

Five Elements of a Biblical Foundation

Where are we going?

Orthodoxy should lead to orthopraxy. Matthew 7:24-27

Every believer that is seeking to be biblical and, therefore, _____ - _____, must have these elements as the foundation of their life and ministry to others.

We must have a _____ of God

1. God is holy, righteous, and just.
2. We then must be _____ (practical sanctification). (1 Peter 1:16)
3. A failure in this, to have a high view of God, leads to:
 - a. A toleration of _____
 - b. A focus on _____ (in a church, evidenced in teaching and programs)
 - c. Result in a church:

Result in an individual's life:

4. Questions to consider:
 - a. Do I focus on promoting God's holiness or my comfort?
 - b. Do I have a reverence for the character of God?
 - c. Do I compromise truth for the sake of pleasing people or maintaining the status quo?

We must recognize the _____ of God's Word.

1. _____ (1 Timothy 3:14-16)
2. _____ (2 Peter 1:3-4)
 - a. It may not give us an explicit answer to every specific problem, but it will always give us the principles by which we can, through obedience, glorify God.
 - b. A failure to recognize the sufficiency and superiority of the Word leads to:
 - i. Pursuit of _____, rather than _____
 - ii. Personal _____ as your authority rather than the authority of God's Word
 - iii. _____ thinking as your guide for living rather than the principles of divine truth
 - c. The result of ignoring this element of a biblical foundation is that people pursue their own desires based upon an _____ *standard*.
 - d. The outgrowth of this essential component:

3. Questions to consider:
 - a. Do you humbly and willingly submit to the authority of the Word?
 - b. Is your life conforming to the Word?
 - c. Are you applying the teaching and preaching of God's Word to your life?
 - d. Do you turn to God's Word to find the answers to your problems?

We must have an accurate _____.

1. Mankind is totally _____.
 - a. Romans 3:10-18
 - b. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - c. Genesis 6:5
2. Man was created to _____ God, but because of sin, he seeks to _____ himself (Romans 3:23).
3. A sinner is _____ from God, and as a result, he will seek _____ from the world's evil system (I John 2:15-17). The implications are frightening:
4. The result of ignoring this foundational element is that people make choices to solve their life's problems based on where they believe practically their _____ will be met.
5. Questions to consider:
 - a. Is the goal of your discipling to confront sin and see God change lives, or to please people?
 - b. Are you more Christ-like today than you were a year ago? Can you see spiritual progress over your lifetime?
 - c. Are you living out a life that reflects total dependence on God as a model to people in your life?
 - d. Knowing this enables us to formulate ministry that seeks to meet real needs, not just felt needs. Therefore, the goal of all true ministry is to lead man to a greater relationship with God through obedience to His Word.

We must understand the priority of the _____

1. “The gospel by which we are saved ... is the gospel by which we must live every day of our Christian lives. In Romans 3:24, Paul said we are justified by grace, referring to what we might call our point-in-time salvation, the day we trusted in Christ. In Romans 5:2, however, Paul spoke of “this grace in which we now stand.” Here he refers to our day-to-day standing before God as being on the same basis as our justification—that is, on the basis of grace. But this grace—unmerited favor to those who deserve wrath—comes to us through the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹
2. “The gospel is so foolish (according to my natural wisdom), so scandalous (according to my conscience), and so incredible (according to my timid heart), that it is a daily battle to believe the full scope of it as I should. There is simply no other way to compete with the forebodings of my conscience, the condemnings of my heart, and the lies of the world and the Devil than to overwhelm such things with daily rehearsings of the gospel.”² (1 Corinthians 1:21-23, 1 John 3:19-20, 2 Corinthians 4:4)
3. A failure to correctly understand that the _____ and _____ of our ongoing sanctification (being remade into Christlikeness) is our justification will result in a _____ like that found in Galatians.
4. A failure to correctly understand that the gospel means that we *will* progress in _____—i.e. we will grow in obedience to its commands—will result in a _____ like that in 1 Corinthians. (see 1 Corinthians 6:16-20—you were bought at a price.)
5. Questions to consider:
 - a. Do you understand and believe the gospel? Are you an adopted child of God?
 - b. Do you feel like God won’t bless your activities of the day because of your sin?
 - c. Do you feel like God should bless your activities of the day because of you did your devotions and prayed today?

¹Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God’s Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1994), 59.

²Milton Vincent, *The Gospel Primer*, In-process draft 7.5 (Riverside, CA: Mission Reprographics, 2006), 14.

We must understand the purpose of the church.

1. The church exists to be a repository of _____ (I Timothy 3:15).
2. The church exists to provide a context of _____ with one another for the purpose of mutual edification (Ephesians 3:16-19; 4:12-16).
3. The church exists as a _____ whereby people can grow through the application of teaching and the utilization of their spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 4:11ff)
4. The church exists to be a light in this dark world, for the _____ of God's elect (Titus 2:11-14).
5. A failure to correctly understand the purpose of the church leads to:

6. Questions to consider in our discipling:
 - a. How do you view the purpose of the local church?
 - b. How do you define "ministry success"?
 - c. Are you being equipped and motivated to exercise your spiritual giftedness?
 - d. Does our ministry structure revolve around maintaining programs or building character into the lives of our people?

Where Are We Going?

Practical Theology

Pt 1 - Biblical Foundations for Life

Pt 2 - Self-examination and the Heart

Pt 3 - Pride & Humility

Pt 4 - Mortification of Sin

Pt 5 - Godliness

Pt 6 - Communication

Pt 7 - Anger

Pt 8 - Anxiety & Fear