

## What is The Church? Lesson 4 – The Nine Marks of a Healthy Church

### Introduction:

- The purposes of the church are to \_\_\_\_\_ believers and \_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers.
- What are the things that \_\_\_\_\_ churches do that help them fulfill the God-given purposes of the church?

### 1. Expository \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. What is it?

- An expository sermon takes the main point of a passage of Scripture, makes it the main point of the \_\_\_\_\_, and applies it to life today.
- An expository sermon is different from a \_\_\_\_\_ sermon, in which the preacher chooses a subject and then talks about it by gathering various verses of Scripture together.
- In an expository sermon, the Bible has already \_\_\_\_\_ what the preacher should say.

***2 Tim 4.1–2*** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

***Matt 4.4*** But he answered, “It is written,  
 “Man shall not live by bread alone,  
 but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.””

#### B. Where is it in the Bible?

- Ezra and the Levites read from the law and clearly \_\_\_\_\_ what it meant.

***Neh 8.8*** They **read** from the book, from the Law of God, **clearly**, and they **gave the sense**, so that the people **understood** the reading.

- The Apostles preached sermons by \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament Scriptures and urging their hearers to respond with repentance and faith.

- You can see examples of their sermons in Acts 2:14-41 and Acts 13:16-47.
- Read the Word, \_\_\_\_\_ the Word, and apply the Word.

***1 Tim 4.13*** *Until I come, devote yourself to the public **reading** of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*

### C. Why is it important?

- Expository preaching is important because \_\_\_\_\_ is what convicts, converts, builds up, and sanctifies God's people.

***1 Pet 1.23*** *since you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;*

***John 17.17*** *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

**It's GOD'S Word that brings real change, not man's words!**

- Seven benefits of expository preaching:

1. It is the method least likely to \_\_\_\_\_ from Scripture.

2. It teaches people how to read their Bibles \_\_\_\_\_.

3. It teaches people how to learn the correct \_\_\_\_\_ of the text by seeing it in it's \_\_\_\_\_.

4. If you are faithful to preach the correct meaning of the text, both the preacher and the congregation can be \_\_\_\_\_ that the sermon is God's message, not man's.

5. It forces the preacher to handle the \_\_\_\_\_ questions.

6. It enables the preacher to systematically teach the \_\_\_\_\_ counsel of God.

7. Preaching that makes the main point of the text to be the main point of the sermon makes \_\_\_\_\_ agenda rule the church, not the preacher's.

### 2. Biblical \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. What is it?

- **Biblical theology is another way of describing sound doctrine, or the teachings and beliefs that \_\_\_\_\_ with Scripture.**

## B. Where is it in the Bible?

**Titus 2.1** *But as for you, teach what accords with **sound doctrine**.*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ Bible teaches sound doctrine.
- The authors of the New Testament frequently argue that sound doctrine is \_\_\_\_\_ for healthy Christians and healthy churches.

**Jude 1.3** *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints**.*

**Titus 1.9** *He must **hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught**, so that he may be able to **give instruction in sound doctrine** and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

**1 Tim 6.3-4a** *If anyone teaches **a different doctrine** and does not agree with the **sound words** of our Lord Jesus Christ and **the teaching that accords with godliness**, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.*

## C. Why is it important?

1. **Biblical theology is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is doctrine, and therefore sound doctrine is necessary for evangelism.

2. **Biblical theology is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 8.31** *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my **word**, you are truly my **disciples**,*

- Christians \_\_\_\_\_ by learning and living the truth of Scripture, in other words, by sound doctrine.

**John 17.17** *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

3. **Biblical theology is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.**

- According to the New Testament, the only true unity is unity in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Eph 4.3–6** eager to maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to **the one hope** that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**Rom 16.17** I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles **contrary to the doctrine** that you have been taught; **avoid them**.

