

Bible for Life: *Discovering the Church*

CLASS 1: MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH PART I: THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Resources: Mark Dever, *What is a Healthy Church?*
 Robert L. Saucy, *The Church in God's Program*
 Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
 Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*

1.2 WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklēsia* (ἐκκλησία) literally meaning, "called-out ones", but came to mean "_____"

- The study of the church is called _____

A) Sometimes it could mean just a _____
 (Acts 19:32, Ps 89:5, Ps 26:5)

B) More commonly, it has the technical meaning in the NT of the

- The NT uses the word in two main ways:

1) _____ Church (Col 1:18a; Eph 5:25; Acts 9:31)

2) _____ Church (1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16:23; 1 Cor 1:2a)

- The church is not a _____!

1.3 WHEN IS THE CHURCH?

A) The Church was still _____ in Jesus' time (Matt 16:18)

B) The Church was founded by Jesus' _____ (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 3:11)

C) The Church began at the Day of _____ when believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13; Acts 11:15)

D) The Church age is complete at the _____ (1 Thess 4:16-17)

Universal Church	Local Church
Universal Genuine Believers Organism Ungathered	Local Professed Believers Organization Gathered

1.4 HAS THE CHURCH REPLACED ISRAEL?

- There are two main theological viewpoints:

- 1) _____ – Church is believers of all ages, Old Testament saints included
- 2) _____ – Church is believers from Pentecost to Rapture

A) Where do the Reformed believers base their viewpoint?

- 1) OT Scriptures that use _____ to describe believers in Israel (Ps 22:22)
- 2) NT Scriptures that speak of the Church in _____ terms (Eph 5:23)
- 3) NT Scriptures that apply _____ to Israel to the Church
(Jer 31:31-34 with Heb 8:8-13)
- 4) NT passages that seem to imply no _____ between Israel/Church
(1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; Eph 3:6-7; Acts 7:38)

B) How would a Dispensationalist respond?

- 1) The OT Scriptures that use *ekklesia* aren't using it in a _____ NT sense
- 2) Metaphors are _____ and don't necessarily equate the literal objects of comparison (1 Pet 5:8; Rev 5:5)
- 3) The Church does share some of Israel's promises, but this doesn't _____ Israel's promises! (Jer 31:35-37)
- 4) The NT explicitly demonstrates a _____ between Israel and the Church (Gal 6:16; 1 Cor 10:32; Rom 11:11-12)

1.5 SUMMARY

CLASS 2: MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH, PART II: PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Three Primary Relationships/Purposes of the Church:

1) Ministry to _____ => _____ / _____

Romans 12:1 –

1 Corinthians 3:16 –

Ephesians 5:25-27 –

2) Ministry to _____ => _____ / _____

1 Corinthians 14:26 –

A) The church emphasized _____

B) The church emphasized _____

- Two primary means of edification:

A) _____

Matthew 28:19-20 –

B) _____ – A Greek word meaning “teaching.”

Acts 2:42 –

Colossians 3:16 –

Ephesians 4:11-12 – _____ are God’s gift to the church

to _____ the church for these tasks.

3) Ministry to the _____ => _____ / _____

Matthew 28:19-20 –

Acts 1:8 –

- The church's mission to evangelize happens by two primary means:

A) _____ Evangelism

Philemon 6 –

B) Sending _____

Romans 10:13-15 –

- A secondary means of evangelism: Biblical _____

1 Corinthians 14:23-25 –

A) It was open for _____ and _____

B) The _____ should be regularly preached.

C) The primary purpose of the local church gathering was *not* for

Seeker-Sensitive Churches vs Seeker-Driven Churches:

Seeker _____ is appropriate,

but Seeker _____ is not _____.

CLASS 3: NON-NEGOTIABLES OF A LOCAL CHURCH

3.1 NON-NEGOTIABLES OF A LOCAL CHURCH

Non-Negotiable = Things that *must* be present for a church to be a church (_____)

Acts 2:42 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

1) _____ / _____

2 Timothy 2:2, 4:1-2 –

2) _____

Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 John 1:3, 6-7 –

3) _____: _____ & _____

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 20:7a –

Sacrament = a means of _____

Ordinance = a practice that demonstrates _____

A) Baptism – lit: “to _____ / _____”

Acts 8:35-38, Romans 6:4 –

B) Communion – Act of _____ of Christ’s death on the cross.

