

The Right Church

Introduction. The church is Christ's body of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:21-23). It is made up of all baptized believers. "Church" comes from the word which means "assembly" or "called out" people. Peter called us "living stones" that "are being built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5). Thus, the root meaning of "church" does not designate a building, but people who are called by God's grace by the gospel (Ephesians 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:14).

Sometimes people disparage the church and make awful statements about it; however, our thoughts and words should reflect respect, honor, and appreciation. The church is right, and we have to communicate the benefits and blessings of it. Therefore, we need to know what is right so it can be told to others.

I. The Foundation Is Right

- A. Everything must have a proper foundation, whether it is a marriage, building, or church. Jesus built His church on the foundation of faith (Matthew 16:13-19).
- B. The church has the right foundation because Jesus is that foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20-21). Peter says Jesus is the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6-8). The foundation of Jesus is solid as rock (Matthew 7:24-27), both in person and in His teaching.

II. The Faith Is Right

- A. Doctrine is simply what we teach (1 Timothy 4:16). Some teach truth while some teach falsehood. Those who teach falsehood pervert the word of God, and those who teach truth affirm the word of God.
- B. It is the truth for which we should "contend earnestly" (Jude 3). The church has the right doctrine because Jesus is that doctrine (Acts 8:35). What does it mean to "preach Jesus" to people?
 1. We preach Him as our Savior (Acts 5:31).
 2. We preach Him as our Lord (Acts 2:36).
 3. We preach Him as our guide (John 14:6).
 4. We preach Him as our example (1 Peter 2:20-21).
 5. We preach Him as our hope (1 Corinthians 15:19-22).
 6. We preach Him as our judge (Acts 17:31).

III. The Fellowship Is Right

- A. Fellowship is the life blood of the church (Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:3-6). The early church spent time together in new family relationships in Christ.
- B. Over and over came the instructions:
 1. Encourage each other (Romans 1:12).
 2. Rejoice with each other (Romans 12:16).
 3. Pray for each other (Romans 15:30).
 4. Suffer with each other (1 Corinthians 12:26).
 5. Restore each other (Galatians 6:1).
 6. Carry each other (Galatians 6:2).

7. Speak truth to each other (Ephesians 4:25).
8. Forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32).
9. Give to each other (Philippians 4:14-15).
10. Provoke each other to good works (Hebrews 10:24).
11. Confess to each other (James 5:16).

IV. The Focus Is Right

- A. The soul is infinite in value (Matthew 16:24); therefore, the church's fixation is souls (Mark 16:15). In fact, Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the mass of lost souls (Matthew 9:35-36; 14:14).
- B. Such compassion motivated Him to do two things.
 1. He asked His disciples to pray that God would send out laborers (Matthew 9:37-38).
 2. He did something about it Himself. He selected and sent out His apostles (Matthew 10:1, 5-7).
- C. Do we ever find ourselves filled with compassion for the lost and doing something about it? If we can only have this same compassion for people in sin, we will not rest until we are working to bring them to Jesus (cp. Romans 10:1).

V. The Future Is Right

- A. When Jesus returns, He's coming for His church (1 Corinthians 15:24). Paul explained the process of the end in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
- B. Each day we should live for the One that died for us (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). Therefore, heaven will be worth every sacrifice we make for it.

Conclusion. The church is so right it cannot be wrong. We see the faults of its members, but the beauty of the church is the glory of Christ. He shines like the morning sun.

I am deeply indebted to Mark Posey for the use of his material.