

Local Church

Student Manual

Local Church

Contents

Lesson 1 – The Church and the Eternal Purpose of God.....	4-8
Lesson 2 – The Church and the Kingdom of God.....	9-11
Lesson 3-4 – The Universal Church.....	12-17
Lesson 5 – The Local Church.....	18-22
Lesson 6 – The Church in the Old Testament.....	23-28
Lesson 7 – Building According to the Pattern.....	29-33
Lesson 8 – The Names and Titles of the Church.....	34-36
Lesson 9 – The Church as the Temple or Building.....	37-40
Lesson 10 – The Church as the Family/Membership.....	41-43
Lesson 11 – The Church as the Family/Self-Governing.....	44-47
Lesson 12 – The Church as the Family/Self-Supporting.....	48-51
Lesson 13 – The Church as the Family/Self-Propagating....	52-54
Lesson 14 – The Church as the Family/Discipline.....	55-59
Lesson 15 – The Church as the Family/Commitment.....	60-62
Lesson 16 – The Church as the Body of Christ.....	63-67
Lesson 17 – Appointed Servants.....	68-72
Lesson 18 – Elders.....	73-77
Lesson 19 – Five Fold Ministry.....	78-80
Lesson 20 – Apostles.....	81-83
Lesson 21 – Prophets.....	84-85
Lesson 22 – Evangelists.....	86-87
Lesson 23 – Pastors and Teachers.....	88-89
Lesson 24 – Other Body Ministries.....	90-91

*This course the in Local Church is intended
to be used in conjunction with a textbook
titled, **The Local Church Today** written by
Bill Scheidler.*

Lesson 1

The Church and the Eternal Purpose of God

I. Introduction

Ephesians 1:3-14

Note the words “will”, “mystery” and “purpose”.

- Verse 5 speaks of the “*good pleasure of His will.*”
- Verse 9 refers to “*the mystery of His will.*”
- Verse 11 refers to “*the counsel of His will*” and “*the purpose of God.*”

II. The eternal purpose of God or will of God is “mysterious”

A. A biblical “mystery” can be defined as:

1. Something above human _____ and fitted to inspire a sense of awe; something _____ from human knowledge.
2. A secret; something carefully and _____ hidden from the knowledge of others.
3. A _____; an object of curiosity and wonder; a religious truth or doctrine not discernible by human reason.

B. Greek definition of the word “mystery.”

1. Vine’s: Among the ancient Greeks, ‘the mysteries’ were religious rites and ceremonies practiced by secret societies into which anyone might be received. _____ into these ‘mysteries’ became possessors of certain knowledge, which was not imparted to the uninitiated and were called ‘the perfected’.
2. A mystery, however, in the NT is not an undiscovered secret, but a secret undiscovered by _____, but that is now _____ by the Spirit of God.
3. Young’s Concordance gives a simplified definition “that which can only be know by _____”.

C. God desires to let His people in on His mysteries so that they can fully understand _____.

1. It takes the Holy Spirit _____ God’s mysteries to us (John 16:13; I Cor. 2:14).

2. It takes a spirit of _____ and a hunger on our part as well (Pro. 25:2).

III. God only has _____ purpose

A. The word “purpose” means the object in view, end, aim, design or _____.

1. The purpose of God arises from the _____ and stands behind all the _____ of God.
2. Every ounce of _____ energy expended by the Father, every ounce of _____ energy expended by the Son and every ounce of _____ energy expended by the Holy Spirit has been with one thing in mind.

B. What the purpose _____.

When you ask people to define God’s purpose you often get some of the following answers:

1. God’s purpose is evangelism—_____.
2. God’s purpose is producing the image of Christ in us—_____.
3. God’s purpose is _____ or serving the nations through missions.
4. God’s purpose is _____ or overcoming Satan and evil.
5. God’s purpose is being in perfect _____ to God through our prayers and devotional life.
6. God’s purpose is _____—we were born to worship.

C. God’s one purpose has many subsidiary purposes or _____.

1. It reflects a manifold or “_____” wisdom” (Eph. 3:10).
2. God’s _____ or overall design is that which brings meaning to all of the parts.

D. God’s purpose was declared in the first chapter of the Bible (Gen. 1:26-28)

1. The purpose springs from God's _____. A father's heart has six desires.

A father desires:

a. **A man in** _____

b. _____ **of seed**

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____ **for His Son**

2. It is in the _____ that this mystery of God's purpose will ultimately be fulfilled.

IV. The Church is referred to in the context of a mystery.

A. It is part of the "mystery of _____" or His eternal purpose (Eph. 1).

B. The Church as _____ of Christ is referred to as a mystery (Eph. 5:23-33).

C. The coming together of Jew and Gentile into _____ is the Church is spoken of as a mystery (Eph. 2:14-3:7).

D. The Church is a mystery in the sense that it was not seen or fully understood by a man in _____ (Eph. 3:5, 9; Rom. 16:25).

E. The mystery relative to the Church, however, has been revealed in _____ (Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:26).

V. **The hidden mystery has to do with the fact that the Church was in God's mind from _____ and it is in the center of the Eternal Purpose of God.**

- A. The purpose of God was not merely to bless the nations through their connection with the chosen nation, _____.
- B. The purpose was to create one many-membered body out of all nations (Jew and Gentile) to fulfill God's eternal purpose and satisfy His _____.
- C. That eternal purpose will be fulfilled in and through _____.

The Church will be the many-membered man in the image of God who will qualify for rulership and dominion and for the honor of being eternally linked with the Son as one flesh.

1. The Church is the Body (Eph. 4), that new creation in the _____.
 2. The Church is the Temple (Eph. 2) that place of communion and _____ with the father.
 3. The Church is the Family of God (Eph. 3) which is composed of many sons and daughters all bearing the _____.
 4. The Church is the Army (Eph. 6) that walks in authority and _____ over the enemies of God's purpose.
 5. The Church is the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5) that will one day be eternally _____ with the only begotten Son of God.
- D. The Church is, therefore, not a _____. It is:
- Not a gap (something used to solve a short-term problem).
 - Not an accident.
 - Not a second thought.
 - Not a substitute for something else.
 - Not a parenthetical invention.
- E. The Church is the instrument of God ordained to bring forth and fulfill the Eternal Purpose of God.

When we work to build the Church...

When we do everything we can to make the Church succeed...

When we invest our time, talents and material things into the Church...

We are investing them into the Eternal Purpose of God.

Therefore they have meaning and significance.

VI. God's purpose will not be _____ (Isaiah 14:26-27; 46:9-11; 55:8-11).

Lesson 2

The Church and the Kingdom of God

I. What is the Kingdom of God?

A. The word “Kingdom” occurs about _____ times in the New Testament and, in its simplest form, it means “royal reign or a king’s _____.”

B. In reference to God it refers to the _____ and the _____.

1. The _____ of God (Ps. 10:16; 45:6; 103:19; 145:10-13)

When the phrase “kingdom of God” is used in this _____ it refers to everything that is in the universe whether seen or unseen.

2. The _____ of God (Mt. 6:9-10)

When the phrase “kingdom of God” is used in this _____ it refers only to those spiritual beings who are submitted to and cooperating with the eternal will and purpose of God.

II. What is the distinction between the terms the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven”?

There is _____ between the terms “kingdom of God” and “kingdom of heaven.” Note the parallel passages as seen in the following chart:

Kingdom of Heaven	Kingdom of God
“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Mt.4:17	“the gospel of the kingdom of God. ” Mark 1:14
“Theirs is the kingdom of heaven ”. Mt. 5:6	“Yours is the kingdom of God. ” Luke 6:20
“Preach, saying the kingdom of heaven ” Mt. 10:7	“to preach the kingdom of God. ” Luke 9:2
“He that is least in the kingdom of heaven ” Mt. 11:11	“He that is least in the kingdom of God ” Luke 7:28
“to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven ” Mt. 13:11	“to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God ” Luke 8:10
“to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven ” Mt. 13:31	“ kingdom of God ...is like a grain” Luke 13:18
“of such is the kingdom of heaven. ” Mt. 19:14	“of such is the kingdom of God. ” Mark 10:14

Matthew used both terms interchangeably. In Matthew 19:23-24, it says:

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, that it is hard for a rich man to enter the **kingdom of heaven**. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the **kingdom of God**’.”*

III. How does God extend His kingdom in the earth?

- A. God uses _____ to extend His kingdom relative to earth.
1. All authority and power is _____.
 2. God, however, _____ authority to man.
 3. Those who receive this delegated authority become _____ of the kingdom, _____ of God’s authority and _____ through which God will extend His kingdom in the earth.
- B. God has used several channels or instruments through which to represent and extend His kingdom.
1. _____ were to bring the earth under God’s dominion or authority (Gen. 1:26-28).
 2. _____ of old were to administrate God’s purposes (Gen. 9:1-2; 12:1-3).
 3. _____ was chosen as a nation to represent God’s kingdom (Ex. 19:5-6).
 4. When Israel was in disobedience God even used _____ at times to represent His purpose (II Chr. 36:22-23).
 5. _____ came to the earth as God’s representative as He preached the kingdom and laid the foundation for the church.
 6. _____ is the last instrument of the kingdom before the King of the kingdom returns (Mt. 16:18-19; 21:42-44; Eph. 3:10).
- C. The _____ that God uses may change, but the _____ remains the same.

IV. What did Jesus tell us about the Kingdom of God?

Jesus’ teaching can be summarized as follows:

- A. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God was _____ (Mt. 4:17).

B. Jesus taught that the Kingdom was presently _____ and not natural (Luke 17:20-21).

1. It is not of this _____ (John 18:36).
2. It belongs to those with _____ (Mt. 5:3, 10).
3. It is entered into through a _____ experience (John 3:3-5).
4. It is build on the spiritual _____ (Mark 12:32-34).
5. It is _____ (Luke 17:21).

C. Jesus taught that we are to make seeking the kingdom a priority (Mt. 6:33).

V. What is the relationship of the Church and the Kingdom? Are they identical?

The Church and the Kingdom are _____ identical. You cannot use the word interchangeably. The Church is the instrument of God to extend the kingdom of God.

VI. What message of the Kingdom is important for us today?

- A. Enter the kingdom yourself through the _____ experience (John 3:3-5).
- B. Exercise childlike _____ before the King of the kingdom and His kingdom principles (Mt. 18:3; 19:14).
- C. Make service to the King of the kingdom _____ in your life (Luke 9:59-62; 14:15-24; Mark 10:17-27).
- D.** Structure your life in such a way as to be a _____.

Lesson 3-4 The Universal Church

I. Introduction (Mt. 16:13-19)

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- A. The New Testament meaning or definition of "the church" has almost been lost to us because of the variety of ways in which this word is used.
- B. Your definition of the church is important because whatever your definition, it will determine where you _____.

II. The Church Defined

- A. What the Church _____
 - 1. It is not _____ for Christian worship.
 - a. The word "church" is never used in scripture to refer to _____ building.
 - b. The building is only the place where the _____.
 - 2. It is not a sect or _____.
 - 3. It is not Christian worship or a _____.
- B. When Jesus used the word "church" He used it in _____.
 - 1. He used it to refer to _____ in Christ.
 - a. This aspect of the Church is sometimes referred to as the invisible, the mystical, the _____.
 - b. Jesus Himself used the word in this sense when he said, "Upon this rock I will build my church."
 - c. Jesus was not speaking here of a specific _____.

- d. The universal church involves a mystical union of all believers of all ages into _____.
 - e. The universal church is referred to specifically approximately _____ times in the New Testament primarily in the Book of Ephesians—the Book of the Church.
2. He used it to refer to a _____ of believers (Mt. 18:15-20).
- a. Out of 114 references, about _____ refer to the local church.
 - b. This aspect of the church is called the _____ or the local church.
 - c. It involves a specific group of people in _____ which are marked out by confession of faith, discipline of life, obedience in baptism, gathered to the person of Jesus Christ, having gifted ministries and keeping the memorial of the Lord. They are always spoken of as complete units within themselves, which may voluntarily cooperate and fellowship with other local churches.

III. New Testament Definitions: The Greek word “Ekklesia”

- A. The literal meaning of the word “ekklesia” is “_____”.
- B. In secular Greek society “ekklesia” referred to an assembly of _____ called out from their homes and/or places of business to give consideration to matters of public interest (Acts 19:32, 39, 41).
- C. In the New Testament: this word is used 114 times and _____ times it definitely refers to the church or “the called out ones” of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Jesus himself introduces this usage when he refers to “_____” (Mt. 16:18).
 - 2. The church of Jesus Christ consists of those people who have been “called out” _____ (I Pet. 2:9-10), who have separated themselves unto God and have gathered together unto the Lord Jesus Christ for worship and fellowship.

IV. Key Verses in Dealing with the Universal Church

A. Matthew 16:18-19

Here Jesus tells us certain things about the universal church. According to Jesus, the church is:

1. To be _____.
2. To be _____.
3. To be _____.
4. To be _____ over Satan's authority.
5. To be the _____ God's authority.
6. To be fully supported by _____.

B. Ephesians is the Epistle of the universal church.

It contains _____ to the universal church.

1. Ephesians 1:19-23 (Col. 1:18)

- a. Christ is _____ of the Church.
- b. The Church is to make up the _____.
- c. The Church is to share in Christ's _____.

2. Ephesians 3:10-11

The purpose of God that was not fully understood in past ages will be made known through _____ the Church to principalities and powers.

3. Ephesians 3:20-21

- a. Christ is going to be _____ in the Church.
- b. The Church is _____, extending to the ages to come.

4. Ephesians 5:22-33 (6 references to the church)

- a. Christ is _____ of the Church.
- b. Christ is _____ of the Church; the Church is His body (See also: Col. 1:24).