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 –

C) A possible third ordinance: _____

John 13:14 –

4) _____

1 Timothy 2:1-3 –

5) _____

Acts 20:28, Philippians 1:1 –

6) _____ & _____

Matthew 18:15-17, 2 Corinthians 2:6 –

7) _____ & _____

Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-10 –

8) _____ & _____

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Galatians 6:9-10, Romans 10:14-15 –

9) Use of _____

1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:6a –

10) Biblical Corporate _____

1 Corinthians 14:15, 3:16 –

3.2 FORM VS FUNCTION

_____ : What a church is commanded to do

_____ : How a church decides to do it

General Rule: When a function is _____,

that's probably the intended _____

_____ as little as possible from the biblical description of a practice.

3.3 ABSOLUTES VS PREFERENCES

1) _____ – things always true about church for every place, every time, every person

2) _____ – things that we are convicted about or prefer that are not categorically prescribed in the Bible

CLASS 4: LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION, PART I: ELDERS AND DEACONS

- The New Testament recognizes two leadership roles:

_____ and _____

4.1 PASTORS

A) The NT uses three different terms for the same office:

1) _____ (*presbuteros*) – emphasizes spiritual _____

- It is a description of _____

2) _____ (*episcopē*) – emphasizes _____ and direction

- It is a description of _____

3) _____ (*poimēn*) – emphasizes responsibility to _____,
nurture and protect

- It is a _____ for the position

Acts 20:17 // 20:28 –

1 Peter 5:1-4 –

Titus 1:5-7 –

B) Pastors were always established in _____

Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5, 1 Timothy 5:17 -

C) Pastors had to be _____ for their position of leadership
(1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9; cf. 1 Peter 5:1-3)

1) There are _____ qualifications for a pastor

2) There are at least two other qualifications:

a) Able to _____

b) Able to _____

D) What are the main responsibilities of Pastors?

- 1) A pastor is responsible to _____ the flock (Ti 1:9, Eph 4:11-12)
- 2) A pastor is responsible to _____ the flock (Acts 20:28-30)
- 3) A pastor is responsible to _____ the flock (1 Thess 5:12, 1 Pet 5:3)
- 4) A pastor is responsible to _____ for the flock (Js 5:13-15, Acts 6:4)

4.2 DEACONS

A) The word “deacon” comes from the world translated elsewhere as “_____”
(Matthew 20:26b; Philippians 1:1; cf. 1 Timothy 3:8, 12)

Acts 6:1-3 –

B) Deacons, like Pastors, should also be _____ for leadership
(1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- The qualifications for a Deacon are primarily _____

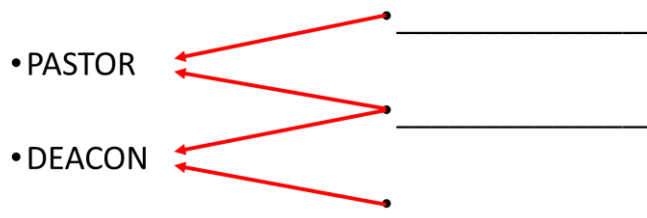
Acts 6:4-7 –

C) Deacons are servant-leaders with several key responsibilities:

- 1) The primary responsibility of a Deacon is to _____,
both the Pastors and the Church
- 2) The Deacons also oversee and distribute the _____ of the Church.

4.3 TRUSTEES? COMMITTEES?

• BIBLICAL POSITIONS • BBC POSITIONS



4.4 RESOURCES

- *40 Questions About Elders and Deacons* (Benjamin L. Merkle)
- *Elders in the Life of the Church* (Newton & Schmucker)
- *Biblical Eldership* and *The New Testament Deacon* (Alexander Strauch)

CLASS 5: LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION, PART II: WOMEN IN MINISTRY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- There are two main views in Christianity on women leadership:

_____ – God created male and female equal in value and person but distinct in role and responsibility in order to complement each other and reflect Christ’s relationship with the Church.

_____ – Gender distinctions are a result of the Fall and there are no longer any biblically-based gender distinctions in either the marriage or the Church.

Summary of Complementarian Teaching:

A) Men and woman were created as _____ as persons in the image of God.

B) Men and women were created as distinct _____ with distinct _____ in both the home and the church.

C) These gender/role distinctions are not as a result of the _____, but are God-ordained and taught in both Old and New Testament.

5.2 KEY PASSAGES

Genesis 1:27 – This verse represents both _____ and _____.

Genesis 3:16 (cf. 4:7) – An *unhealthy, sinful desire for _____, or usurpation of the husband’s leadership role* is part of the curse of sin on women.

