

The Church
“There Is A Difference”
(Matthew 16:13-21)

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus 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.” ²⁰Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

- A. What Are The Churches of Christ?
 1. Evangelical
 - a) Word of God; salvation through Jesus; transformation of life
 - b) Not just another evangelical church
 - c) Different does not mean: more devoted; more sincere; more respect
 2. Restoration
 - a) Reformation (16th century)
 - b) Restoring beliefs and practices
- B. Why Are We Passionate About This?
 1. God has always instructed his people
 2. God has always demanded obedience
 3. People do not always obey
 4. When teaching of Scripture becomes “lost,” the need arises
- C. How Can It Happen?
 1. Nehemiah 8:1-17 – Respect for details
 2. 2 Samuel 6:1-11 – Respect for commandments
 3. Leviticus 10:1-3 – Missing commandments and details
- D. God Does Have Patterns
 1. 1 Corinthians 14:33 – In all congregations
 2. Acts 14:23 – In each church
 3. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 – All congregations
 4. Acts 20:7 – First day

The Church (2)
“Salvation and Church Membership”
(Acts 2:36-42, 46-47)

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹Then those who gladly* received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church* daily those who were being saved.

A. How Did It Begin?

1. Preaching
2. Conviction
3. Response

B. Were There Conditions?

1. A Faith response
2. A Penitent response
3. A Baptismal response

C. Why Is This Important?

1. A warning (Matt. 7:21-27)
2. A way to illustrate
 - a) Jericho (Josh. 6)
 - b) Serpent (Num. 21)
 - c) Leprosy (2 Kgs. 5)

D. What About Salvation And Church Membership?

1. Saved
2. Community
3. Table

E. How Is Baptism Connected To Salvation?

1. What?
2. Who?
3. Why?

F. What About Faith And Works?

1. Faith: belief, trust, obedience
2. Works of faith

The Church (3)
“**Music In Worship**”
(Colossians 3:12-17)

Character of the New Man

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- A. What Does *A cappella* Mean?
Chapel style / without instruments

- B. A Look At History
 - 1. The Church Fathers (from 100-600 A.D.): Antagonism (opposed); Vehemence (intense opposition); Uniformity (universal)
 - 2. The Middle Ages (from 500-1500 A.D.) - Thomas Aquinas (c. 1250 A.D.)
 - 3. The Reformers (16th century A.D.) - Luther, Zwingli, Calvin
 - 4. Charles Spurgeon (d. 1892)
 - 5. Orthodox versus Roman (c. 1054)

- C. A Look At The Old Testament
 - 1. Tabernacle (Num. 10:1-2, 8, 10)
 - 2. Temple (I Chron. 23:1-5; 1 Chron. 28:19; 2 Chron. 29:25)

- D. A Look At The New Testament
 - 1. A change - Hear the apostles (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:37)
 - 2. A word (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12)
 - 3. A specific or generic command?
 - 4. A salvation issue?

The Church (4)
“The Supper And The Lord’s Day”
(Acts 20:7-12)

Ministering at Troas

⁷Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where they* were gathered together. ⁹And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” ¹¹Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹²And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

A. What Do We Mean By “Patterns”?

1. tupos – “To strike a mark; example; pattern; form”
2. Illustrations: Ark; Tabernacle; Temple; Jesus; Paul
“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me” – 2 Tim. 1:13

B. Is There A Pattern For Sunday Meetings?

1. The church met regularly
“For a whole year they met with the church” - Acts 11:26
“They . . . gathered the church together” - Acts 14:27
“When you come together as a church” – I Cor. 11:18
“The whole church comes together” – I Cor. 14:23
“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” – Heb. 10:25
2. A special day
“On the first day of the week” – Acts 20:7
“On the first day of the week” – I Cor. 16:1-2
“As I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do” – I Cor. 16:1
3. History confirms it

C. Is There A Pattern For The Lord’s Supper?

- “When the disciples came together to break bread” – Acts 20:7
“When you come together as a church . . . division . . . it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper . . . I do not praise you” – I Cor. 11:18-22
1. The central feature
 2. History confirms it

