

Lesson 9 – Why Should You Join a Church? [CONCLUDED]

(Chapter 9 of Jesus Loves the Church and So Should You)

Seven Reasons You Should Join a Church

Key Verse: Colossians 1:24 & 28 – “24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: ”

1. The relationship between Christ and the church.
2. The example of early Christians. Acts 2:14-47.
3. Apostolic example and practice. Acts 13:1-4 and Acts 14:23-28.
4. It is the focus and context of the Christian life in the NT epistles.
5. The exact and precise NT directive. Hebrews 10:23-25. Also 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
6. The Lord Jesus Christ personally and primarily interacts with local churches. Revelation 2:1 - 3:22
 - a. Prophet – He speaks to his churches, through his messengers.
 - b. Priest – he ministers to his church.
 - c. King – he holds his messengers, his church leaders in His right hand
7. The benefits you receive by being a member, that you would **not** receive otherwise.
 - a. Pastoral care. 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7, 17; and 1 Peter 5:2-3.
 - b. Love and service of fellow members. Book, see pages 59-60.
 - c. New Testament ordinances; Book, chapter 11.
 - i. Baptism
 - ii. Communion.
 - d. Exercising spiritual gifts. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:11.

Lesson 10 – What Church Should You Join?

(Chapter 10 of Jesus Loves the Church and So Should You)

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:
- Marks** = distinguishing traits or qualities.
 - Distinctives** = special qualities that serve to distinguish; or characteristics.
 - 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 marks of a true church, the distinctives of a church, as we learned in chapter 5 are:

1. True preaching of the Word through the practice of thorough exposition of the Holy Scriptures.
2. Proper view and observance of the sacraments.
3. Careful and faithful exercising of church discipline.

The Nine Qualities:

1. The B_____ is the only guide for faith and practice. Titus 1:1-3.
5 reasons a church should have such a confession or creed:
 - A. It is a useful means for the public affirmation and defense of truth.
 - B. It serves as a public standard of fellowship and discipline.
 - C. It provides a working manual to teach Christians the cardinal truths of the faith.
 - D. It serves as a concise standard by which to evaluate ministers of the Word.
 - E. It contributes to a sense of historical continuity.

2. W_____ of God is reverent and biblical. John 4:24, Ephesians 5:18-19, Colossians 3:16.
Basic elements of true worship:
 - A. Reading and exposition of the scriptures, the Holy Bible.
 - B. Prayer.
 - C. Singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
 - D. Giving of tithes and offerings.
 - E. Baptism.
 - F. The Lord's supper.

3. Biblical concept of G_____ [is properly understood]. Exodus 15:11, Corinthians 4:6. Chapter 2, Of God and the Holy Trinity, paragraph 1 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession.

4. G_____ -centered. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

5. There is love for the b_____. John 13:34-35, John 15:9-13, 1 John 4:7

6. Evident c_____ for the unsaved. Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:44-49.

7. Church d_____ [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 I 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 exercise 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. E_____ and stirring to grow in grace, holiness, love, and Christlikeness.
1 Thessalonians 5:14.

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