

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING 05 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### ACTS 19:21-41

Christians are meant to join themselves actively to a church.

#### I. FIGURES DESCRIBED

- A. Ecclesia - Greek - "A called out assembly."
  - 1. "Out of" + "I call" to assemble ACTS 19:35, 40
  - 2. Not a new word when Jesus used it MATT. 16:18
  - 3. Demonstrated in epistles - "ye" (1 COR. 11:18)
- B. Distinctives of a "called out assembly"
  - 1. Local: Residing in one geographical location
    - a. Used 114 times with location (ACTS 13:1)
    - b. About 15 times without location (EPH. 5:23)
  - 2. Visible: Tangible and publicly 1 THESS. 3:10
  - 3. Organized: "fitly joined together" (EPH. 4:16)
  - 4. Constituted: Made of right material (ACTS 2:38)
- C. Metaphors
  - 1. Body: Jesus is the Head (COL. 1:18)
  - 2. Building: Jesus, Chief Cornerstone (1 PET. 2:7)
  - 3. Bride: Jesus is the Bridegroom 2 COR. 11:2

#### II. FAITH DOCUMENTED

- A. Church Constitution is on the website (CONSTITUTION)

#### III. FULLY DEPENDABLE

- A. The first ones to help the Missionary ACTS 9:23-25
  - 1. They are unnamed but they took it PERSONALLY!
  - 2. They imperiled themselves - "watched...to kill"
- B. God calls Tychicus "faithful minister" (EPH. 6:21-22)
- C. Mark matures into a profitable minister (2 TIM. 4:11)
- D. Luke gets saved and travels with Paul ACTS 16:6-10
  - 1. But what messages did Luke preach?
  - 2. A FILO kind of guy / Always there (COL. 4:14)

#### IV. FLOCK DEFENDED

- A. Jesus calls us "sheep" / Bible uses words like "flock"
  - 1. And sheep are susceptible to wolves ACTS 20:29
  - 2. Not all sheep defenseless: RAMS (horns / 350lbs)
  - 3. Under-shepherds also have sheepdogs
- B. Only hirelings flee from wolves (JOHN 10:12-13)
- C. Not just the pastor--anyone who loves their church!

1 COR. 11:18 - "For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it."

ACTS 13:1 - "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul."

EPH. 5:25 - "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

EPH. 4:16 - "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

ACTS 2:38 - "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

COL. 1:18 - "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

1 PET. 2:7 - "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

EPH. 6:21-22 - "But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: (22) Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts."

2 TIM. 4:11 - "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

COL. 4:14 - "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."

JOHN 10:12-13 - "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. (13) The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."

## CHURCH

We believe the Scriptures teach that a Baptist Church is a local, visible, assembly of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only Scriptural offices are pastors (elders, bishops), and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the New Testament; that the true mission of each church is found in the Great Commission, first to make individual disciples. Secondly, to build up the church by baptizing those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Thirdly, to teach and instruct as our Lord has commanded. This order cannot be reversed; that each church has the absolute right to self-government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the only One and truly head of each church is Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for churches of like faith and order to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel, but that every church is sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence, the free will of each church is final.

We believe that the establishment and continuance of churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural and only ordinances of the church.

## BAPTISM

We believe the Scriptures teach that baptism is by immersion in water of the believer in Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, performed with the church's authority; to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effects in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership; that infants are God's little ones, whether children of non-Christian parents, and are safe in Christ until an age or moral accountability is reached, thus making any thoughts of "infant baptism" unnecessary. This church will not recognize for membership any baptism administered by a church that is not a Baptist church of like faith and practice with us.