



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 6 – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

LESSON 120 – MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH – PART 11

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# Seven Marks of a Healthy Church

- ▶ What then are the marks of a sound church according to the Bible? We will summarize them into seven points over the next few weeks. These seven things must be present for a church to claim rightly that they are a church that is obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ 1. God is worshipped in spirit and truth – Rom.12:1; Philip.3:3; John 4:5-26
- ▶ 2. Prayer is central – Acts 2:42, 1Thes.5:17
- ▶ 3. Love for Christ and the Brethren is demonstrated – 1 Pet.1:22, Jam.1:22
- ▶ 4. The Word of God is faithfully preached, taught, and heard – Acts 6:4, 13:44; Rom.10:17; 2Tim.4:2
- ▶ 5. The Ordinances of Baptism and Communion are administered – Acts 2:42; Mat.28:19
- ▶ 6. Discipline of the membership is Biblically administered – 1 Cor.5:10-13; Mat.18:15-17
- ▶ 7. Church government and leadership as instituted by the Apostles is established – Acts 14:23, 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

# Duty of the Congregation to Their Pastors

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 – Recognize him and his authority, esteeming him highly in love, maintaining peace in the Body.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 – Avoid divisions.
- ▶ Romans 15:13; 2 Cor. 1:8-11 – Pray for them.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Cor. 11:1 – Do not despise his youth, but follow his example as he follows Christ.
- ▶ 1 Timothy 5:17-18 – Count him worthy of double honor, remember that he is worthy of his wages and to be supported by the ministry (see also Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7; 1 Cor. 9:9-14).
- ▶ 1 Timothy 5:19-20 - Do not receive an accusation against him unless it is made by two or three witnesses and be willing to rebuke him if needed.
- ▶ Hebrews 13:7, 17; James 1:22-25 – Obey and submit to them, remembering and following their faith, being a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:13 – Receive the Word from them.

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- ▶ Recognize him and his authority, esteeming him highly in love, maintaining peace in the Body.
- ▶ 1Thess. 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
- ▶ Recognize – respect, stand in close relation to

# Duty of the Congregation to Their Pastors

- ▶ Avoid divisions.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

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- ▶ Pray for them.
- ▶ Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ 2 Cor. 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, 11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

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- ▶ Pray for them.
- ▶ Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.
- ▶ Philippians 1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

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- ▶ Do not despise his youth, but follow his example as he follows Christ.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
- ▶ Despise – look down on, pay no attention to, disregard
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
- ▶ Imitate – follow a pattern or example



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- ▶ Count him worthy of double honor, remember that he is worthy of his wages and to be supported by the ministry.
- ▶ 1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
- ▶ Matt. 10:10 ...for a worker is worthy of his food.
- ▶ Luke 10:7 ...for the laborer is worthy of his wages.
- ▶ 1 Cor. 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? 10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?

# Duty of the Congregation to Their Pastors

- ▶ Count him worthy of double honor, remember that he is worthy of his wages and to be supported by the ministry.
- ▶ 1 Cor. 9:12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? 14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. 15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. 16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

# Duty of the Congregation to Their Pastors

- ▶ Do not receive an accusation against him unless it is made by two or three witnesses and be willing to rebuke him if needed.
- ▶ 1 Timothy 5:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. 20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

# Duty of the Congregation to Their Pastors

- ▶ Obey and submit to them, remembering and following their faith, being a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.
- ▶ Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.
- ▶ Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
- ▶ James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

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- ▶ Receive the Word from them.
  - ▶ 1 Thess. 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,
  - ▶ 1 Thess. 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.
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- ▶ Next Week: The Summary of the Purposes of a Healthy Church