- c. The Church must be subject or _____ to Christ.
- d. Christ _____ the Church and gave himself for it.
- e. The Church is Christ's _____.
- f. The Church is in the process of being _____.
- g. The word of God is the _____ of the Church.
- h. The Church will ultimately be _____, like Christ.
- i. The Church will be pure, holy, _____.
- j. The Church is mystically linked to Christ as _____, just as a husband and wife.
- k. The Lord _____ the Church.

5. I Timothy 3:15

The Church is the _____ of truth.

V. Some Principle Qualities of the Universal Church

A. The Church will be _____.

1. The Church has a unity _____ (Eph. 4:4-7)

- a. It is one body...with many _____.
- b. It is one temple...with many _____.
- c. It is one flock...with many _____.
- d. It is one holy nation...with many _____.
- e. It is one vine...with many _____.
- f. It is one family...with many _____.

2. The Church will experience two kinds of unity

a. The unity _____ (Eph. 4:3)

b. The unity _____ (Eph. 4:13)

3. The Church will become one _____ after Christ, the Head (Eph. 4:13).

B. The Church will be glorious

1. The Church will be _____ unto the Lord (Eph. 5:23-32).
 - a. Nowhere in the New Testament do we read of a defeated, failing, battered Bride. The only descriptive words are “glorious and holy”.
 - b. The Church may be called holy for various reasons. The following are among the most important of these:
 - i. The Church is holy because it belongs to _____ and everything that is so closely related to God is holy. The Church is a holy, special people for God’s own possession (I Pet. 2:9)
 - ii. The Church is holy because it is _____ from the world (John 15:19; 17:14-16; II Cor. 6:17).
 - iii. The Church is holy because it is _____ to God (Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22; Rom. 12:1; Jam. 4:7).
 - iv. The Church is holy because it is _____ (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 13:12; II Cor. 7:1; I Th. 5:23-24; I John 1:7, 9; Tit. 3:5; 2:14).
 - v. The Church is holy because she is to _____ (II Cor. 6:14).
 - c. The members of the Church are called “saints” or “_____” (Phil. 1:1).
2. The Church to date has never been the glorious and perfect body that Christ desires. It has been at times a very poor example of what the grace of God can produce. But God will have such a church that will be a powerful instrument in his hands. His word has declared it.

C. The Church will be _____.

1. The _____ shall not prevail against it (Mt. 16:18-19).
 - a. The Church cannot be _____ by Satan’s wisdom or power.
 - b. The Church will _____ Satan’s gates and be victorious.
2. The _____ of the kingdom are entrusted to it (Mt. 18:15-20; 16:18-19).

3. The power to _____ will be in the hands of the Church (Mt. 16:18-19; 18:18).
4. The Church will be instrumental in dealing the _____ to Satan (Rom. 16:20; Eph. 1:20-23).

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. Romans 16:20

Lesson 5

The Local Church

I. Introduction

A. Review of the definition of the local church

1. The local church is also referred to as _____.
2. The local church is a specific body of believers in a _____.
 - a. Acts 8:1 – “the church which was at Jerusalem”
 - b. Romans 16:5 – “the church that is in their home”
 - c. I Corinthians 16:1 – “the churches of Galatia”
 - d. I Corinthians 16:19 – “The churches of Asia”
 - e. The seven churches of Asia (Rev. 1-3)
 - Ephesus (2:1)
 - Smyrna (2:8)
 - Pergamos (2:12)
 - Thyatira (2:18)
 - Sardis (3:1)
 - Philadelphia (3:7)
 - Laodicea (3:14)

B. Matthew 18:15-20 is the key passage that Jesus gave relative to the local church.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

II. The local church according to Jesus (Mt. 18:15-20)

Jesus tells us much about the local church in Matthew 18. Some of the truths and implications that we can extract from Jesus’ words include:

A. The local church is composed of _____ (vs. 15).

1. The local church is meant to be a _____.
2. The local church is a place of _____.
3. The local church is to be a _____.

B. The local church is _____ (vs. 15).

1. Members of the local church will have _____.
2. There will be difficulties to work through _____ Jesus comes.
3. If we are to succeed as the church we must be committed to _____ and working through the process.
4. God has provided _____ whereby those conflicts can be resolved.

C. The local church is a _____ (vs. 16-17).

1. It is not a loose-knit group having no responsibility or _____ to the other.
2. It is a place where we _____ in each other's life.
3. It is a place where _____ and discipline is administered.

D. The local church is a _____ of believers (vs. 17).

1. It is a place where you are known to be _____.
2. It is a place from which you can be _____.
3. You are either a part of a local church or you are not part of a local church.

E. The local church is _____ of God's authority (vs. 18).

1. The _____ of God (heaven) is vested in the local church.
2. God supports the _____ of the church.
3. To be disciplined by the church is to be _____.

F. The local church is to be a place of _____ (vs. 19).

1. Its _____ is dependent upon it.
2. The _____ confirms it.

G. The local church is to be a place of _____ in faith and prayer (vs. 19).

1. There is a gathering _____.
2. There is a corporate _____ of God.
3. There is a corporate _____ for God to act.

H. The local church is a place where Christ promises _____ (vs. 20)

1. It is the _____ of God by the Spirit.
2. There is a manifestation of God's _____ that is unique to the gathering together of God's people.

I. The local church is a gathering identified with _____ Christ (vs. 20)

1. It carries the authority of His name.
2. It is to be His _____ in that given locality.

J. Other implications

1. _____ cannot make up a local church.
2. The local church is to be a _____.
3. Until the church is completed, there is going to be a great need for love, patience and a _____ (Mt. 18:21-22).

III. The local church is the means by which the purposes of God will become a reality (Eph. 4:1-16).

A. Paul states _____ (vs. 1-3). The heart attitudes we must have:

1. Humility
2. Gentleness
3. Patience
4. Bearing with one another in love
5. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

B. Paul states _____ for our effort (vs. 4-6)

1. There is only one body.
2. There is only one Spirit.
3. There is only one hope.
4. There is only one Lord.

5. There is only one faith.
6. There is only one baptism.
7. There is only one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all.

C. Paul states _____ by which God will perfect the church (vs. 7-12)

1. The grace of God working in each person
2. The leadership ministries working to equip the saints for works of service
3. The saints using their gifts to build up the Body of Christ

D. Paul states _____ toward which we are moving (vs. 13-16)

1. A church that experiences unity of faith (vs. 13).
2. A church that has an intimate relationship with Christ (vs. 13).
3. A church that represents Christ completely (vs. 13).
4. A church that is prophetic leading society in a sure path (vs. 14).
5. A church that matures into Christ's character (vs. 15).
6. A church where every member knows their part and does their part (vs. 16).

IV. The Two Aspects of Truth

A. The Universal Church

1. The universal church focuses on our relationship _____ and the _____ aspect of God's work.
2. The key to the church being the church in the universal sense is for every believer to be in harmony _____ of the church.

B. The Local Church

1. The local church focuses on our relationship to _____ in Christ.
2. The key to the church being the church in the local sense is for believers to be in harmony _____.
 - a. Unity is the key to the _____ of the Lord in the church (Acts 1:14; 2:1-2).
 - b. Unity is the key to the _____ of the church (Mt. 18:19).

c. Unity is the key to the _____ and testimony of the church (John 17:22-23).

d. Unity is the key to fulfilling the _____ of the church (Mt. 16:18).

C. The universal church and the local church represent the two _____.

1. The vertical plank – _____

2. The horizontal plank – _____

Lesson 6

The Church in the Old Testament

I. Introduction

A. There are some who would suggest that the church is nowhere to be found in the Old Testament.

1. It is true that the actual _____ “church” does not appear in the Old Testament.
 - a. It is important to remember that the word “church” is translated from the _____ “ekklesia” in the New Testament Greek text.
 - b. It is also important to remember that the Old Testament was written in _____ and, therefore, would not contain the actual word “ekklesia.”
 - c. It is interesting to note, however, that in the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as _____, the Greek word “ekklesia” occurs about 100 times.
2. It is true that even the Old Testament prophets _____ their own prophecies concerning Christ and the Church (I Pet. 1:10-12; Mt. 13:16-17).
3. It is true that in the Old Testament Age much of that which was brought forth in the New Testament Age _____, kept secret or was in mystery form (Eph. 3:5, 9-11).

B. The Church can be found in the Old Testament, but _____ in the following three lines of evidence.

1. The _____, the “called out ones” of the Old Testament, was the “church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38; I Cor.10:1-4, 11).
2. The Old Testament _____ concerning what God would do in and through the church
 - a. Paul indicates that it was through the Gospel which _____ through the Old Testament prophets that he was separated to his call. (Rom. 1:2).
 - b. Paul understood the present dealings of God _____ by virtue of the Old Testament writings (Rom. 16:25-27).
3. The _____ of the Old Testament foreshadow the church (Heb. 9:9, 23-24).

II. The First Line of Evidence: The “Called Out Ones” of the Old Testament.

A. In the Old Testament, God had His called out ones.

1. While the word “ekklesia” is Greek and, therefore, is not used in the Hebrew Old Testament, _____ of “ekklesia” is definitely in the Old Testament.
 - a. The word “ekklesia” occurs about _____ times in the Septuagint.
 - b. The word “ekklesia” in the Septuagint comes as a translation of the word “kahal” and it refers to the _____ or the congregation of the Lord (See: Deut. 23:2-8; I Chr. 28:8; Neh. 13:1; Mi. 2:5).
2. The New Testament refers to Old Testament Israel as _____ or “ekklesia” in the wilderness (Acts 7:38).

This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai... Acts 7:38, KJV

3. Both Israel in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament are _____ (I Cor. 10:1-4, 11). Both Israel and the Church:
 - Were Objects of Grace
 - Were Called Out of Bondage
 - Experienced the Feast of the Passover
 - Were Separated by Water and Cloud
 - Were Made Distinct from Other Nation.

God separated _____ from the other nations, just as he has separated the _____ from the world system (See: Num. 23:9; Ex. 11:7; Lev. 20:22-26; John 15:18-19; 17:14-17; I Cor. 4:13; II Cor. 6:14-18).

4. Israel, to a great extent, experienced in the _____ realm what the New Testament Church experienced in the _____ realm.

B. The Old Testament Church served as _____ for the New Testament Church.

The Christian Church did not begin on an absolutely new foundation. It built upon the foundation already laid in the Old Testament. The history of the Jews was preparation for the history of the Church....The Scriptures of the Jews permeate the New Testament of the Christian Church.

-- The New Testament Church, Miller

1. They were both part of the _____. God’s plan was _____ in the Old Testament and _____ in the New Testament, but the plan is one.

2. The one Church has _____—the New Jerusalem, the City of God whose _____ are the twelve tribes of Israel (Old Testament) and whose _____ are the twelve apostles of the Lamb (New Testament) (See: Mt. 8:11).
- C. The Old Testament Church _____ to Christ; the New Testament Church was _____ Christ.
- D. The terms that are applied to Israel and the Church are the same.

Term Used	O.T. Church	N.T. Church
A Chosen People	Deuteronomy 10:15	I Peter 2:9
A Holy Nation	Exodus 19:6	I Peter 2:9
The People of God	Psalms 100:3	II Corinthians 6:16
A Priesthood	Exodus 19:6	I Peter 2:9
God's Treasure	Exodus 19:5	Matthew 13:44
The Bride or Wife	Isaiah 54:6; 62:5	II Corinthians 11:2-3
God's Vineyard	Isaiah 5:7	Matthew 20:1; I Cor. 3:9
God's Inheritance	Isaiah 19:25	I Peter 5:3
Israel	Isaiah 44:6	Galatians 6:16
God's Flock	Jeremiah 23:3	I Peter 5:2
A House	Ezekiel 18:31	I Timothy 3:15
A Light	Isaiah 60:1,3	Matthew 5:14
God's Witness	Isaiah 43:10	Acts 1:8
A Church	Acts 7:38	Galatians 1:13

The great mystery hidden for ages but preached by the apostles in the New Testament was that the Jew and the Gentile were now _____ (Eph. 2:14; 3:5-6), in one body and one building. This building is built upon the foundation laid by the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-22). The old and new were built into _____ of God through the Spirit.

- E. The Apostle Paul had the revelation of this mystery which is summarized in Ephesians 2-3. He used some significant terminology to describe the _____ of the Jew and Gentile in the new covenant, including the following:
1. _____ (I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 2:14-16; 4:4)
 2. _____ (Gal. 3:26-29)
 3. Children of _____ (Gal. 4:28)
 4. Fellow _____ (Eph. 3:6)
 5. The _____ (Col. 3:10-11)

F. Paul unfolds this purpose in detail in Ephesians 2:11-22. An outline of this passage reveals the following truths:

1. Paul described the _____ of the Gentiles

- Gentile in the Flesh
- Uncircumcision
- Without Christ
- Aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel
- Strangers from the Covenants of Promise
- Having No Hope
- Without God in the World
- Far Off
- Enmity from God and Man

2. Paul described the _____ of the Gentiles

“But Now...”

- In Christ Jesus
- Made Nigh by the Blood of Christ
- At Peace with God and Man
- Made One With the Jew
- Middle Wall of Partition Broken Down
- Enmity Abolished
- One New Man
- Both Reconciled to God in One Body
- Preaching of Peace to Those Which Were Far
- Both Have Access to the Father

3. Paul described the _____ that results:

- No More Strangers and Foreigners
- Fellow Citizens with the Saints
- Of the Household of God
- Jew and Gentile Joined Together

III. The Second Line of Evidence: The Old Testament prophets foretold of those things that would become realities in the New Testament Church.

