

# “Why We Do What We Do”

Iowa Teen Bible Study 2009

Marc Hermon

(notes by Jenna Bown)

“The history of the church begins in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost in approximately 29 A.D. when the apostles were given the power of the Holy Spirit, and the church of Christ had its first gathering. These saints and apostles had been obedient to Christ's words, "To tarry at Jerusalem until this power comes upon you!". They listened to the Head of the church, the One who purchased it with His blood, and will continue to be its Head until He returns to receive his bride...the church! Christ established the true church and all saints who want to be saved should pattern their lives and worship services after Christ's teachings and the examples set forth by the apostles who were guided by the Holy Spirit.”

- Vern Ingle

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

- I Peter 3:15

# Why the “Church of Christ” (Denominationalism)

## Catholicism:

Catholicism defined is “universal”.

*Where did the Catholic Church begin?*

### **Acts 20:29**

“I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock”

*- In this verse Paul predicts a falling away from the church that is most likely referring to Catholicism. He is speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, the Catholic Church came directly out of Judaism.*

### **I Tim. 4:1-3**

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. **They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods** which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.”

*- The Catholic priesthood forbids their priests to marry, and meat is forbidden during Lent in the Catholic religion.*

### **II Thess. 2:1-4**

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

*- The definition of the “man of lawlessness” sounds considerably like the Pope. Through Papal In fallacy, the catholic religion believes that the Pope cannot be wrong. Whatever he says is the direct will of God.*

### **Matt. 23:9**

“And do not call anyone on earthy ‘father’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven.”

### **I Cor. 1:10-13**

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

## The Church of Christ:

The Church of Christ began in Acts chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost when the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and preached to the multitudes. Our beginnings, and our name are all from the Bible.

## Our Name in Scripture

**Matt. 10:18**

“On **my account** you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.”

**I Cor. 1:2**

“To the **church of God** in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours.”

**Eph. 4:12**

“to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the **body of Christ** may be built up.”

**I Tim. 3:15**

“If I am delayed you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in **God’s household, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

**Heb. 12:23**

“To the **church of the Firstborn**, whose names are written in Heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.”

**Rom. 16:16**

“Salute one another with a holy kiss, the **Churches of Christ** salute you.”

**Rev. 5:6-10**

“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the Earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a heart and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: ‘you are worth to take the scroll and open its seals because you were slain, and with **your blood you purchased men for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a Kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the Earth.’”

*-We are Christ’s church because he bought and paid for us and saved us with his blood.*

**Acts 8:1**

“On that day a great persecution broke out against **the church at Jerusalem**, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

# The Lord's Table

- The Lord's Table has its origins in the Passover.

## **Exodus 12:17**

“Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.”

*-This was a lasting ordinance. It was not a one time thing, but rather a command that would apply until the new testament came into effect.*

## **Exodus 12:43-47**

“The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover: ‘No Foreigner is to eat of it. Any slave you have bought may eat of it after you have circumcised him, but a temporary resident and a hired worker may not eat of it. It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.’”

*-There were rules and regulations for the Feast. Not everyone could eat of it, and it was something they had to do. It was not just something that God recommended or suggested, but rather it was something he required of his people.*

## **Exodus 12:24 – 27**

“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ Then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’”

*-The Passover Feast was also a way to teach the Israelite's children and people unfamiliar with their customs a bit of their history. It was a way to share with other's the story of God's deliverance from Egypt.*

## **Luke 22:14-20**

“<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

*-The Lord's Table represent's Christ's body and his blood under the New Covenant. This was established for the Lord's people to remember Christ's death, much like the Passover was established to remember the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt.*

**Jeremiah 2:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> "You of this generation, consider the word of the LORD :

"Have I been a desert to Israel

or a land of great darkness?

Why do my people say, 'We are free to roam;

we will come to you no more'?

<sup>32</sup> Does a maiden forget her jewelry,

a bride her wedding ornaments?

Yet my people have forgotten me,

days without number.

*-The Israelites often forgot God, and what he had done for them. The Passover was a reminder for them of what he had done. We also often forget, and the Lord's Table is to remind us of what God has done for us.*

# Instrumental Music

## **Phil. 2:12**

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only In my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to **work out your salvation with fear and trembling.**”

Acapella – definition: Church style music, chapel style music.

## **Music:**

### **Luke 15:25**

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard **music and dancing**”

*- This kind of music would have been symphonic or instrumental. However, the music is taking place in a party setting, not a church setting. There is no problem with instrumental music as long as it is outside of the church.*

## **Songs and Singing:**

### **Matt 26:30/Mark 14:26**

“When they had **sung a hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives”

*- The two gospels are referring to what the apostles and Jesus did right after the Passover. They could have played an instrument, but they chose not to.*

### **Acts 16:25**

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

### **Romans 15:9-11**

“So that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will **sing hymns to your name**” Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people” and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and **sing praises to him**, all you peoples.”

