

Chapter 10, concluded – What Church Should You Join?

Nine Qualities to Look for in a Church

Key Verse: Ephesians 1:22-23 – “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

Definitions: **Quality** = 1. the standard of something as measured against other things of a similar kind; the degree of excellence of something.
2. a distinctive attribute or characteristic possessed by someone or something.

The Nine Qualities:

1. The Bible is the only guide for faith and practice. Titus 1:1-3.
2. Worship of God is reverent and biblical. John 4:24, Ephesians 5:18-19, Colossians 3:16.
3. Biblical concept of God [is properly understood]. Exodus 15:11, Corinthians 4:6.
4. Gospel-centered. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Page 82-83 of Jesus Loves the Church.
5. There is love for the brethren. John 13:34-35, John 15:9-13, 1 John 4:7
6. Evident compassion for the unsaved. Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:44-49.

7. Church discipline [is properly used to pursue holiness]. Matthew 18:15-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 2 Corinthians 2:5-9, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.
6 Truths we can learn about church discipline:
 - A. Church discipline is not contrary to grace and love. In fact, not to implement church discipline may be one of the most unloving things a church can do.
 - B. The church has a set of rules by which to live (vv. 1-2 & 11).
 - C. The church is to actually judge its members (vv. 3-5).
 - D. It is the responsibility of the church to remove the contaminating source of sin (vv. 6-8).
 - E. Ultimately, when a church exercises its final act of discipline upon its members (excommunication), it withdraws its most precious gift – fellowship (vv. 9-11).
 - F. Failure of the church to purge the disobedient and unrepentant is flagrant disobedience to God and His holy Word (vv. 12-13).

8. Encouraging and stirring to grow in grace, holiness, love, and Christlikeness.
1 Thessalonians 5:14.

9. Impatient, yet seeking reform as servants of God. [Quote from page 86]

Chapter 11 – What are the “Means of Grace” in the Church?

Private Means of Grace; Public Means of Grace

Key Verse: 2 Peter 3:18 – “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Definitions: Galatians 3:1-3, Ephesians 8:8-10, Philippians 2:12-13, 2 Peter 3:18.

“means” = “that by which a result is brought about.” Blackburn, page 90

“grace” = “the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to His Church the benefits of His mediation.”

The Private Means of Grace:

1. Reading the Word of God. Hebrews 1:1-4
 - a. D _____
 - b. D _____
 - c. O _____
 - d. S _____ - _____
2. Prayer. Matthew 7:7, 11; Luke 11:5-13; Colossians 1:9-12; James 1:5-6; Matthew 6:9-13; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; John 14:26; Romans 10:1.
3. Meditation. Psalm 119:15-16.

The Public Means of Grace:

1. Assembling together for worship. Hebrews 10:25; LBC chapter 22, paragraphs 2-3, 5-6.
2. The ordinances of the gospel, as part of corporate worship. LBC chapter 22, paragraphs 5.
 - a. Baptism. Acts 2:41; Acts 18:8.
 - b. The Lord’s Supper, or Communion. 1 Corinthians 11:24-26.
3. Fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-16; Galatians 3:16-28; Proverbs 27:17
4. Corporate prayer. Luke 18:9-14.

“Pursuing these God-ordained means will glorify God, increase Christ’s kingdom, and bring you godliness, peace, and joy.” – Blackburn, page 100.