A. It is clear that while the Old Testament prophets did not fully understand their own prophecies, they did understand that they were for _____ and a later time (II Pet. 1:16-21; I Pet. 1:10-12).

B. Jesus said that the prophets would have loved to have seen and heard the things that were happening _____ (Mt. 13:16-17).

Think about the following:

1. Moses would have loved to see and experience the _____.
 2. Isaiah and Joel would have loved to experience the outpouring of _____.
 3. Elijah and Elisha would have enjoyed the ministry of Christ and the early apostles in _____.
 4. Malachi would have been blessed watching the ministry of John the Baptist as he _____.
 5. Amos would have loved to have been present in meeting in Acts 15 where James quoted his prophecy concerning rebuilding of the Tabernacle of David and the _____.
 6. Jonah would have loved to witness the three days and three nights culminating in Christ's _____.
- C. The New Testament apostles continually _____ taking place in the New Testament Church through the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets.
1. The choosing of Judas' replacement (Acts 1:20; Ps. 69:25; 109:8).
 2. The outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:28-32).
 3. The coming in of the Gentiles into the kingdom of God (Acts 13:47; 15:16-17; Amos 9:11-12).
 4. The rejection of the kingdom message by national Israel (Acts 28:26-29; Is. 6:9-10).
 5. The cutting away of the natural branches and the grafting in of the wild olive branches (Rom. 9-11).

IV. The Third Line of Evidence: The types and shadows of the Old Testament point to the New Testament Church.

- A. The New Testament writers saw many of the occurrences in the Old Testament as being prophetic of what would come to us in the Church.
1. They were not _____ to the people of the Old Testament, they were _____.
 2. The New Testament continually uses Old Testament pictures, types and symbols to illustrate the _____.

B. The Book of Hebrews _____ without a good knowledge of the Old Testament sacrifices, the priesthood and the service of the tabernacle.

Note: In Lesson 8 we will look more closely at some of the types and shadows as we look at the names and titles of the Church.

Lesson 7

Building According to the Pattern

“Upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”
Matthew 16:18b

I. Introduction

- A. We all have a desire for a church that _____ the forces of darkness.
- B. God desires are _____, He wants to bless and prosper His people.
- C. If we are to prosper, we must do God’s work _____.
1. God is no respecter of _____.
 2. God is a respecter of _____.
- D. This is true in _____ of life.
1. It is true in our finances.
 2. It is true in our families.
 3. It is true in our businesses.
 4. It is true in our marriages.
 5. It is true in our child rearing.
 6. It is true in our relationships.
 7. It is true in all of church life including, government, worship, etc.
- E. There are many principles that _____ the blessing of God.
1. There is the principle of _____.
 2. There is the principle of _____.
 3. There is the principle of _____.
 4. There is the principle of “_____.”
- F. There are some important questions that need to be asked if we are to experience _____ on what we are doing.
1. Is the local church that we are building truly _____ (Mt. 16:18)?
 2. Is _____ the one who is truly building the house (Ps. 127:1)?
 3. Are we building according to _____ that He has revealed to us (Heb. 8:5)?

II. The Church is Christ's institution, it is His house (Heb. 3:1-6).

- A. The _____ was God's (Eph. 1:9; 3:10-11).
- B. The _____ was God's (Heb. 8:5).
- C. The _____ were purchased by Christ's blood (Acts 20:28).
- D. It is to be the House of God in _____ (Ps. 127:1).

III. God only has _____ for the Church that He is building.

- A. There are several _____ from which one can get a pattern.

Our pattern can come from _____ (Rom. 12:1-2). This is equivalent to bringing the secular business mind to the affairs of the church.

- a. On the positive side, every local church needs to follow _____ and financial practices.
- b. On the negative side, a local church is more than a business and must walk in _____ based on the clear word of the Lord.

- 1. Our pattern can come from _____.

- a. Traditions are good if they help us to better implement _____ (II Th. 2:15; 3:6).
- b. Traditions are bad if they hinder us from _____ (Mt. 15:6b).

- 2. Our pattern can come from the mind of _____ man.

- a. Just because we are Christians and have a _____ it does not mean that every thought and idea that we have _____.
- b. It is possible to be sincere, but to be _____.
- c. God is looking for those who will worship Him _____ (sincerity) and _____ (according to the word of the Lord) (Jn. 4:24).

- 3. Our pattern can and must come from _____.

B. God is a God of order and has a plan and a pattern for _____ that He does.

1. There was order in _____ (Gen. 1-2).
2. There was a pattern for the _____ (Gen. 1:26; 5:1).
3. There was a pattern or divine order for acceptable _____ (Leviticus).
4. There was an order _____ in the taking of the land (Joshua).
5. There was an order in _____ and ministry in the Tabernacle of David (I Chr. 6:32).
6. The New Testament church is to be a _____ (Col. 2:5).

C. God is _____ and exact about how he wants things done (I Chr. 15:13).

D. For _____ that God ever commanded to be built, He provided the pattern.

1. The _____ (Gen. 6:14-16)
2. The Tabernacle _____ (Ex. 25:9,40)
3. The Temple _____ (I Chr. 28:11-12, 19)
4. Ezekiel's _____ (Ezek. 43:10-12)
5. The New Testament _____ (I Cor. 3:10)
6. The _____ (Rev. 21:15-7)

E. The glory of God can only _____ that which is according to the pattern.

1. The Ark of Noah (Gen. 6:22; 7:1)
2. The Tabernacle of Moses (Ex. 40:33-35)
3. The Temple of Solomon (II Chr. 5:1-14)
4. Ezekiel's Temple (Ezek. 43:4-5)
5. The New Testament Church (Eph. 3:17-21; Col 1:27)
6. The City of God (Rev. 21:10-11)

F. The pattern of God cannot be _____ if we are to experience the _____ blessing of God. There are some who tampered with the pattern and found very negative results.

1. The Example of _____ (Gen. 4:1-16; Heb. 11:4)
2. The Example of _____ (Lev. 10:1-2)
3. The Example of _____ (I Sam. 4)
4. The Example of _____ (I Chr. 26:16)

VIOLATOR	VIOLATION	JUDGMENT
Cain	His own form of worship/without blood	Banishment from the "presence" at the gate of Eden
Nadab and Abihu	Strange fire that was not kindled by God	Death
Hophni and Phineas	Uncleanness and improper order moving ark.	Death, Ark in Captivity
Uzziah	Presumption to enter into the priest office	Leprosy and banishment from the House of God

G. The plan and pattern of God is _____.

IV. Why is this issue of the pattern so important?

It is important because _____ all of our labor is in vain. When we get involved in any area, whether it is personal finances, family structure and order, business practices, child rearing or local church issues, the question should be, "Does the Bible address this subject?" If the Bible does, it should immediately settle the issue in our minds, because God's word is His will.

Quotations of Note

"Dr. Z.T. Cody expressed it well in his address before the Baptist World Congress held in Toronto, Canada in 1928: "I confess that a church of Christ which holds to the Evangelical faith and that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there the church is. God forbid that I should reject what Christ accepts. But I do believe that churches should be consistent with the gospel of salvation that has been committed to the churches. I do believe that the churches of Christ should conform to the New Testament model. This is the everlasting norm. Churches born of the New Testament should be like the New Testament as children born of Adam should have the likeness of Adam's body. I would not say that one born with only one arm or one leg, or born with six fingers on each hand was no man. I do not know how much you could cut off or add to and yet have a man. I am

not interested in the process. I once saw a man who had lost both arms and yet has done more in life than some of us more normally endowed. The same might be truthfully said of some churches. But notwithstanding all of this, I do claim it is better to perpetuate the normal.” - The Doctrine of the Church, Turner

“Has not the history of twenty centuries of Christianity proved that the plan of the primitive church is the only one which is suitable for all times and places, is most flexible in its adaptation to the most diverse conditions, is the best able to resist and stand against persecutions, and offers the maximum possibilities for the full development of the spiritual life?

“Each time that man has believed himself to be more intelligent than God, that he has painstakingly developed a religious system ‘better adaptable to the psychology of man,’ more conformable to the spirit of the times, instead of simply following the neo-testamentary model, his attempt has been short-lived because of failure due to some unforeseen difficulty.

“All heresies and deviations in the church spring from the abandonment of the Scriptures and of the model for the church which they present. Clement of Alexandria, even in his time, used to say, ‘One becomes heretic when one does not submit to the Scriptures. Those who undertake great things must necessarily fall to great depths if they do not cling to the rule of truth which they have received from the Truth Himself.’”

--I Will Build My Church, Kuen, pg. 27

Lesson 8

The Names and Titles of the Church

I. INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 3:8-11

- A. The word “manifold” occurs in no other place in the New Testament. It means “*very many sided, much varied, having _____ or variety.*”
- B. God has given us _____ and metaphors of the Church in the Bible.
- C. By studying these various metaphors and symbols, we can better discover the _____ of the Church. The Church is likened to many things including:
1. The Branch of the Lord’s Planting (Is. 60:21).
 2. The City of the Living God (Heb. 12:22).
 3. The Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:23).
 4. Heavenly Jerusalem (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22).
 5. General Assembly (Heb. 12:23).
 6. Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22).
 7. The Flock of God (Ezek. 34:15; I Pet. 5:2).
 8. A Golden Lampstand (Rev. 1:20).
 9. God’s Field (I Cor. 3:9).
 10. God’s Heritage (Joel 3:2; I Pet. 5:3).
 11. An Inheritance (Ps. 78:71; Is. 19:25).
 12. The Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).
 13. The Mountain of the Lord’s House (Is. 2:2).
 14. The Pillar and Ground of Truth (I Tim. 3:15).
 15. A Pleasant Portion (Jer. 12:10).
 16. A Vineyard (Jer. 12:10 Matt. 21:41).
 17. Bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9).
 18. Congregation of Saints (Ps. 149:1; 89:5).
 19. The Olive Tree (Rom. 9-11).
 20. The Royal Priesthood (Rev. 1:6; 5:9-10; I Pet. 2:5-9).
 21. The Army of the Lord (Eph. 6:10-18).
 22. The Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
 23. The Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16-29).
 24. The Holy Nation (I Pet. 2:5-9).
 25. The House of the Lord (Heb. 3:6; I Pet. 2:5; I Tim. 3:5; I Cor. 3:16).
 26. The Light of the World (Mt. 5:14; Jn. 8:12; Is. 60:1-3).
 27. The Salt of the Earth (Mt. 5:13).
 28. A Peculiar People/Treasure (I Pet. 2:5-9).
 29. The Temple of God (I Cor. 3:9; Eph. 2:20).
 30. The Family of God (Eph. 3:14-15).

II. There are many other New Testament names or references to the Church.

(The following lists extracted from *I Will Build My Church* by Kuen)

A. The New Testament frequently associates the Church with the name of _____.

1. The Church of the Living God (I Tim. 3:15).
2. God's Building (I Cor. 3:9).
3. The Churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16).
4. The Church of God (Acts 20:28; II Cor. 1:1).

B. Other times the churches are named with reference to _____.

1. The Churches of the Saints (I Cor. 14:33).
2. The Churches of the Gentiles (Rom. 16:4).
3. The Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:23).
4. The Church of the Thessalonians (I Th. 1:1; II Th. 1:1).
5. The Church of the Laodiceans (Col. 4:16).

C. At times the word "church" is associated with a _____ term.

1. The Church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1).
2. The Church at Antioch (Acts 13:1).
3. The Churches of Macedonia (II Cor. 8:1).
4. The Churches of Asia (I Cor. 16:19).
5. The Churches of God in Judea (I Th. 2:14).
6. The Churches of Galatia (I Cor. 16:1; Gal. 1:2).
7. Or simply, the church that meets in their house (I Cor. 16:19; Philemon 2; Col. 4:15; Rom. 16:5).

D. Some significant titles _____ in the Bible.

1. _____ of Rome, Jerusalem, Etc.
2. _____ of Macedonia, Galatia, Etc.
3. _____ of Paul, John, Peter, Etc.
4. Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church, Etc.

III. Each name or title tells us _____ or emphasizes a particular facet regarding the nature of the Church.

For Example:

A. The Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:6-9).

1. The new covenant relationship is likened to a marriage contract (I Cor 6:16-17).

2. The church is to be espoused to one husband (Hos. 2:19; II Cor. 11:2).
3. The church is to remain faithful and keep herself pure (II Cor. 11:2).
4. The Bride is now being made ready (Mt. 25:10; Rev. 19:7-8).
5. The emphasis of this picture of the Church:
 - a. That she who is now legally joined to Him through vows of espousal may be personally joined to Him when He comes to take her to Himself as the returning Bridegroom (Mt. 25:6).
 - b. That the two may become one (Gen. 2:24; Jn. 17:11, 21).

B. The Army of God (Eph. 6:10-13)

1. Christ is our captain and chief leader (Heb. 2:10, KJV).
2. We are enlisted as good soldiers of Christ (II Tim. 2:3-4).
3. We are involved in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12).
4. Our armor is provided by God (Eph. 6:13-18).
5. Our weapons are not carnal (II Cor. 10:3-5).
6. God is raising up an army to deal with Satan and it is going to be victorious.
7. The emphasis of this picture of the Church:
 - a. That we might war a good warfare (I Tim. 1:18).
 - b. That we might withstand in the evil day (Eph. 6:13).

Note: In the next number of lessons we will be looking at three other pictures of the church that are extremely significant. We want to take more time to look at each of them in depth. We will study the church as the Temple of the Lord, the church as the Family of God and the church as the Body of Christ.

Lesson 9

The Church as the Temple or Building

I. Introduction

A. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, “On this rock I will build my church.” When Jesus uses the word “_____” He immediately puts the church in the context of a building, temple or house.