1 Timothy 2:11-14 –

1) It *cannot* mean a woman is not permitted to _____ at all in church
(1 Corinthians 11:4-5)

2) It *cannot* mean that a woman is not permitted to teach _____ or _____ (Titus 2:3-5)

3) It *cannot* mean that women were/are viewed by God as less _____ than men (Genesis 1:31)
- The reason Paul gives for the command is _____, not _____.

- Compare also 1 Corinthians 14:31-35 with 11:5.

Summary:

- A) There is a natural (sinful) tendency for men/women to _____ their biblical roles
- B) Women are restricted from functioning as _____ and Deacons
- C) Women are restricted from authoritatively _____ men in the local church

5.3 WOMEN IN MINISTRY

- 1) _____ **Titus 2:3-5** (see also 2 Tim 1:5, 3:14, Pr 31:26, Acts 18:24-26)
- 2) _____
- 3) _____ **Acts 18:1-3, 18a** (see also Rom 16:3-4)
- 4) _____
- 5) _____ **Romans 16:1-2**
- 6) Financial _____
- 7) _____ **Romans 16:4a**
- 8) _____ **1 Corinthians 11:4-5**

5.4 DEACONNESS?**1 Timothy 3:11 –**

Option #1: Referring to the wife of a deacon (as in ESV)

Option #2: Referring to a female deacon

Romans 16:1 –**1 Timothy 2:12 –****Acts 6:3 –****5.5 RESOURCES**

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism

(eds. John Piper & Wayne Grudem)

Jesus, Justice and Gender Roles (Kathy Keller)

Women's Ministry Handbook (Carol Porter)

“The Danvers Statement”

CLASS 6: LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION, PART III: MEMBERSHIP & DISCIPLINE

6.1 A BIBLICAL DEFENSE OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Early local churches recognized who was _____ and who was _____ (1 Cor 5:1-2, 11-13)
- B. Early local churches had _____ votes (2 Cor 2:6-7; Acts 15:22a)
- C. Early local churches kept _____ (1 Tim 5:9, 11)
- D. Early local churches sent letters of _____ (Rom 16:1; Acts 18:27a)
- E. Early local churches kept record of _____ (Acts 16:5, etc.)
- F. Early local churches required _____ (Heb 10:24-25)

6.2 A PRACTICAL DEFENSE OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Churches cannot legally _____ non-members
- B. The membership process has proved to thwart potential _____
- C. Membership helps solve practical _____ issues

6.3 BETHANY'S MEMBERSHIP PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. Attend the _____ Class
 4. Meet with our _____
 5. Congregational _____
- Membership has its _____
 - Membership has its _____

6.4 CONGREGATIONAL AUTHORITY

Philippians 1:1, Hebrews 13:17 –

Members of local congregations were involved in:

- A. _____ Selection (Acts 1:15-23, 6:2-3, 14:23)
- B. _____ Missionaries (2 Cor 8:18-19, Acts 14:26-27)
- C. Matters Pertaining to Membership and _____ (Mt 18:17, 1 Cor 5, 2 Cor 2:4-5)
- D. _____ Issues (Acts 15:22a, Gal 1:9)
- E. Affirming and Supporting _____ (Heb 13:17, 1 Th 5:12-13, 1 Tim 5:19)

6.5 CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- The Goal: To encourage a believer to _____ of continual, public sin.

- The Purposes of Church Discipline:

- 1) Church Discipline _____ godly members of the church
- 2) Church Discipline _____ ungodly members to repent
- 3) Church Discipline keeps the church _____ from sin

Step One: _____ Confrontation (Matt 18:15)

Step Two: _____ Confrontation (Matt 18:16)

Step Three: _____ Confrontation (Matt 18:17a)

Step Four: _____ (Matt 18:17b)

~ What happens if the person then repents? (2 Cor 2:5-8)

~ How do we know if it's genuine repentance? (2 Cor 7:9-11)

~ Is church discipline only for church leaders? (Gal 6:1, 1 Tim 5:19)

- Other Passages: Titus 3:10-11, Rom 16:17, 1 Cor 5:5, 1 Tim 1:19b

6.6 RESOURCES

What is a Healthy Church Member? by Thabiti M. Anyabwile

Handbook of Church Discipline: A Right and Privilege of Every Church Member by Jay Adams

Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus by Jonathan Leeman

CLASS 7: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

7.1 WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Definition: Spiritual gifts are _____ empowered by the Holy Spirit,
 given to _____,
 to be used in the _____ of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 –

NATURAL GIFTS	SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Given by God _____ our parents	Given by God _____ of parents
Given at _____ birth	Given at _____ birth
Possessed by _____	Possessed by _____
Benefits _____ generally	Benefits the _____
Empowered by _____ and discipline	Empowered by the _____

7.2 WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Opinion #1: The lists in the NT are _____

Opinion #2: The lists in the NT are _____

Romans 12:4-8 –

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 –

1 Corinthians 12:27-31a –

Ephesians 4:11-12 –

1 Peter 4:10-11 –

1 Corinthians 7:7 –

7.3 WHAT ARE MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1 Timothy 3:1 –

#1) What are you _____ about?