#### 4. Biblical theology is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.

- Biblical theology is a commitment to know the God of the Bible as He has \_\_\_\_\_ Himself in Scripture.
- True worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ to sound doctrine – to the truth about God.
- Our concern should be not only with the style of our worship, but with the \_\_\_\_\_ of our worship.

#### 3. A Biblical Understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_.

##### A. What is it?

- The good news is that:
  - The one and only God who is holy made us in His image to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
  - But we \_\_\_\_\_ and cut ourselves off from Him.
  - In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life to \_\_\_\_\_ God's law, and died on the cross to \_\_\_\_\_ the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn from their sin and trust in Him.
  - Jesus rose again from the dead, to show that God \_\_\_\_\_ His sacrifice, and that He had absorbed God's wrath against us.
  - He now calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ alone for our forgiveness so that we can be born again and have eternal life with God.
  - He is gathering one new people to Himself among all those who submit to Christ as \_\_\_\_\_.

## B. Where is it in the Bible?

- Romans 1-4 contains one of the fullest explanations of the Gospel, and 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 contains a short summary of the Gospel.

***1 Cor 15.3–4** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

## C. Why is it important?

- The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, and it is the \_\_\_\_\_ for sinful people to be reconciled to a holy God.
- Everything in a church is \_\_\_\_\_ by its understanding of the Gospel, including preaching, counseling, discipleship, music, evangelism, missions, etc.

## 4. A Biblical Understanding of \_\_\_\_\_.

### A. What is it?

- A Biblical understanding of conversion recognizes that salvation is a transforming \_\_\_\_\_ of the life of the person who believes on Christ and repents of sin.
- A Biblical understanding of conversion recognizes that \_\_\_\_\_ can save, and that He saves people by \_\_\_\_\_ them to respond to the Gospel through repenting of sin and trusting in Christ.

### B. Where is it in the Bible?

- Jesus said that unless someone is \_\_\_\_\_ he cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven. (John 3.1-8)
- Throughout the book of Acts, the apostles call people to \_\_\_\_\_ from their sin and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
  - (Acts 2.38, 3.19-20, 10.43, 13.38-39, 16.31, 17.30)
- Many of the epistles describe both \_\_\_\_\_ need to repent and believe in Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ supernatural work to accomplish this.
  - (Rom. 6.1-23; 1 Cor. 2.14-15; 2 Cor. 4.3-6; Eph. 2.1-10; 1 Thess. 1.9-10; 2 Tim. 2.25-26)

### C. Why is it important?

- **A Biblical understanding of conversion is important because:**
  - It \_\_\_\_\_ how churches should evangelize non-Christians—they should call non-Christians to repent of sin and trust in Christ.
  - It \_\_\_\_\_ churches that they must rely upon God in all of their evangelistic efforts, because only God can give new spiritual life.
  - It \_\_\_\_\_ churches to maintain a sharp distinction between themselves and the world.

### 5. A Biblical Understanding of \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. What is it?

- **Evangelism is simply telling non-Christians the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners.**
- **In order to Biblically evangelize:**
  - **We must preach the whole Gospel, even the hard news about God's \_\_\_\_\_ against our sin.**
  - **We must call people to \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.**
  - **We must make it clear that believing in Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, but worth it.**

#### B. Where is it in the Bible?

- **Scripture contains much teaching on evangelism.**
  - (Matt. 28.19-20; Rom. 10.14-17; 1 Pet. 3.15-16)
- **Scripture contains many examples of evangelistic preaching.**
  - (Acts 2.14-41, 3.12-26, 13.16-49, 17.22-31).

### C. Why is it important?

- **When a church has an unbiblical understanding of the Gospel:**
  - They \_\_\_\_\_ evangelize.
  - They evangelize in \_\_\_\_\_ or manipulative ways.
  - They share a message that's \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.

- A Biblical understanding of evangelism clarifies our role:
  - We are to \_\_\_\_\_ the good news about what Christ has done.
  - We are to \_\_\_\_\_ that God would bring people to believe it.