B. There are three concepts or terms that are used in connection with the Church as a building.

1. _____

A building is an edifice for any use or that which is being build as a dwelling or a house (I Cor. 3:9; Eph. 2:19-21).

2. _____

A stately edifice consecrated to a deity forming a seat of their worship (II Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21).

3. _____

A building intended for habitation (I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; I Pet. 2:5).

C. These terms are consistent with God’s expressed desire for _____ (Ps. 132:13-14).

1. God desires _____ with and in His people (Ex. 25:8; Num. 35:34; I Kg. 6:11-14).

a. He expressed this desire when He instructed _____ regarding the Tabernacle (Ex. 25:8).

b. He expressed this desire when He spoke to _____ regarding the Temple (I Kgs. 6:11-13).

2. God has always made provision for His _____.

a. The Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8).

b. The Gate of Eden (Gen. 3:24).

c. The Altar of Stone (Gen. 8:20; Ex. 20:24-25).

d. The Tabernacle of Moses (Ex. 25:8).

e. The Tabernacle of David (I Chr. 15:1; 16:1).

f. The Temple of Solomon (I Kg. 8:1-13).

g. The New Testament Church (Mt. 18:20; 28:20).

h. The New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-3).

3. God's dwelling with man has always been _____, according to His pattern.

II. Christ's House or Temple is an enduring house.

A. It is an enduring house because Jesus is _____ and principle builder (Mt 16:18; Ps. 127:1).

1. He is the wise master builder who builds on _____ (Mt. 7:24-27).
 - a. It will stand the test of the rains.
 - b. It will stand the test of the winds.
 - c. It will stand the test of the floods.
2. He is the wise builder who counts the cost _____ (Luke 14:28).
 - a. He knew it would cost Him his life.
 - b. He was willing to pay the price.
 - c. His personal sacrifice ensures success.

B. It is an enduring house because it is built upon a _____.

1. If a building is to stand the test of time, the foundation is the most important part (Ps. 11:2).
2. The foundation was laid by the _____ (Eph. 2:20-22; 3:5).
3. That rock foundation is _____ Himself who laid His life down for the church (Mt. 16:18; Rom. 9:33; I Cor. 3:11; 10:4; I Pet. 2:7-8).

C. It is an enduring house because its _____ is tried and true.

1. Christ Himself is the _____ (Mt. 21:42; Is. 8:14; 28:16).
 - a. He is the stone that was inspected and _____ by the religious leaders (the builders) of His day (I Pet. 2:6-8; Acts 4:11).
 - b. He is the stone that was inspected and _____ by God and a perfect stone (Is. 28:16).
2. Christ as the cornerstone is the _____ or the first stone laid (the firstborn).
3. Christ as the cornerstone is the one to whom the whole building is _____ (Eph. 2:20).

III. Christ's house or temple is a spiritual house made of _____.

A. The temple is composed of _____ (I Pet. 2:4-5).

1. These stones are being dug out of _____ of this world (Is. 51:1-2).
2. These stones are being _____ before being laid on the foundation (I Kg, 5:17-18; 6:7).
3. These stones must be _____ (Eph. 2:21-22, KJV).

We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. —NLT

B. The temple is composed of individuals _____ need to be built out of solid materials—gold, silver and precious stones (I Cor. 3:9-16).

1. The temple will have to stand the _____ (Num. 31:21-24; Job 23:10; I Pet. 1:7).
2. There are two groups of materials:

a. _____

These are materials that can withstand the test of fire—those that are produced under pressure.

b. _____

These are materials that are reduced to ashes by fire—those that are produced by the self-effort of man.

C. The temple is built as these stones are continually produced and continually placed in proper _____. This involves two processes:

1. _____ (Acts 9:31; 12:24; 6:1; 7:17).

Multiplication is the _____ of lively stones for the building. It refers to the work of evangelism.

2. _____ (Acts 9:31; Heb. 10:25).

Edification is the placing, arranging and the _____ of the stones that have been gathered. This is the assembling of the stones into the structure.

D. The temple is built as we focus on those _____ or build. The New Testament gives us ten things that build:

1. The Word of God (Acts 20:32).
2. The Five-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11-12).
3. Body ministry (I Cor. 14:26).
4. Spiritual sacrifices (I Pet. 2:5).
5. Being rooted and built up in Christ (Col. 2:7).
6. Praying in the Spirit (Jude 20; I Cor. 14:2-5).
7. Love (I Cor. 8:1).
8. Right communication (Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6).
9. Harmony and peace (Rom. 14:19).
10. Seeking to please our neighbor (Rom. 15:2).

IV. Christ's house or temple is being built by _____.

- A. _____ is the Master Builder (Mt. 16:16-18; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 3:1-6).
- B. The early Apostles and Prophets _____ for the church (Eph. 2:20-22).
- C. The _____ have been given by Christ to the church to help edify or build up the saints (living stones) and to assemble the building (Eph. 1:11-16; I Cor. 3:9-10; Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:14).
- D. _____ who has come to a place of maturity is also to participate in the building process (I Cor. 3:9-10; I Cor. 12; Eph. 4:16; Rom 12:3-8; I Pet. 4:10-11).

V. The picture of the church as the Temple or House of God helps us understand another facet of the church.

This picture of the temple helps us to better understand God's purpose for the Church, that the people of God might be perfectly joined together so that He might fill us with the fullness of Himself (Eph. 3:19-21; Ex. 25:8; I Kg. 8:29-30; II Cor. 6:16).

Lesson 10

The Church as the Family/Membership

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Church of Jesus Christ is referred to as _____ or household (Eph. 2:19; 3:14-15; Gal. 6:10).
- B. There are many things that God wants us to understand about the church from this picture of the family.
1. He wants us to understand our _____.
 - a. We have a heavenly _____ (Ps. 68:5; 89:26; Is. 64:8; Mt. 5:16; 6:1-9).
 - i. We are called the children of God (Rom. 8:15-17).
 - ii. The Father has provided the seed for our new birth (I Pet. 1:23).
 - iii. The Father has loved us with a true father's love (II Cor. 13:14).
 - iv. The Father loves us enough to discipline us (Heb. 12:5-10).
 - v. The Father has laid up an inheritance for us (Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:11-14; Col. 3:24; I Pet. 1:4; Heb. 9:15).
 - b. We have an _____, the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 8:21; Heb. 2:14-17).
 - i. He is the firstborn (Rom. 8:29).
 - ii. He is the pattern Son (I Pet. 2:21).
 - iii. He is our Kinsman Redeemer
 - c. We have many _____ in an extended family (I Pet. 1:22; Mark 10:29-30).
 - i. We are all partakers of the same blood (John 6:53).
 - ii. We must be born into the family by the new birth (John 1:12-13; 3:3).
 - iii. We all bear the family name (Mt. 28:20; Eph. 3:15; Rev. 22:14).
 - iv. We must honor our Father (Mal. 1:6; Ex. 20:12; Pro. 20:20).
 - v. We must obey our Father (Deut. 21:18; Pro.1:8; 23:33).

II. As a true family the Church has _____.

- A. Just like in a natural family, the church is _____ of people.

1. The Church of Jesus Christ is to be exclusive in that it is _____ those people who have been called out from the world and separated to Christ by the Gospel.
 2. It should be noted that while church membership is exclusive, it is clear that _____ to church services should be open to all (I Cor. 14:23-25; Jam. 2:2-4).
 3. The early church knew who _____ a part of the church and who _____ a part of the church. Notice the word "together" in the following passages (Acts 2:44; 14:27; 15:30; 20:7-8; I Cor. 5:4; I Cor. 14:23, 26).
 4. The early church was aware of those who were _____ to their numbers (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 6:7).
- B. Just like in a natural family there is _____ in becoming a member of the family.
1. There is a spiritual process that makes one a part of the _____.
 - a. This process involves _____ (Acts 2:38-39; 5:14; 11:24).
 - b. This process involves _____ in the saving work of Christ (Rom. 10:9).
 - c. This process involves _____ (Mk. 16:16).
 2. There is a _____ or natural process that makes one an official part of a specific _____.
 - a. Believers in the New Testament who were added to the Lord were also added to _____ (Acts 2:41, 47).
 - b. In the New Testament all members of the universal church were also members of _____.
 - c. _____ for any true believer to fulfill all of the admonitions to the people of God without being vitally connected to a physical, visible expression of the body of Christ on earth (Eph. 4:11-16).
 - d. In the New Testament there was only _____ in a city.
- C. Just like in a natural family there are advantages or _____ of being a member. Some of these advantages include the following:
1. _____ (Col. 2:2; I John 1:3).

2. _____ (I Cor. 12:12-27).
3. _____ (Eph. 4:16).
4. _____ (Gal. 6:1-2).
5. _____ (I Th. 5:12).
6. _____ (Deut. 32:30; Eccl. 4:9-10).
7. _____ (Mt. 18:19-20).

Every true believer in Christ must consider the question of church membership. All of the dynamics of the Christian life must be worked out in the context of others of like faith. The local church is God's vehicle through which He would strengthen and equip His people.

Lesson 11
The Church as the Family
Self Governing

III. As a true family the Church should be _____.

A. The Word “Autonomous”

1. Dictionary Definition

- a. Independent and self-governing
- b. Independent of any other organism
- c. A self-governing community or local group in a particular sphere.

2. Latin Origin

The word “autonomous” comes from two Latin words and literally means “self-law.”

a. “Auto” = _____

b. “Onomos” = _____

3. For the purposes of our study, the definition of “autonomous” as it relates to the natural family and the local church is:

“Self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating”

B. First of all, the local church should be _____.

1. That means that the local church looks to no _____, no special group functioning outside or above the local church to effect its decisions. The local church is the _____:

a. For _____ between believers (Mt. 18:15-17).

b. For questions of _____ (Acts 15).

c. For _____ of moral conduct (I Cor. 5:1-5).

2. The issue of church government is an issue that historically has distinguished one church from another.

a. The names of various churches are based on several things.

i. Their _____

- ii. Their distinct _____
 - iii. Their belief about _____
 - iv. Their form of church _____
- b. The fact that churches are named after government shows the importance of this area in people's minds and the fact that people have been willing to establish or _____ over governmental issues.
3. The government of the church can be the _____ aspect of a church's life.

Your government will affect many things:

- a. It will affect a church's ability to fulfill the _____.
- b. It will affect a church's ability to _____ God has given to its leaders.
- c. It will affect a church's ability to be led and directed _____.

4. Four Basic Facts Concerning Church Government.

- a. **Fact #1: God _____ government in His House. (Heb. 13:17).**
 - i. With no government there will be a _____ (I Cor. 14:40; Col. 2:5).
 - ii. There are those who _____ in the House of God (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; Rom. 12:8).

- b. **Fact #2: God _____ and pattern for government in His House (See previous lesson).**

- c. **Fact #3: God identifies the rulers in His House as _____ (I Tim. 3:5; 5:17).**

There are other forms of government that God could have chosen.

 - i. **Dictatorship or “_____”**

 - ii. **Democracy or “_____”**

iii. Central Control or “_____”

iv. Deacon Board or Council or “Rule by an _____”

v. Co-Equal Plurality or “Rule by _____”

God did not choose any of these forms for His House.

vi. God chose _____ of elders with a chief or _____ elder as His form of government.

aa. _____ elders (Acts 14:23; 20:17; I Tim. 5:17; Jam. 5:14; I Pet. 5:1-4)

bb. _____ senior elder (Acts 12:17; 15:4-7, 12, 13, 22; Phil. 4:1-3)

cc. This has _____ God’s form of government. God has always used plural leadership with one of those leaders placed as head (See Chart below).

- In the _____ (I John 5:7; I Cor. 11:3)
- In the _____ (Gen. 2:24; I Cor. 11:3-16; Eph. 5:22-24; I Pet. 3:1)
- In _____ (Num. 11:16-17; 27:16-17)
- In the _____ (Acts 18:8,17)
- In the _____ (Tit. 1:5; Acts 21:18)

Refer to the following chart:

	Equality	Headship
The Godhead	Three Persons	Father
The Family	Two Parents	Husband
Israel	70 Elders	Moses
The Synagogue	Elders/Rulers	Chief Ruler
The Church	Elders	Chief Elder

d. Fact #4: God determines the _____ that are to be rulers in His House (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

We can summarize the qualifications listed by Paul into four categories:

i. They must be people with _____.

ii. They must be people of _____.

iii. They must be people with their _____.

iv. They must be people with the _____ for this ministry (Heb. 13:7).

These are the same qualifications that were laid out in the Old Testament for the elders who served under Moses. God's leaders were to be "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Ex. 18:21).

Lesson 12

The Church as the Family Self-Supporting

III. (Continued)

As a true family the Church should be autonomous, that is, self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating.

C. Second of all, the local church should be _____.

1. Each local church should _____ be able to support itself.
 - a. There are pioneer situations that will need some _____ for the establishing of a new congregation.
 - b. There could be _____ of extra stress where one church will give to help another church weather a financial storm (Acts 11:29-30).
 - c. Each local church should own their own property, pay their own bills and should _____ financially or materially by another church or organization.
2. God has provided a divine _____ that makes it possible for each local church to be financially independent.

To better understand God's financial plan for the local church it is necessary to be familiar with God's financial system in the Old Testament.