#2) What are you _____ at?

#3) What have others _____ in you?

#4) Get involved in _____!

7.4 LOSING & GAINING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. Can I Lose My Spiritual Gift(s)? In a word: _____! (1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6)

B. Can I strengthen my spiritual gifts? In a word: _____!

C. Can I gain a new spiritual gift? In a word: _____! (1 Cor 12:31a)

7.5 HAVE SOME SPIRITUAL GIFTS CEASED?

- There are two *main* theological viewpoints:

A) _____ – believe God stopped giving the “sign gifts” in the apostolic age (1st c. church) since these gifts were for the purpose of authenticating the ministry and word of the apostles.

B) _____ – God continues to give the same gifts today as He did back in the time of the apostles.

Hebrews 2:3-4 –

1 Thessalonians 1:5 –

2 Corinthians 12:12 –

Summary: Supernatural spiritual gifts were given as _____
to _____ the message and authority of the apostles and the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 –

7.6 RESOURCES

Thomas Schreiner – *Spiritual Gifts: What Are They and Why They Matter*

DA Carson – *Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14*

Wayne Grudem – *The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*

CLASS 8: CHURCH METAPHORS

8.1 HERMENEUTICS

Hermeneutics = How to _____ the Bible

Metaphors in Scripture: When comparing two things, remember –

There is usually only _____ main point of reference in each _____
(Ex: Proverbs 19:12)

Exception: Sometimes there are _____ points of reference in
_____ metaphors (Ex: Psalm 10:8-10)

The key: _____ will help determine the point of a metaphor.

8.2 CHURCH METAPHORS

A. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:12-16 – The Church is like a _____

B. 1 Timothy 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 6:18 – The Church is like a _____

C. Ephesians 5:22-33, 2 Corinthians 11:2 – The Church is like a _____

D. John 10:11-18, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 21:15-17 – The Church is like a _____

E. 1 Peter 2:4-8, Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16 – The Church is like a _____

F. John 15:1-10 – The Church is like _____

Additional metaphors:¹

- An olive tree (Rom 11:17-24)
- A field of crops (1 Cor 3:6-9)
- A building (1 Cor 3:9)
- A harvest (Mt 13:1-30; Jn 4:35)
- A house (Heb 3:3-6)
- A pillar and bulwark of truth (1 Tim 3:15)

¹ The following examples come from Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 858.

CLASS 9: DISCOVERING BBC

9.1 EVALUATING CHURCH HEALTH

- Two potentially false indicators of church health:

_____ and _____

A. False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3 –

1) False Teachers have a lot of _____

2) False Teachers are motivated by _____

B. Churches of Revelation

1) Church of Philadelphia (Rev 3:8b): _____ but _____

2) Church of Sardis (Rev 3:1b): _____ but _____

3) Church of Smyrna (Rev 2:9): _____ but _____

4) Church of Laodicea (Rev 3:17): _____ but _____

Summary: Finances and Attendance are _____,

but they are not the _____ or _____ means of

evaluating church health.

Evaluating Church Health: Ask two questions...

1) What does the Bible _____?

2) Are we _____ it?

9.2 EVALUATING BETHANY BIBLE CHURCH

Course Summary:

- Local Church – Local gathering of professed Christians organized to do God’s will

- 1) Ministry to God / Exalt / Magnify – Upward Focus
- 2) Ministry to Believers / Edify / Maturity – Inward Focus
- 3) Ministry to Unbelievers / Evangelize / Mission – Outward Focus

Non-Negotiables of the Local Church:

- 1) Biblical Preaching & Teaching
- 2) Regular Fellowship
- 3) Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
- 4) Corporate Prayer
- 5) Qualified Biblical Leadership: Elders & Deacons
- 6) Membership & Discipline
- 7) Evangelism & Discipleship
- 8) Ministry & Mission: Men & Women
- 9) Use of Spiritual Gifts: Congregational Involvement
- 10) Biblical Corporate Worship

- Two Discussion Questions:

1) What are 2-3 things BBC excels at? Where are we healthiest?

2) What are 2-3 things BBC needs to work at? Where are we weakest?