## 6. A Biblical Understanding of \_\_\_\_\_

### A. What is it?

- According to the Bible, church membership is a \_\_\_\_\_ every Christian should make to attend, love, serve, and submit to a local church.

### B. Where is it in the Bible?

- Throughout Scripture, God makes a clear \_\_\_\_\_ between His people and the world.
- The New Testament clearly refers to some people being \_\_\_\_\_ the church and some people being outside.

***Matt 18.17*** *If he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church**. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

***1 Cor 5.12–13*** *For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those **inside** the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those **outside**. “Purge the evil person from among you.”*

### C. Why is it important?

- Membership is essential for church leaders to know who they are to \_\_\_\_\_, and for members to know who they are to \_\_\_\_\_.

***Acts 20.28*** *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers, to care for the church of God**, which he obtained with his own blood.*

***Heb 13.17a*** *Obey your **leaders** and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who **will have to give an account**.*

- Membership helps us to know whether to \_\_\_\_\_ a person or \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- Membership provides loving \_\_\_\_\_.

***Matt 18.17*** *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

- Membership provides greater opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

***1 Cor 12.25*** *that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

- By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the church leaders and other members of that church know that we intend to be \_\_\_\_\_ to attendance, giving, praying, serving, and accountability.

## 7. Biblical Church \_\_\_\_\_

### A. What is it?

- Church discipline is the act of \_\_\_\_\_ sin in the life of the church, including the possible final step of excluding a professing Christian from church membership because of serious unrepentant sin.

### B. Where is it in the Bible?

***Matt 18.15–17*** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church.** And if he refuses to listen even to the church, **let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**”*

### C. Why is it important?

- The primary purpose of church discipline is to \_\_\_\_\_ a sinning Christian to repentance and holiness.
- The second purpose of church discipline is to keep the church \_\_\_\_\_ as God has commanded so that He may be glorified in the church.

## 8. A Concern for \_\_\_\_\_.

### A. What is it?

- Scripture teaches that Christians are to \_\_\_\_\_ by instruction and by imitation.



## B. Where is it in the Bible?

**2 Pet 3.18a** But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Phil 4.9** What you have **learned** and **received** and **heard** and **seen** in me—**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

**1 Cor 11.1** Be **imitators** of me, as I am of Christ.

## C. Why is it important?

- If a church \_\_\_\_\_ discipleship and spiritual growth, it will fail to help true Christians become more like Christ, and wrongly assure false converts that they are Christians.
- If a church \_\_\_\_\_ a culture of discipleship and spiritual growth, it will assist Christians in deeper spiritual growth, strengthen the church, and increase the church's witness to the world of the life-changing power of the Gospel.
- One of the greatest signs that your church is **HEALTHY** is being able to see person after person in the church who is growing in the Lord.

## 9. Biblical Church \_\_\_\_\_

### A. What is it?

- The Bible teaches that each local church should be led by a \_\_\_\_\_ of godly, qualified men called Elders.

### B. Where is it in the Bible?

- Every reference to Elders in the Bible is always \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Acts 14.23, Acts 20.17, 1 Timothy 4.14, 1 Timothy 5.17, and James 5.14)
- Paul gives the qualifications for Elders in 1 Timothy 3.1-7 and Titus 1.5-9.

### C. Why is it important?

- Having a group of godly Elders is not only Biblical, but it provides a more thorough shepherding of church members' \_\_\_\_\_.
- God calls Elders to shepherd their church members by:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ them by proclaiming God's Word (John 21.15-17)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ them in godliness (1 Tim. 4.16; 1 Pet. 5.3, Heb. 13.7)

- \_\_\_\_\_ them from attackers (Acts 20.27-29; 2 Tim. 4.3-4; Tit. 1.9)
- **Biblical church leadership is important because without it, God's people are like sheep without \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Conclusion:**

- **We need churches that are purposely \_\_\_\_\_ from the culture.**
- **We need churches that are not committed to success but to Biblical \_\_\_\_\_.**