- a. The Old Testament Tithe
 - i. _____ the law
 - aa. Abraham had offered tithes to Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God (Gen. 14:18-20).
 - bb. Jacob also in a time of consecration to the Lord vowed to give God a tenth or a tithe (Gen. 28:20-22).
 - ii. _____ the law—Moses
 - aa. The Lord's Tithe

The principal area of tithing in Israel's economy was referred to as the "Lord's tithe" (Lev. 27:30-33). This tithe consisted of _____ of all their increase before anything else was taken out. It was used primarily for the support of the Levites or ministers of the congregation (Num. 18:21-24).

bb. Other Old Testament Giving

In the Old Testament the Lord's tithe was only the beginning of their giving. They had an _____ that was to be set aside to be used for religious observances (Deut. 14:22-26). In addition to this, every _____ they were to give an additional tithe for the poor and needy (Deut. 14:28-29). For this reason the third year was called "the year of tithing" (Deut. 26:12-14). Beyond the tithes, which were mandatory, there were a variety of _____ that were entirely up to the individuals (Deut. 12:6).

iii. Under _____ Ministry

aa. Jesus came _____ the law (Mt. 5:17).

bb. Jesus came and _____ the law (Mt. 23:23; Luke 20:25).

How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law--justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things. Matthew 23:23, NLT

cc. Jesus taught _____ that stood behind the law and He internalized the law (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 6:38).

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving--large or small--it will be used to measure what is given back to you. Luke 6:38, NLT

dd. Jesus introduced _____—the law of love (Is. 42:21; Mt. 5:18-30; Mt. 22:36-40; Acts 20:35).

The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable. Isaiah 42:21, KJV

b. New Testament Giving

i. New Testament giving functions in the _____.

ii. New Testament giving operates on a higher level and includes these requirements. In the New Testament we are to give—

- Generously (II Corinthians 8:2; 9:6),
- Willingly (II Corinthians 8:3,12),
- Proportionately (II Corinthians 8:14-15; 9:6),

- Lovingly (II Corinthians 8:24; I Corinthians 13:3),
- Cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7),
- Thankfully (II Corinthians 9:11-12),
- Sacrificially (Hebrews 13:16; Mark 12:44),
- As unto the Lord (Matthew 25:40).

iii. Paul outlines _____ of New Testament giving in II Corinthians 8-9.

- Giving in faith requires a _____ from God to give (8:1-2).
- Giving in faith requires giving willingly beyond our _____ to give (8:3).
- Giving in faith views giving as a _____ not as drudgery (8:4).
- Giving in faith requires a giving of _____ totally to the Lord first (8:5).
- Giving in faith requires having a desire _____ in this act of grace (8:6-7).
- Giving in faith is based _____ which is willing to put the needs of others ahead of our own (8:8-9).
- Giving in faith involves making _____ of faith and then following through with those commitments (8:10-11).
- Giving in faith is determined by the willingness and the _____ involved not on the actual size of the gift (8:12).
- Giving in faith requires a willingness _____ out in faith believing that God will supply what we need in the future through the proper functioning of the Body of Christ (8:13-15).
- Giving in faith will be _____ by circumstances that come against the commitments that that we have made (9:1-5).
- Giving in faith involves a generous _____ realizing that unless there is a significant deposit there can be no significant return (9:6).
- Giving in faith is done cheerfully because it springs from a deep appreciation and _____ for everything that the Lord has done for us (9:7).
- Giving in faith recognizes that God is a debtor to no one and that He will be generous with us _____ to Him (9:8-11).

- Giving in faith is _____ to others of the grace of God in our lives that will not only inspire faith to rise up within them but will cause them to praise God in greater ways (9:12-13).
 - Giving in faith will _____ to participate in what we are doing with their encouragement and prayer support (9:14).
3. Churches that follow these basic New Testament principles of giving will never have a financial _____.
 4. Churches that fail to teach biblical principles of giving to their membership are _____ of the blessing of God that can only come when God's principles are followed (Mal. 3:6-12).
 5. Church leaders need to diffuse the reasons that people give for _____ for their own sakes. The following are the most common reasons that people give for not tithing:
 - a. Reason #1: I can't afford it!
The truth is they can't afford _____ (Mal. 3:8-12).
 - b. Reason # 2: God doesn't need my money.
The truth is our giving is a reflection of _____ (Mt. 6:21).
 - c. Reason #3: I forgot!
The truth is they are _____ in their giving (Pro. 3:9-10).
 - d. Reason #4: I don't see the benefit.
The truth is we do not do it to get something _____ (Lk. 16:10-12).
 - e. Reason #5: It is Old Testament not New Testament.
The truth is New Testament giving is _____ Old Testament giving.

Lesson 13
The Church as the Family
Self-Propagating

III. (Continued)

As a true family the Church should be autonomous, that is, self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating.

D. Third, the local church should be _____, that is they should be missionary in their heart, spirit and practical expression.

1. The missionary heart of the local church springs from the _____ of God Himself. God's nature is missionary or outgoing.

Notice the definitions of God found in the Bible.

- a. God is _____ (John 4:24). God is effulgent, pervading, and impossible to contain.
 - b. God is _____ (I John 1:5). God is ever penetrating, diffusive and dispelling darkness.
 - c. God is _____ (I John 4:16, 18). God is always reaching out to include more and more as objects of His love.
 - d. God is _____ (Heb. 12:29). God, like fire, is never satisfied, burns passionately and always hungers for more.
2. The missionary heart of the church springs from that fact that the local church is the _____ to fulfill His Eternal Purpose (Gen. 1:26-28).
3. The missionary heart of the church finds its impetus in _____ given to it by Jesus Himself. The commission that Jesus gave to the church included the following elements:
- a. _____ the Gospel to every creature and every nation under heaven (Mark 13:10; 16:15; Luke 24:47).
 - b. _____ of Christ to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
 - c. _____ all those who respond to the Gospel (Mt. 28:19).
 - d. _____ out of all those who were converted (Mt. 28:19).
 - e. Bringing _____ to all those in such need (Mark 16:15-18).

- f. _____ the converted a lifestyle of obedience to all of God's commands (Mt. 28:20).
4. The missionary heart of the church is further fueled by the _____ of mankind apart from Christ.
- Apart from Christ all people are sinners and are under the sentence of _____ (Rom. 5:12).
 - Apart from Christ all people are _____ (Eph. 2:3).
 - Apart from Christ all people are alienated from the _____ (Eph. 4:18).
 - Apart from Christ even upright, moral and decent people _____ and need to be saved (Rom. 3:23; John 3:3; Acts 11:13-14).
 - Apart from Christ all people are destined for eternal _____ (Rev. 20:10-15).
5. The missionary heart of the church is inspired by _____ that it bears.
- Jesus is the _____ of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Cor. 8:4).
 - The message of the Gospel is the power of God unto _____ (Rom. 1:16).
 - The message of the Gospel is a message of _____ (II Cor. 5:18-19).
 - The message of the Gospel opens the door to _____ (John 10:10).
6. The missionary heart of the church must be challenged by God's desire for _____ to be saved (II Pet. 3:9). This heart is seen in the following:
- God's challenge to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3).
 - God's challenge to Israel (Ex. 19:5-6).
 - Solomon's prayer of dedication (I Kgs. 8:28-30, 41-42, 59-60).
7. The missionary heart of the church must be activated by the realization that the commission of Christ will only be fulfilled _____.
- God does his work through His _____ (Mt. 16:18; II Cor. 5:18-21), not angels (I Pet. 1:12).
 - The message of the Gospel must find its _____ in God's people (Rom. 10:14-15).

- c. The church must reach the world _____ to the Second Coming of Christ, because after that there will be no more opportunity (I Th. 4:13-18; II Th. 1:3-12).
 - d. If the church does not do it, it _____ (Eph. 3:8-13).
8. The missionary heart of the church should be motivated by being a _____ of the local church.
- a. Every mature local church should be autonomous, that is, self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating.
 - i. Every mature local church should be self-governing, that is they contain _____ the power to make all final decisions regarding the vision and function of the local assembly.
 - ii. Every mature local church should be self-supporting, that is they have the ability within themselves to _____ and the functions of the local assembly.
 - iii. Every mature local church should be self-propagating, that is, they have the ability _____ themselves in spiritual offspring and perpetuate themselves into the next generation.
 - b. The local church propagates in several ways:
 - 1. Reaching _____ through aggressive evangelism in its local community.
 - 2. Raising up and _____ to carry responsibility and vision.
 - 3. Extending the Kingdom of God in their nation by _____ other reproducing local churches.
 - 4. Touching the _____ through their own or cooperative efforts with other local churches.
 - c. Every mature local church should take seriously the commission of God given to _____ (Gen. 1:26-28) and of Christ given to the _____ (Mt. 28:18-20).

Lesson 14

The Church as the Family Discipline

IV. As a true family, the local church is a _____.

A. The foundation for discipline in the local church

The foundation for discipline in the church comes from two important instructions given to us by Jesus Himself.

1. Jesus gave a commission to the church that involves making followers of Christ into “_____” (Mt. 28:19-20).
2. Jesus gave instructions to the church as to how to handle difficulties that arise between members of the church (Mt. 18:15-18).

B. The necessity of discipline in the local church

1. Without church discipline there is _____ of right and wrong among the congregation.
2. Without church discipline sinning members _____, destroying their own potential fruitfulness in God.
3. Without church discipline there is the potential for _____ outwardly what they have only been tempted to do inwardly.
4. Without church discipline the spiritual life of the body as a whole becomes greatly _____.
5. Without church discipline confidence and respect for the _____ is lost.

C. Key verses dealing with discipline in the local church

1. Matthew 18:15-18
 - a. Notice that this passage puts the matter of conflict resolution in _____ terms, “If your Brother sins against you.”
 - b. Notice that Jesus puts responsibility on the _____ to “go and tell him his fault.”
 - c. Notice the _____ of confrontation where privacy regarding the offense is attempted but depending upon the response of the offender can lead to _____.
2. I Corinthians 5:1-13

Note the following phrases:

- “might be taken away from among you” (vs. 2)
- “deliver such a one to Satan” (vs. 5)
- “purge out the old leaven” (vs. 7)
- Do not “keep company with sexually immoral people” in the church (vs. 9)
- “not even to eat with such a person” (vs. 11)
- “judge those who are inside” (vs. 12)
- “put away from yourselves that wicked person” (vs. 13)

3. II Corinthians 2:5-11

Note the following phrases:

- “The punishment which was inflicted by the majority” (vs. 6)
- “Reaffirm your love to him” (vs. 8)

4. Romans 16:17-18

Note the following phrases:

- “Note those who cause divisions” (vs. 17)
- “Avoid them” (vs. 17)

5. II Thessalonians 3:6-15

Note the following phrases:

- “withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly” (vs. 6)
- “If anyone does not obey...note that person” (vs. 14)
- “Do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed” (vs. 14)
- “Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (vs. 15)

6. I Timothy 1:20

*...of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I delivered to Satan** that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

7. Titus 1:13

*This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke them sharply**, that they may be sound in the faith...*

8. Titus 3:10-11

Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

If anyone is causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with that person. –NLT

D. The purpose of discipline in the local church.

In relation to _____

1. To keep people from _____ (Ps. 119:67; Hos. 7:11-12; Jer. 10:23-24; Pro. 10:17; I Cor. 5:5).
2. To keep people from the _____ of the wicked (Ps. 94:12-13; I Cor. 11:32).
3. To bring people _____ to God (Is. 26:16).
4. To make people _____ (Pro. 22:15).
5. To bring people to an experience of _____ and eternal life (Heb. 12:9).

Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever? –NLT

6. To help people deal with sin and grow in righteousness in areas where they have been personally _____ (Heb. 12:9-12).

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening--it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. –NLT

7. To teach people the _____ of God (Ps. 119:71).

The suffering you sent was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your principles. –NLT

8. To produce greater _____ in the lives of people (John 15:2).
9. To _____ the repentant believers (Gal. 6:1; II Cor. 2:7-10).

In relation to _____

10. To bring the church to _____ (Eph. 4:12-16; I Cor. 3:1).
11. To _____ from similar sins (I Tim. 5:20).
12. To protect the _____ of the church (Rom. 2:24).

13. To protect the church from further _____ (I Cor. 5:6-7).
14. To prove that leaders _____ (II Cor. 7:12).
15. To affirm each members _____ to be their brother's keeper (Heb. 3:13).
16. To cut _____ with unrepentant Christians (I Cor. 5:11).

In relation to _____

17. To affirm the authority of _____ in our lives (II Cor. 2:9; II Tim. 3:16-17).
18. To maintain the _____ (Rom. 2:24).
19. To maintain _____ the Scripture (Tit. 1:10-11).

E. The kinds of sins that are to be disciplined in the local church

(Taken from notes by Bill Gothard)

Notice that the key to all of these issues is the _____ of them.

1. _____ disputes between members (Mt. 18:15; I Cor. 5:11).
2. _____ teaching of false doctrine (Tit. 1:9-11; 3:10-11; Rom. 16:17).
3. _____ immorality and disorderliness (II Th. 3:6; I Cor. 5:11).

F. The levels of discipline given by Christ (Matt. 18:15-20).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

G. The _____ of the restorer (person administering discipline)

1. The restorer must be motivated _____ (Heb.12:6; Rev. 3:19; Eph. 4:15; II Th. 3:15).

2. The restorer must do it with _____ (I Th. 2:1-9; Ps. 141:5).
3. The restorer must have a _____ (Gal. 6:1-2).
4. The restorer must be ready to _____ (II Cor. 2:6-8).
5. The restorer must have the heart of _____ (I Th. 2:10-12; I Cor. 4:14-16).
6. The restorer must reprove in _____ (Pro. 25:12).

H. Conclusions about discipline in the local church

1. Discipline is a demonstration of _____ (Ps. 119:75; Pro. 27:5-6).
2. Discipline is for the purpose of _____ (Jam. 5:19-20; II Th. 3:15).
3. Discipline is a means of _____ (Ps. 94:12).

Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law... --NIV

4. Discipline is designed as a means of _____, not of destruction.
5. Discipline is designed as an evidence of _____, not of hate or of fear.
6. Discipline is _____ and dependent on the attitude and _____.

Lesson 15
The Church as the Family
Local Church Commitment

V. As a true family, the local church should be a place of _____
_____.

A. The Word “Commitment”

Commitment is a concept that occurs throughout the Bible and is the basis for entering into and maintaining covenant relationships.

1. To be committed to someone is “to cleave to, to adhere to, to be attached to, to _____ or to stick to the side of another.”
2. In the Greek language, the concept of commitment implied “a gluing together, a firm fastening and a _____ steadfastly to another.”

B. Areas of Biblical Commitment

1. Commitment to _____. God wants us to be committed, firmly attached and closely joined to Himself (Acts 11:23; I Cor. 6:17).
2. Commitment to _____. God wants everyone to be committed to the Word of God as the foundation for their lives (Ps. 119:31).
3. Commitment to _____. God wants husbands and wives to be bound together closely in a strong covenant relationship (Gen. 2:24).
4. Commitment to _____. God wants believers in Christ to be committed to one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-6, 16).
5. Commitment to the _____. God wants those that are added to the Lord to be added to the local church where these commitments will be worked out (Acts 2:47).

C. Pictures or Illustrations of Commitment in the Church.

Several of the pictures that God gives us for the church highlight the importance of the individual members being in a committed relationship one to another.

1. **The church is a _____.**

As a temple, the church is composed of living stones that are built together or “fitly joined” together (Eph. 2:19-22; I Pet. 2:5).

We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 1:21-22, NLT

2. The church is a _____.

As a body, the church is composed of individual members that are interlocked and vitally linked to each other (Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 12:20, 27).

Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:16, NLT

3. The church is a _____.

As a family, the church is made up of many brothers and sisters (Eph. 3:15; Gal. 6:10).

Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters. Galatians 6:10, NLT

4. The church is an _____.

As the Army of God, the church is made up of good soldiers of Christ functioning under the leadership of their captain and chief leader—the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 6:10-13; II Tim. 2:3-4; Heb. 2:10). The church is involved in serious warfare against a common enemy (Eph. 6:12; I Tim. 1:18).

D. Local Church Commitment in Practical Terms

What does local church commitment mean in a practical sense?

1. **Commitment** means that I will _____ when they arise instead of _____ from them.
2. **Commitment** means that I will _____ my personal giftings and ministry goals with _____ of that local assembly.
3. **Commitment** means that I will _____ faithfully to the members of that church in fellowship and service.
4. **Commitment** means that I will _____ my time, talents and financial resources to see the vision of my local church become a reality.
5. **Commitment** means that I will faithfully _____ with my brothers and sisters at the corporate assembly times.

6. **Commitment** means that I will take the preached word seriously and make every effort to _____ in my life.
7. **Commitment** means that I will only do those things that will _____ up the saints to whom I am joined.
8. **Commitment** means that I will honor and _____ those who have oversight in my life as they speak into my life.
9. **Commitment** means that I will still support church leadership when policies _____ keep to my opinions.
10. **Commitment** means that I will utilize _____ to minister to the needs in the local church that God puts in front of me.

E. Ways Believers Care for One Another

They do the following:

1. They love one another (I Pet. 1:22).
2. They comfort one another (I Th. 4:18).
3. They exhort one another (Heb. 10:25).
4. They build up one another (Rom. 14:19).
5. They admonish one another (Col. 3:16).
6. They serve one another (I Pet. 4:10).
7. They forgive one another (Eph. 4:32).
8. They submit one to another (Eph. 5:21)
9. They pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, have compassion for one another, and are kind to one to another (Jam. 5:16; Gal. 6:1; I Pet. 3:8).

They do not do the following:

10. They do not condemn or criticize one another (Rom. 14:13).
11. They do not go to law with one another (I Cor. 6:7).
12. They do not speak evil of one another (Jam. 4:11).
13. They do not envy one another (Gal. 5:26).
14. They do not hurt or do anything that would harm another (Gal. 5:15).

God is showing His Body the need for becoming committed to each other for the sake of the higher purpose and call. Every general commitment to Christ and His Church must manifest itself in a specific commitment to a place or a local assembly or it is no commitment at all. To say you are committed to what God is doing in a general way and then not identify with a local church in a specific way is to reject the very vehicle that God has chosen to extend His kingdom and purpose in the world to day.

Lesson 16

The Church as the Body of Christ

I. Introduction

When Jesus ascended on high and was seated at the right hand of the Father, He was placed as the head of the church. He now seated as the head and continues to function on earth through His _____ known as the Church (Eph. 1:19-23).

II. The foundation for understanding our place of ministry is an understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ.

A. When Christ ascended He ascended to become _____ of the Church which is His body (Col. 1:17-18).

B. When He ascended He dispensed _____ that was in Him to the individual members of the Church (John 1:14; 3:33-35).

Christ was:

- THE Apostle (Hebrews 3:1)
- THE Prophet (John 4:19)
- THE Evangelist (Luke 4:18)
- THE Pastor (John 10:11)
- THE Teacher (John 3:2)
- THE Elder (Romans 8:29)
- THE Deacon (Luke 22:27)
- THE Exhorter (Luke 2:25)
- THE Giver (Galatians 2:20)
- THE Ruler (Luke 1:33)
- THE Shower of Mercy (Hebrews 2:17)
- THE Worker of Miracles (John 11:47)
- THE Healer (Luke 6:17-19)
- THE Deliverer (Matthew 1:21)
- THE Governor (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- THE Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25)

C. Now Christ functions _____ which is His body. Our ministry is merely an expression of "Christ in us" (Col. 1:27).

D. When we rightly relate to the _____ we can experience the fullness that is in Christ.

E. The Body of Christ is composed of _____.

1. There is one body, but many members.
2. There is one vine, but many branches.

3. There is one army, but many soldiers.
4. There is one temple, but many living stones.
5. There is one family, but many children (sons).
6. There is one sheepfold, but many sheep.

F. Each member of the body has a place in that body, a place _____.

III. The Apostle Paul shared his revelation of the Church as the Body of Christ in the book of Ephesians.

Six things that Paul teaches us about the Church which is His Body:

A. The Body of Christ has Christ as its _____ (Eph. 1:21-23; 4:15; 5:23).

What a head we have!

1. Notice all of the things that the head provides for us (Ephesians 1:3, 5, 7, 11, 13; 2:13).

- He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places (1:3).
- He has made it possible for us to be adopted as sons (1:5).
- He has provided redemption through His blood (1:7).
- He has provided the forgiveness of sins (1:7).
- He has caused us to abound in grace (1:7-8).
- He has made it possible for us to have an inheritance in God (1:11).
- He has sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise (1:13).
- He has brought us who were far off near to the Father by His blood (2:13).

2. Notice that the Father gave Christ to be Head over the Church. Christ is, therefore, God's _____.

3. Conclusion: **If we are going to function as the Body of Christ we must be personally and corporately _____ to Christ's headship over our lives.**

B. The Body of Christ is to make up the _____ (Eph. 1:23; 4:7-11).

1. Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 1:19; 2:9). That means that every ministry finds their _____ in Him.

- a. The word "fullness" means "full contents (contents of a basket), entirety, full sum, full measure, numerically 'the whole.'"
- b. Translated literally it means, "The fullness of the one who is constantly filling all things with all things."

2. As members of the Body of Christ, we are not the fullness, but we have individually received "_____ His fullness" (John 1:16; Rom. 12:3).

3. Conclusion: **If we are going to experience all that is in Christ, we will not find it in _____, but we must look to the rest of the Body of Christ.**
- C. The Body of Christ consists of both _____ reconciled by the cross to Christ (Eph. 2:14-17; 3:6).
1. The great miracle of reconciliation is the fact that not only does the cross reconcile us to God, but it is able to take two long-standing and antagonistic parties and _____ into one great body in right relationship to God and each other.
 2. The thought of reconciliation here is that of restoration of a condition that had _____.
 3. Conclusion: **If we are going to be the Body of Christ we must _____ the walls that separate us and unite with others of all backgrounds to accomplish God's Eternal Purpose.**
- D. The Body of Christ must be _____ to fulfill its ministry (Eph. 4:4; 2:21-22; 1:10).
1. The key words in Ephesians that focus on unity include:
 - Gather
 - Together, One
 - Unity
 - Joined
 - Fitly Framed
 - Peace
 2. Paul mentions two types of unity including:
 - Unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3)
 - Unity of the Faith (Eph. 4:13)
 3. Paul gives seven things we must recognize to maintain unity (4:4-6).
We must recognize that there is:
 - One Body
 - One Spirit
 - One Hope of your calling
 - One Lord
 - One Faith
 - One Baptism
 - One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all!

4. Paul further lists five things we must do to create and maintain unity (4:1-3).

We must:

- Walk in _____.
- Exercise _____ in our relationships one to another.
- Be _____ in the process while the church is coming to perfection.
- Maintain a _____ in spite of some differences.
- Endeavor to keep the _____ in the bond of peace.

5. Conclusion: **If we are going to be successful as the Body of Christ we must be _____ and at one with the other members of His body.**

E. The Body of Christ is to come to _____ (Eph. 4:12-15), that is, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

1. Leadership ministries have been given to the Church to help to perfect the saints.

Perfecting of the saints means _____.

2. These leadership ministries will be needed until _____ (vs. 13).

They are given until we all arrive at or attain to or unto...

- a. The _____ of the faith (vs. 13).
- b. The _____ of the Son of God (vs. 13).
- c. A _____ (vs. 13).
- d. The _____ of Christ (vs. 13).

Paul defines exactly what he means, that is, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The fullness of Christ is the _____ which make up what Christ is.

Other Translations:

...until we reach the ideal man, the full standard of the perfection of Christ. -TCNT

...and reach mature manhood, and that full measure of development found in Christ. –Gdsp

...to mature manhood, measured by nothing less than the full stature of Christ. –NEB

...that we might arrive at really mature manhood—the complete personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ’s own perfection. –Ampl

e. _____ (vs. 15).

We are to grow into or “unto” Him. This means more than the fact that we are to grow into _____ or that our growth is to be according to His example.

3. Conclusion: ***If we are going to _____ to the world we must be separated from the world and we must be Christ-like in our attitudes and actions.***

F. The members of the Body of Christ must be dedicated to the principle of _____ (Eph. 4:16).

1. The members are to be _____ closely together.

2. The members of the body are to be _____.

3. The members of the body are _____ their individual part.

4. Conclusion: ***If we are going to touch the world we need to not only focus on evangelism, but we need to make sure we are personally in a _____ to the other members of God’s family.***

The Purpose of this Picture

To help us better understand some of God’s purpose for the church in bringing them to maturity that Christ might use this present body to minister life and healing to the world the same way in which He ministered in His earthly walk.

Note: For a complete study of “Finding Your Place in the Body of Christ” see the course titled **Life Management I** by the same author.

Lesson 17

Appointed Servants (Deacons)

I. The Foundation of the Ministry of Appointed Servants (Deacons) (Mt. 23:11-12; 20:25-28; Mark 10:44).

A. The Meaning of the Greek Words

1. *Diakoneo* – This word literally means “to be an _____, to wait upon.”

In the New Testament this word is used of waiting on at a table as a waiter (Luke 22:24-27); it is used in a general way of serving someone in any way (Mt. 4:11; 27:55; Acts 19:22; II Cor. 8:19); it is used in the sense of caring for or taking care of someone (II Cor. 3:3; Acts 6:2); it is used of helping or supporting someone (Mt. 25:23; Lk. 8:3; Rom. 15:25); and it is used as the ministry of a church official (I Tim. 3:13).

2. *Diakonia* – This word literally means “_____ or attendance as a servant”.

In the New Testament the word *diakonia* is used generally of all manner of service (Heb. 1:14; Eph. 4:12; Acts 6:4); it is used specifically of the service necessary for the preparation of a meal (Lk. 10:40); it is used of the service or function of all New Testament ministries (I Tim. 1:12; Acts 20:24; I Cor. 12:5; Col. 1:29; Rom. 15:31; II Cor. 8:4); and it is used of a specific ministry in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:7). This word is translated several ways. It is translated serving, ministry, ministration, relief, office, service, administrations or ministering.

3. *Diakonos* – This word literally means “a waiter, attendant, _____ or minister.”

In the New Testament it refers to the servant of someone (Matt. 20:26; 23:11; Jn. 12:26); it refers to a helper or an encourager (I Th. 3:2; I Tim. 4:6); and it refers to a person who functions as an official of the church (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8). This word is translated minister, servant or deacon.

B. The Root Word (*Diako*)

Diako – This word literally means “to run or hasten _____.”

C. The Usage of Words

1. In an _____ Sense (Mt. 20:26; Jn. 12:26; I Th. 3:2; I Tim. 4:6)

In the general or unofficial sense, these words refer to any kind of servant, service or ministry.

2. In an _____ Sense (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8-10)

In certain passages where these words are used they are referring to a special class of people who have proven themselves and were thus designated “deacons” or literally “servants” of the church.

D. The Heart or _____ of the Appointed Servant

1. _____ (Lk. 17:7-10).
2. _____ (Phil. 2:5-8).
3. _____ (I Pet. 1:22; Gal. 5:13-14).
4. _____ (Ex. 35:4-5, 10, 20-22, 29).
5. _____ (Mt. 13:12).
6. _____ (I Cor. 4:1-2).

II. The Origin of the Office of Appointed Servants (Acts 6:1-7).

Acts 6:1-6 is most commonly cited as the origin of the ministry of deacons or appointed servants.

A. Appointed servants were a matter of _____.

These deacons or appointed servants were given to the leadership _____
_____ in managing certain affairs of the church.