D. The Connection

1. The significance of the first day of the week: Jesus rose, appeared; church began, assembled (see Rev. 1:10)
2. “No Lord’s Day without the Lord’s Supper and no Lord’s Supper without the Lord’s Day”

E. The Meaning

1. It is His, not ours (I Cor. 11:20-21; 10:21)
2. Thanks (I Cor. 11:24)
3. Communion (I Cor. 10:16-17)
4. Memorial (I Cor. 11:24-25)
5. Hope (I Cor. 11:26)
6. Worthy manner (I Cor. 11:27-28)

The Church (5)
“Gender Roles”
(I Timothy 2:8-15)

Men and Women in the Church

⁸I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ⁹in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹²And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

- A. Equality
 - 1. In creation (Gen. 1:26-27)
 - 2. In salvation (Gal. 3:26-27)
 - 3. In relationships (Eph. 5:21)

- B. Roles
 - 1. Women not men
 - 2. Wives not husbands
 - 3. Mothers not fathers

- C. Headship And Submission
 - 1. Example of Christ
 - a) Christ and the church (Eph. 5:23-27)
 - b) Christ and God (I Cor. 11:3)
 - 2. Expressions
 - a) In home – Acknowledge and practice
 - b) In church – Recognize and encourage

- D. Key Passage (1) – I Cor. 14:1-40: Three Divine rules for speaking “in church”
 - 1. Rules for Tongue speakers (27-28)
 - 2. Rules for Prophets (29-31)
 - 3. Rules for Women (31-35)

- E. Key Passage (2) – I Cor. 11:5: Where?

- F. Key Passage (3) – I Tim. 2:8-15: What? Why?

The Church (6)
“Church Organization”
(Philippians 1:1-8)

Greeting

¹ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops* and deacons: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfulness and Prayer

³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

A. Among The Denominations

1. Episcopal with a hierarchy
2. Presbyterian with elders, synods, general assemblies
3. Congregational with local autonomy

B. Among The Church Of Christ

1. Similar but different
2. Independent under Christ
3. Unity with diversity

C. Among The Local Churches

1. Who's in charge?
 - a) Elders (presbyteros) – Older in faith
 - b) Bishops (episkopos) – Overseers
 - c) Pastors (poimen) – Shepherds
2. What about Deacons?
 - a) Special Servants
 - b) Qualifications
 - c) What are they to do?
3. Where do the members fit in?

The Church (7)
“Misconceptions”
(Luke 9:7-17)

Herod Seeks to See Jesus

⁷Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, ⁸and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. ⁹Herod said, “John I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such things?” So he sought to see Him.

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹⁰And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. ¹¹But when the multitudes knew *it*, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing. ¹²When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.” ¹³But He said to them, “**You give them something to eat.**” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, “**Make them sit down in groups of fifty.**” ¹⁵And they did so, and made them all sit down. ¹⁶Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke *them*, and gave *them* to the disciples to set before the multitude. ¹⁷So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

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- A. “The Only Ones Going To Heaven”?
 - 1. What does the statement mean?
 - 2. Who decides who is saved?
 - 3. Should we not persuade men?

 - B. “The Churches of Christ Are A Cult”?
 - 1. God has revealed something new to them?
 - 2. They have a revelation added to Bible?
 - 3. They have messenger with unique access to God?

 - C. “Saved By Works”?
 - 1. What does the Bible teach? Grace, gift, faith
 - 2. Are there conditions to be met?
 - 3. What is biblical faith?

 - D. “Just Be Baptized”? - What? Who? Why?

 - E. “The Churches of Christ Are Legalists”?
 - 1. Is the basis of salvation law-keeping?
 - 2. Or, is the basis of salvation Christ?
 - 3. Is obedience important?

 - F. “Women Are Second Class Citizens”? –
Creation and deception (I Tim. 2:13-15)

 - G. “The Church of Christ is a Denomination”?