

## Church (Part 2)

### Lesson 32- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

**Intro:** Today we are going to continue to deepen our study on the church. There are roughly 30,000 different denominations worldwide. Remember that God is not the author of confusion. Taking a biblical look at the church will help us ensure that we are what we are supposed to be. My desire is that we would be a 1<sup>st</sup> century church, in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

#### A. The Church has a “HEAD”

Man-made religious organizations have their heads, presidents, popes, moderators, superintendents, etc. Each New Testament church also has a Head but One Who is vastly different from any of the above.

Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 5:23-24

1. Who is the Head of each New Testament Church? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Each church is to be \_\_\_\_\_ to its Head.

3. Galatians 3:1 and 5:7. In what way is a church subject to its Head?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Jesus Christ is not a “figure head.” Any “church” which is not subject to Him and His laws is out of control.

**A church without a living Head is dead!!**

#### B. The Church has Officers:

Philippians 1:1. What are the two offices in a church?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: The terms “bishop,” “elder,” and “pastor” are used interchangeably in the New Testament. We prefer to use the title pastor (which means shepherd) because the others have been given non-biblical definitions over time.

1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. These references list the qualifications required for these two offices.

How many different qualifications do you count? \_\_\_\_\_

#### C. My Pastor:

1. 1 Peter 2:25 and 5:4. Who is the Chief Shepherd of my Church?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Peter 5:2 and Acts 20:28. What does the Bible call a church in relation to its pastor? The \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 Peter 5:2, what is the chief duty of a Pastor?

4. According to Ephesians 4:11-14, why has the Lord given my church a pastor?

5. Acts 20:17, 28-31, how will my pastor protect me? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Heed- To mind; to regard with care; to take notice of; Caution; care; watch for danger; notice circumspection; usually preceded by take. Take heed of evil company. Take heed to your ways.

6. Hebrews 13:7. I am to \_\_\_\_\_ my pastor and \_\_\_\_\_ him.

\_\_\_\_\_

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7. According to Hebrews 13:17, I am to \_\_\_\_\_ my pastor and \_\_\_\_\_ to their leadership and oversight of the church.

8. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. I am to \_\_\_\_\_ those over me in the Lord very \_\_\_\_\_ because of their work's sake.

*Philippians 2:29 "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:"*

Faithful ministers are to be held in high reputation

You and your pastor:

Give your pastor your confidence, love, encouragement, and constant prayers. Be his coworker. Go to him with your difficulties and struggles; call him when in need. He is best able to help you with counsel from the Word of God. Never make him your idol (keep your eyes on the Lord), neither harshly criticize your pastor nor be a party to scheming against him or his leadership.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

Love and appreciate the wife of your pastor also. She holds no office in the Church and has no authority, yet she is so important to her husband's ministry. His children are, too.

#### **D. The Church Makes Decisions:**

A true New Testament Baptist Church never makes laws , it simply follows its Lord's commands as set forth in His Word. In a practical sense, however, a church often needs to make decisions in keeping with this principle. Unlike the hierarchical systems of many religious bodies, Bible believing Baptist churches practice what is known as a congregational form of church government, where the congregation under pastoral leadership decides how to implement God's will.

1. Acts 6:1-5. Who chose the seven deacons? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acts 1:15-26. What preceded the vote of the whole church in electing a successor to Judas? \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to Matthew 18:17. What is the highest decision making body in spiritual affairs?

#### **Closing:**

There is much confusion in the world today in regards to the church of God. May we allow the bible to be our guide in everything that we do. Following Christ as our head and doing His will.