B. Appointed servants were initiated and appointed _____.

C. Appointed servants became _____ that was followed by others (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8-13).

III. The Qualifications for the Office (I Tim. 3:8-10)

A. _____ **Qualifications**

1. **Not double-tongued** (I Tim. 3:8). This would imply that an appointed servant is not a gossip.

2. **Not given to wine** (I Tim. 3:8). The servants of the house cannot be those who are dominated or under the control of anything but their relationship to the Lord.
3. **Not greedy for money** (I Tim. 3:8). The servants of the house cannot be those who may be tempted to accept monetary gifts from those to whom they minister.
4. **Blameless** (I Tim. 3:10). In every area of life appointed servants must be above reproach.
5. **Proven** (I Tim. 3:10). The word proven in this passage means “to tested, examined, scrutinized to see whether a thing is genuine or not”.

B. _____ Qualifications

6. **Husband of one wife** (I Tim. 3:12). The laws of God are a priority for this individual who has undivided affections. This phrase implies the concept that this person is a “_____.”
7. **Ruling his own house well** (I Tim. 3:12). The deacon must first be a good parent, doing a good job and leading a Christian lifestyle at home.

C. _____ Qualifications

8. **Full of the Holy Ghost** (Acts 6:3). Natural ability is important but it plays a second role to the life that is motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
9. **Full of wisdom** (Acts 6:3). Individuals working as representatives of the leadership will need much wisdom because they will find themselves in situations where emotions are high and where they may know facts that they could use in a wrong way.
10. **Reverent** (I Tim. 3:8). These representatives of God are to be such that they inspire the reverence, awe and respect of others.
11. **Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience** (I Tim. 3:9). This person must be spiritually right with God, so that along with material relief, an appointed servant might also bring spiritual encouragement.

IV. The Work of Appointed Servants

A. General Work

The general function of the appointed servants is the performance of various services of _____ in the local church, relieving the elders of

responsibilities which might interfere with their ministry of prayer, the word of God and the spiritual oversight of the church.

B. Specific Work

There are many _____ in any local church that could be done by others to relieve the elders of a tremendous amount of responsibility including working with youth, children's ministry, worship and music, administration, maintenance, etc.

C. No Group Function

Appointed servants or, as they are sometimes called, "deacons" have no function as a group as elders do. They have responsibilities in a specific area for which they answer to the elders. They may meet with other appointed servants who function in the same area, but the entire body of these servants do _____ comprise _____ body.

V. The Appointment and Term of Office

A. The Appointment

People who are placed in public areas of responsibility should be placed in front of the people openly so that the people can be encouraged to receive them as _____ to serve in the area to which they are appointed.

B. The Term of Office

The Bible is silent concerning the term of office for a deacon. The silence seems to indicate that there was _____. This would imply that a deacon or appointed servant would remain in that position as long as he or she did the work of a deacon and as long as he or she continued to be qualified under the original requirements for that office.

VI. The Honor and Reward of Appointed Servants

Paul tells us that for those who serve well there is _____. There is a lot of meaning wrapped up in the phrase "those who have served well" (I Tim. 3:13). For someone to fall into this category it would require diligence, faithfulness, responsiveness, sensitivity, thoroughness, and sacrifice.

For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. -KJV

For those who perform well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and also gain much confidence and freedom and boldness in the faith which is [founded on and centers] in Christ Jesus. –Amp

A. A Good _____

B. A Good _____

C. _____ in the Faith

Lesson 18

Elders

I. The Definition of Terms

A. Elder (Greek = *Presbyteros*).

The term “elder” is used in three different ways in the Bible.

1. The term is used of a person who was _____.
 - a. An elder may simply be someone older than his _____ (Luke 15:25; John 8:9).
 - b. An elder may be someone who is simply _____ as opposed to being _____ (Acts 2:17).
2. The term is used in reference to our _____ who have lived before us (Mt. 15:2; Mark 7:3-5; Heb. 11:2).
3. The term is used as a specific designation of _____.
 - a. Leaders in the _____ were called “elders” (Josh. 20:4; Mt. 16:21).
 - b. Leaders in the early Christian _____ were called “elders” (I Pet. 5:1).

Vine’s Expository Dictionary defines elders as “leaders raised up and qualified by the Holy Spirit and appointed to have spiritual care of, and to exercise oversight over, the churches.”

B. Bishop or Overseer (Greek = *Episkopos*).

1. This word comes from the Greek words to look or _____ (*skopeo*) _____ (*epi*).
2. This word is used of the kind of care we are to exercise over our _____ in “looking carefully” after our own inward condition (Heb. 12:15).
3. This word is used of the position or office of an _____ (I Tim. 3:1).
4. The _____ of a local church function as its “bishops” or overseers.

C. Shepherd or Feeder (Greek = *Pomaino*).

1. This word literally means to attend as a shepherd or _____.

2. This word refers to the responsibility of _____ in both the Old and New Testaments (Jer. 23:4; Acts 20:28).

D. The relationship of the terms.

The following four passages help us to understand the relationship of these terms.

1. Acts 20:17, 28

*From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders** of the church...Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers [bishops]**, to **shepherd [pastor]** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

2. Titus 1:5-7

*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you-- if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a **bishop [overseer]** must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money...*

3. I Peter 5:1-4

*The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow **elder** and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 **Shepherd [pastor]** the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers [bishops]**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief **Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

4. I Peter 2:25

*For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the **Shepherd [pastor]** and **Overseer [bishop]** of your souls.*

Conclusion: An _____ is a mature leader who is placed in the office of a _____ or overseer to _____ or feed the people of God. In other words...

- Elder describes the _____.
- Bishop or overseer describes the _____ in which an elder functions.
- Pastor or feeder describes the _____ that an elder in the office of a bishop performs.

II. Elders in the Old Testament

- A. First, elders were set in _____ (Ex. 18:13f; Num. 11:17).
1. Notice that elders were established as a matter of _____.
 2. Notice that elders were also _____ in number.
 3. Notice that elders always had a specific _____.
- B. Later, they functioned as authority figures in Hebrew society.
1. They were _____ in war (Josh. 8:10).
 2. They were _____ in disputes (Josh. 20:4).
 3. They were _____ and counsel.
 4. They _____ and maintained the community.
 5. They were _____ in various cities (Ruth 4:2).

IDB "As parents wield authority in a family, so the elders wield authority in the life of the clan, tribe and local community."

- C. Finally, they became the _____ scattered throughout the Roman Empire.

III. Elders in the New Testament

The elders' main responsibility in the New Testament is the general oversight and care of _____. This responsibility involves three main areas:

A. _____

The elders are the rulers of the assembly (Rom. 12:8; I Th. 5:12-14; I Tim. 3:5; 5:17; Heb. 13:17, 24).

1. The word rule means "to be over, to superintend, to preside over". It also means "to care for" or "to give attention to".
2. The elders are to the church what _____ are to a family (I Tim. 3:5).
3. This ruling is to be done with a proper _____ and attitude (I Pet. 5:2-3).

4. This ruling, at times, calls for the exercise of _____ (I Th. 5:12-13; I Tim. 3:5).
5. The elders will have to give account to God for the _____ (Heb. 13:17).

B. _____

The elders regardless of their individual ministries, have corporate charge to shepherd, pastor or _____ (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2).

1. They are to feed the flock (Acts 20:28).
2. They are to watch out for wolves (Acts 20:29-31).
3. They are to help the weak (Acts 20:35).
4. They are to minister to the sick (Jam. 5:14-15).
5. They are to be an example (I Pet. 5:3).

C. _____

1. All elders, regardless of their specific calling, are responsible to teach or instruct in the local church (I Tim. 3:2, Tit. 1:9).
2. They should be thoroughly trained in the _____ (Tit. 1:9; I Tim. 4:12-16; II Tim. 2:15).
3. They should be able to _____ the Word of God in a clear way (Heb. 13:7; I Tim. 3:2).
4. They should be able to convince those who _____ the truth (Tit. 1:9).

IV. The Qualification of Elders

- A. The New Testament gives clear guidelines for those that will serve as overseers in the local church (I Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:5-9).
- B. The qualifications listed have to do with an individual's _____ the congregation in that capacity (See qualifications for deacons).
 1. Potential elders must be people of proven character.
 2. Potential elders must be people of spiritual vision.
 3. Potential elders must be people with their families in order.
 4. Potential elders must be people with the spiritual gifting for leadership.

C. Those in the place of selecting elders must wait for these qualities to be manifest in the life of the one selected.

1. Never set anyone into an office _____ (I Tim. 5:22).

Never be in a hurry about appointing an elder. –NLT

Don't appoint people to church leadership positions too hastily. If a person is involved in some serious sins, you don't want to become an unwitting accomplice. –MSG

2. Never give an office to someone _____ them, give offices to _____ (I Tim. 3:6). They are not to be a novice.

a. A novice could be a _____.

b. A novice could be someone who is _____.

c. A novice could also be someone who is _____.

3. All the qualifications are given _____. Failure to regard any one of them will lead to problems in the future.

V. The Honor of Elders

A. The people are _____ those who are over them (I Th. 5:12). This verse carries with it the idea of appreciating their true value.

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. –NIV

B. The people are _____ them very highly (I Th. 5:13).

C. The people are _____ themselves to them (Heb. 13:17).

D. The people are to financially _____ them (I Tim. 5:17; Gal. 6:6; I Cor. 9:11-14).

E. The people are to be cautious in bringing _____ against them (I Tim. 5:19-20).

F. The people are _____ for them (Heb. 13:18; I Th. 5:25).

Lesson 19

The Five-Fold Ministry

I. Introduction to the five-fold ministry (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-13).

A. What the five-fold ministry is.

1. They are _____.
 - a. Apostles (Acts 2:42; 6:4; 19:9-10). Apostles are to lay a _____ foundation so they must give themselves to the Word.
 - b. Prophets (Acts 15:32; Is. 8:19-20). Prophets are to prophesy according to the Word and their prophecies will _____ the measuring rod of the Word.
 - c. Evangelists (Acts 8:4, 12, 14, 30-35). Evangelists are _____ the Gospel and spread the Word of God.
 - d. Pastors (Jer. 23:4; Acts 20:28). Pastors are _____ the Word to their people.
 - e. Teachers (Acts 11:26; 13:1). Teachers _____ the Word.
2. They are _____ ministries (Eph. 4:12).
3. They are _____ ministries (Eph. 4:12).
4. They are _____ ministries (Eph 4:13).
5. They are _____ ministries (Eph. 4:14-15).

B. What the five-fold ministry is not.

1. They are not a _____ ministry (Eph. 4:13).
2. They are not ministries _____ to the local church.
3. They are not a separate group that functions _____ an eldership.

Note the following:

- a. The New Testament never uses the term “ _____ ” ministry.
- b. There is no ministry ordained to government except that of an _____.
- c. There is no authority higher in a local church than its _____.
- d. The only group to maintain distinction in the New Testament was the _____ of the lamb (Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23).

All elders should be one of the five ministries but not all who have one of these five ministries will necessarily serve as elders.

C. Other common denominators in all of the ministries.

1. They are all _____ by Christ.
 - a. Apostle (Hebrews 3:1).
 - b. Prophet (John 4:19)
 - c. Evangelist (Luke 4:18-19)
 - d. Pastor (John 10:11)
 - e. Teacher (John 3:2)
2. They are all _____ of the gift of Christ, not the fullness (Eph. 4:7).

II. These ministries can serve as a basis for the departmental structure of the local church (See Chart).

A. The Apostolic Department

This department would include such things as leadership training, pastor’s conferences, church planting and world missions.

B. The Prophetic Department

This department would include such things as prayer and intercessory ministries, worship and prophetic assemblies.

C. The Evangelistic Department

This department would include such things as equipping seminars, assimilation, crusades, evangelistic events and discipleship.

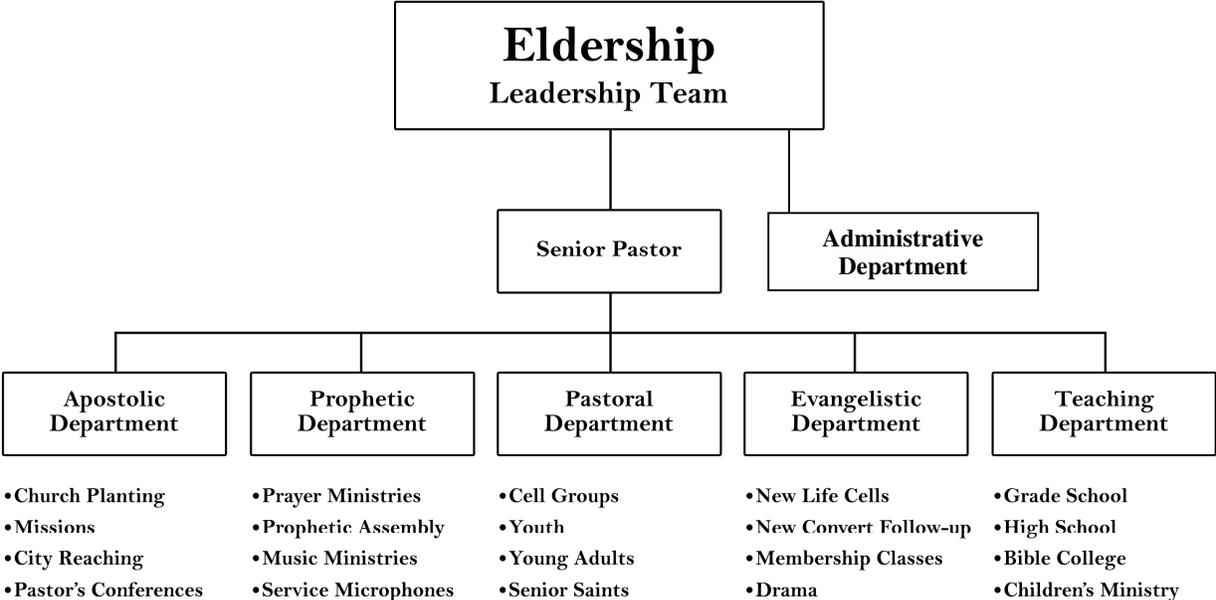
D. The Pastoral Department

This department would include such things as cell groups, official services of the church, youth ministry and counseling.

