overseers does not rest on them as individuals, but upon the group of men as a whole. (*Plural eldership: Acts 11:30; 14:23; Philippians 1:1; James 5:14*)
 - All overseers are not pastors, but all pastors must meet the spiritual qualifications of overseers.

- The Spiritual Leaders (overseers) have the God-given responsibility for:

- Teaching (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Guarding (Acts 20:28-29; Titus 1:9-14)
- Providing Oversight (1 Peter 5:2-3)
- Leading and ruling (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17)
- Equipping the saints (Ephesians 4:12)
- Serving as examples (1 Peter 5:3)
- Exercising necessary discipline (Matthew 18:17)

2) _____ = _____

- The term is used non-technically as “servant” (Matthew 20:26; John 2:5; Romans 13:4; 2 Corinthians 11:15)
- The term was applied to a specific group of officers (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1; Romans 16:1)
- The New Testament nowhere defines the responsibilities of deacons and does not limit all offices and work in the church to them.

WHAT IS AN ORDINANCE AND HOW DO THEY FIT IN ?

ORDINANCES – An ordinance is a physical act, ceremonial in nature, with an intended and specified symbolic significance, and the expectation of perpetuation in the Church.

An ordinance has an intended symbolic significance established by _____ statements of Scripture.

The mode or form of an ordinance must reflect as _____ as possible that which is being symbolized (mode must reflect doctrine)

Ordinance 1 = _____ by Trine Immersion (Matt. 28:19)

Ordinance 2 = _____ consisting of:

- Feet Washing (John 13:1-17)
- Lord’s Supper / Agape / Love Feast (1 Cor. 11:20-34; Rev. 19:7-9)
- Bread & Cup / Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)