

The Foundation Stones of a New Testament Church

Acts 13:1-3

PART TWO

Introduction

Local churches invariably are comprised of people with divergent views about the church.

The Blind Men and the Elephant

Things that constitute a *social club* rather than a true NT church:

1. Trends (motivation: appeal to the culture)
2. Traditionalism (motivation: 'it's the way we've always done church')
3. Moralizing the culture (motivation: pride)
4. Pragmatism (motivation: whatever works)
5. Little or no sound orthodoxy (motivation: leadership reluctance or exegetical laziness)
6. No commitment to orthopraxy (motivation: leadership ignorance, incompetence, or unwillingness)

What's the absolute, non-negotiable imperative for any NT church?

Making an unwavering commitment to teach, preach, and live according to that which is divinely inspired, eternal, transcendent, and authoritative – the Word of God.

We need to recover the NT paradigm for the church.

This is a Spirit-filled church.

This church is being led by a plurality of godly, humble, servant-hearted, courageous, Spirit-filled leaders.

“worshipping” “To minister publicly in sacred office.”

1 Peter 2:5

Service is an act of worship, an offering unto God

Romans 12:1

Galatians 1:15-17

Galatians 2:6

Every one of us is called by God to offer a spiritual act service to Him. This pastorate is mine. What's yours?

The Obligation of the Hearer and the Preacher of God's Word

1. Principlize the Message (cognition) – discover the rule for living.

(*principle* = 'a fundamental truth; a settled rule of action; a governing law of conduct')

1 Corinthians 9:21

“outside the law”

“under the law of Christ.”

Matthew 11:28-30

When “bear one another’s burden” we “fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

James 2:8

John 13:34

Romans 13:8

2. *Metabolize* the Message (conviction) – take the message to heart.

(*metabolic* = ‘undergoing, or pertaining to metamorphosis; the form resulting from a change’)

Jeremiah 15:16

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11

Romans 6:17

“as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” Ephesians 6:6

Receiving the message of God in the heart begins the metamorphosis – the process of transformation.

Romans 8:29

2 Corinthians 3:18

3. *Actualize* the Message (exertion) – put the principles into practice.

(*actual* = ‘involving actions; existing in act or reality; real; to make actual; to realize in action’)

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:23-24

Colossians 3:10

Colossians 1:10

1 Thessalonians 2:11-13

Job 23:11-12

“treasured” Heb. ‘to hide; to store up; to hoard or reserve; to lay up.’

Colossians 3:16

The Divine Power and Reciprocal Nature of Biblical Love

Actuate = 'to put into action; to incite to action; to arouse.'

Romans 5:5

2 Corinthians 5:14-15