E. The Teaching Department

This department would include all aspects of teaching from children’s ministry to Bible College.

Possible Local Church Structure



Lesson 20

Apostles

I. The Definition of Apostle

A. The problem of _____.

The word “apostle” is not translated but is a Greek word brought into English by simply changing the Greek letters to English letters.

B. The problem of _____.

When the word is translated it does not help us understand the ministry. The word means “_____”.

C. The problem of _____.

We do not have a comparable ministry in our culture. In Greek and Roman culture, an apostle was an _____ sent out as an _____ of the government with a specific purpose for which he was accountable.

When the Romans colonized the Greek world they send out an admiral with a fleet of ships loaded with citizens of Rome to establish a model city or colony that would reflect Roman law and culture to that region. At times the admiral, the fleet of ships and the colony itself were called some form of the word “apostle.”

1. An emissary or ambassador
2. An admiral
3. A fleet of ships
4. A colony

D. The problem of different _____.

1. The _____ of the Lamb.

This is a unique group with unique qualifications (Acts 1). They have a special place for eternity being those who were personally selected by Christ in His earthly ministry, will sit on twelve thrones and have their names written in the twelve foundation stones of the eternal city.

2. _____ Apostles.

These are apostles who are chosen by Christ _____ into heaven listed with the other ascension-gift ministries (Eph. 4:11). Paul is the best model of this type of ministry.

3. Other Apostolic-type ministries.

There are those mentioned in the New Testament who performed apostolic type functions who were not specifically called apostles.

- E. An apostle is one who is _____ who faithfully represents the purposes of the sender.
1. Jesus was sent by the Father to _____ (John 3:16; 20:21; 4:34; 5:19; 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29, 42; 12:44-45).
 2. Paul was sent out by the church at Antioch and faithfully reported back to them with a _____ (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28).

II. The Ministry of the Apostle

- A. The apostle is _____ ministry (Eph. 2:19-20).
1. Providing a _____ foundation (Acts 2:42).
 2. Providing a foundation for _____ (Col. 2:6-8; Acts 19:1-6).
 3. Providing a foundation for _____ (Acts 14:23; I Cor. 3:10-11).
- B. The apostle is a _____ ministry (I Cor. 4:15).
1. Fathering _____ (Philemon 10)
 2. Fathering _____ (Phil. 2:22; Tit. 1:4; II Tim. 1:2; 2:1-2; I Tim. 1:2).
 3. Fathering _____ (I Cor. 9:1-2)
- C. The apostle is _____ or “problem-solving” ministry.
1. Working in an ongoing way with the churches _____ (Acts 15:36).
 2. Working with churches that were _____ (II Cor. 11:28; Col. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:1).

III. The Heart of the Apostle

- A. It is the heart of a servant that is characterized by four things (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1).
1. _____ (I Cor. 4:9-13; II Cor. 10:18; I Th. 2:6).

2. _____ (II Cor. 12:12).
3. _____ (I Tim. 1:12; I Cor. 4:2).
4. _____ (II Cor. 11:23-28).

B. It is the heart of _____ (I Th. 2:6-12).

1. As a father he will cherish the church over _____ (I Th. 2:7).
2. As a father he will _____ God's people (Eph. 6:4).
3. As a father he will _____ (Eph. 6:4).
4. As a father he will be as _____ (I Th. 2:6).
5. As a father he will be _____ with God's people (II Sam. 22:36; I Th. 2:7).
6. As a father he will at times get involved in _____ (I Cor. 4:21).

IV. The recognition of an apostle (I Corinthians 9:1-3).

Who should recognize an apostle?

- A. _____ should (Acts 9:15-16; 26:16-18).
- B. The _____ should (Gal. 1:1).
- C. The sending or _____ should (Acts 13:1-3).
- D. Those that are _____ of that ministry should (I Cor. 9:1-2).

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Lesson 21 Prophets

I. Definition of a Prophet

- A. The prophet is one who _____ (Ex. 4:15-16). A prophet is God's _____ much like Aaron was for Moses.
- B. The prophet is one who declares a message from God that is not known by natural means but by _____ (II Pet. 1:20-21).

II. The two aspects of prophecy

- A. _____ (Heb. 1:1-2a). Speaking forth a declarative message from God that does not involve prediction.
- B. _____ (Amos 3:7-8). Speaking a predictive word from God dealing with the future.

III. The Levels of Prophecy

- A. The _____ (I Sam. 10:10; 19:20-21). This is an atmosphere of prophecy created by the presence of the Lord where _____ could prophesy.
- B. The _____ (I Cor. 12:10). This is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in which _____ can function at the impetus of the Spirit from time to time.
- C. The _____ (Rom. 12:6). This refers to a ministry _____ in the congregation who are used in various levels of prophecy for the purpose of edification, exhortation and comfort.
- D. The _____ (Eph. 4:11). This refers to a seasoned ministry numbered among the other ascension-gift ministries.
- E. The _____ (I Pet. 1:20-21). This refers to the level of prophecy that was used to produce the Scripture. This level serves as the test of all other prophetic expressions.

IV. The ministry of the prophet

- A. The prophet's ministry involves _____ (Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11; I Cor. 14:25).

- B. The prophet's ministry will involve _____ (I Cor. 14:3; Acts 15:32).
- C. The prophet's ministry involves _____ (Acts 11:27-30; 21:8-11).
- D. The prophet's ministry will involve the impartation of _____ (Hab. 2:2).
- E. The prophet's ministry will involve the establishment and _____ of believers and local churches (Acts 11:27; 15:32).
- F. The prophet's ministry will involve _____ in people's lives (Acts 13:2; Acts 21:8-11).

V. Caution concerning the prophetic ministry.

- A. Prophets should be _____ as such (Mt. 10:41a).

If you welcome a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will receive the same reward a prophet gets. –NLT

- B. Prophets should work in _____ with other ministries (I Cor. 14:29; Acts 11:27-30; 13:1; 15:32).
- C. Prophets should allow their ministry to be _____ (I Cor. 14:29).
- D. Prophets should exercise _____ (I Cor. 14:32).

Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can wait their turn. –NLT

Prophets of the New Testament should not be patterned after prophets of the Old Testament. A _____ of prophets was established when Christ ascended on high. Now that the believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within, the prophet's role is to confirm guidance under the leadership of the local church in conjunction with other ministries.

Lesson 22

Evangelists

I. Definition of an Evangelist

There are several problems in defining this ministry and how it functions in the local church today.

A. The problem of _____

This word “evangelist” is not translated but transliterated. When the word is translated it means “a preacher of good news.”

B. The problem of _____

Evangelists have often been depicted as independent, aggressive, obnoxious, flashy personalities, with a love for money and fame. This is not the biblical model for the ministry of the evangelist.

C. The problems arising from II Timothy 4:5

This verse has been used to prove that Timothy was an evangelist and, therefore, should serve as a model for this ministry. In fact, Timothy was an emerging apostle who was pastoring the church at Ephesus and was encouraged in his teaching and his pastoring not to neglect the lost but continue to grow the church through aggressive evangelism.

D. Luke's definition (Luke 4:18-19)

Luke’s gospel is the Gospel of the Evangelist. Luke used the term _____ while the rest of the Gospels used it only once. These verses in Luke aptly described the ministry of the Evangelist.

The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.

II. What an evangelist is not:

A. The evangelist is not a ministry to _____.

B. The evangelist is not ministry _____ to the local church.

1. The evangelist is to be connected _____.

2. The evangelist is to be connected _____.

3. The evangelist is to be connected _____.

C. The evangelist is not a ministry uninvolved with other members of the _____
_____ (Acts 8:14).

III. What an Evangelist is (Acts 8:1-40)

_____ is the only one in the New Testament who is actually called an evangelist (Acts 21:8).

Therefore, we use his life and ministry as a model. On the basis of his life, we see that the evangelist is:

- A. A _____ ministry.
- B. A _____ ministry.
- C. A _____ ministry.
- D. A ministry having the ability to preach and communicate _____.
- E. A ministry that can expect _____.
- F. An expert _____.
- G. A _____ ministry.
- H. An example of the practice and methodology of _____.
- I. An _____ of the local church.

Lesson 23

Pastors and Teachers

I. The Ministry of the Pastor

A. God's people are likened to _____. Sheep are especially needy because they have:

1. No ability to _____ (Num. 27:16-17).
2. No instinct to _____ (Is. 53:6).
3. No natural _____ (Ezek. 34:8).

Even from the earliest records sheep had to be _____ above all other animals (Gen. 4:2).

B. God's People Without and With True Shepherds

THE NEED FOR SHEPHERDS	
Without True Shepherds	With True Shepherds
Sheep are scattered (Zech. 13:7)	Sheep receive provision (Ps. 23:1-2)
Sheep wander (Ezek. 34:6)	Sheep receive direction (Num. 27:17)
Sheep are lacking (Jer. 23:4)	Sheep are fruitful (Jer. 23:3)
Sheep are devoured (Ezek. 34:5)	Sheep are kept (Jer. 31:10)
Sheep are weak (Mt. 9:36)	Sheep are strengthened (Ezek. 34:4, 16)
Sheep have want (Ps. 23:1)	Sheep are fed (Jer. 23:4; I Pet. 5:2)
Sheep are diseased (Ezek. 34:4)	Sheep receive healing (Ezek. 34:4, 16)
Sheep are broken (Ezek. 34:4)	Sheep receive binding up (Ezek. 34:4, 16)
Sheep are lost (Ezek. 34:4)	Sheep are found (Ezek. 34:15; John 10:16)
Sheep are prey for enemy (Ezek. 34:8)	Sheep are safe (Ezek. 34:25)
Sheep are fearful (Jer. 23:4; Ps. 23:4)	Sheep receive rest (Ps. 23:2; Ezek. 34:15)
Sheep are despondent (Jer. 23:3)	Sheep are comforted (Ps. 23:4)
Sheep are destroyed (John 10:10)	Sheep are restored (Ps. 23:3)
Sheep are divided (Acts 20:30)	Sheep are visited (Jer. 23:2)
Sheep are robbed (John 10:1-2)	Sheep receive increase (Jer. 23:3)

C. The Work of the Pastor or Shepherd

1. _____ the Flock (Ezek. 34:2, 13-15; II Tim. 2:14-15)

2. Leading by _____ (I Peter 5:2-3)
 3. _____ the Flock (Acts 20:28)
 4. Reaching out and Delivering _____ (Jer. 23:3-4)
 5. _____ the Flock (Tit. 2:15)
- You must teach these things and encourage your people to do them, correcting them when necessary. You have the authority to do this, so don't let anyone ignore you or disregard what you say. –NLT*
6. Training and Raising _____ (Tit. 1:5-6; II. Tim. 2:2)
 7. _____ the Sheep (Ezek. 33:6; Acts 20:29-30)
 8. Keeping Himself _____ (Acts 20:28; I Tim. 5:22)
 9. Accounting to the _____ (Heb. 13:17)

II. The Ministry of the Teacher

- A. The teaching ministry needs little definition because it is obvious in meaning and by cultural reference.
- B. It is Jesus' gift of teaching given to the local church for the purpose of establishing the saints (John 3:2; Mt. 7:28).
- C. Teachers have a significant part in fulfilling the Commission of Christ (Mt. 28:19-20).

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen

For further teaching on all of these ministries refer to the book entitled ***The Local Church Today*** and ***Apostles*** by Bill Scheidler.

Lesson 24

Other Body Ministries

I. Introduction

A. Romans 12:1-8

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Every believer has _____ that is given to them by God.
2. Every believer is required as a steward to _____ that place and _____ within it.

B. I Corinthians 12:12-27

1. Every believer is an _____ of Christ's spiritual body on earth.
2. Each member has an appointment from God that is _____.

C. There are many ministries in the Body of Christ that go beyond the five-fold ministry. Some of these include:

1. The Ministry of Miracles (I Cor. 12:29).
2. The Ministry of Healing (I Cor. 12:28).
3. The Ministry of Helps (I Cor. 12:28).
4. The Ministry of Administration (I Cor. 12:28).
5. The Ministry of Hospitality
6. The Ministry of Prayer and Intercession
7. The Ministry of Ushering and Door Greeting (Porters)
8. The Ministry of Writing (Scribes)
9. The Ministry of Visitation
10. The Ministry of Counseling

11. The Ministry of Exhortation
12. The Ministry of Mercy
13. The Ministry of Giving
14. The Ministry of Singing

II. Any talent, skill or ability can be translated into a ministry.

- A. Dorcas turned _____ into a genuine ministry (Acts 9:36-40).
- B. Stephanus used _____ to extend the kingdom (I Cor. 16:15).

III. All ministries operate on the basis of the same underlying principles.

- A. God gives us _____ in an area so that we can turn and minister to others the same way that God has ministered to us (II Cor. 1:3-4).
- B. God blesses us not to be a container of His blessing, but so that we can be a _____ to others (Gen. 12:2-3).
- C. We supply to others what we have in abundance while _____ to supply what we lack (II Cor. 8:14-15).

For a complete discussion of “Finding My Place in the Body of Christ” refer to the course titled “Life Management I” by the same author.