*-One very important way to praise God is through singing.*

### **I Cor. 14:15, 26**

“So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; **I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind**...What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, **everyone has a hymn**, or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”

*-We are to sing with the spirit and with understand. It isn't about the notes, it is about the lyrics and what we feel in our hearts. If the Greek word for “hymn” in this verse (Psolo) was applied as an instrument, then we would all have to bring instruments to play in the assembly.*

**Eph. 5:19**

“Speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord**”

*- It isn't about the voice coming out of our mouth, it is about our state of mind and our state of heart.*

**Col. 3:16**

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you **sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.**”

*-This verse tells us to teach one another with our songs. How can we teach the word of God with notes? We need words to teach about God through our singing. It is the lyrics that are important, not the notes.*

*- There is no example of instruments in the New Testament Church*

**Heb. 2:12**

“He says ‘I will declare your name to my brothers; in the **presence of the congregation** I will sing your praises.’”

*- Singing in the “presence of the congregation” implies that we should sing at church with our congregations.*

**James 5:13**

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him **sing songs of praise.**”

**Revelation 15: 2&3**

“And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held **harps given them by God** and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: ‘Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages’”

*- These verses are often used as a justification for using instruments (like the harp) in worship services. However, we are not given harps here on Earth by God. Instead he gave us a voice box, which is probably what the harp is symbolic for.*

**Gen. 4:19-21**

“Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute.”

*-This is probably the beginning of music. It is the first time it is mentioned in the Bible.*

**I Cor. 13:1**

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

*- If there is no love, or meaning behind the words you are singing in worship to God, then are they really worth anything to him? You have to mean what you are singing.*

### ***1 Cor. 14:6-9***

“Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds such as the flute or harp, **how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes?** Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying?

*- If there is no meaning in what you are doing, then why are you doing it?*

When we start using man made things to praise god we are treading on thin ice. God has asked us to present our body as a living sacrifice, so why would we go outside our body for music when we have been given all the tools we need (a voice box) to make melody in our hearts?

### **Instruments were used in the Old Testament, so why is it wrong to use them?**

When the new law was put in place many things were done away with, including music. They were crucified with Christ and now they are finished. Things like sacrifices, incense and the Sabbath have all been done away with.

#### **Old Testament**

1. The Priests had to wash before entering the temple so that they were considered pure.
2. Animal Sacrifices
3. Burning Incense
4. Keeping the Passover
5. Priests
6. Tabernacle and Temple
7. Musical Instruments

#### **New Testament**

1. Baptism
2. Christ's death was the ultimate sacrifice and we are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice.
3. Prayer
4. The Lord's Table
5. Christians
6. The People of the Church
7. Singing

### ***1 Cor. 4:6***

“Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying **“Do not go beyond what is written”**. Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.”

*- It doesn't get much more simple than this verse. DO NOT go beyond what is written. If you cannot find an example of what you are doing in the Bible, then don't do it. There is no example of musical instruments being used in the assembly in the Bible.*

**Rev. 18:21-22**

“Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea and said ‘With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again.”

*- The Babylon being referred to here is symbolic for the Catholic Church. This verse tells us that the Catholic Church will come to ruin because it does things, including play instruments during the services, that are not acceptable.*

**Rev. 5:8**

“And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

*- If the golden bowls and the incense are symbolic, why wouldn't the harp also be symbolic of our voice box? Our God given harp is our voice.*

# Homosexuality

**Is. 5:20**

“**Woe to those who call evil good** and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”

- *We live in a society that is quickly accepting homosexuality as at least acceptable, if not “good”. We should not allow ourselves to become like the world we live in. We should not call evil things good.*

## What percentage of people are homosexual?

The number that is usually used is 10%, however most studies actually say that only 1-2% of the population is homosexual.

## What is the definition of homosexuality?

Being attracted to someone of the same sex *and acting on it.*

We, as Christians need to understand that sin is sin and everyone is tempted by different things in our live, whether it is homosexuality or any other sin. Name calling or being derogatory to or about homosexuals is never acceptable. If we want to share God’s love we need to remember to love the sinner, even though we hate the sin.

## Old Testament References:

Old Testament references are not very affective in discussing homosexuality, since the Old Law has been done away with and is no longer in practice.

**Gen 2:18, 21-24**

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’...So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman for she was taken out of man’ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

-*These verses are where the institution of marriage was set up. God set it up this way, with a man and a woman, because that is how it is supposed to work. God wants marriage to be between a man and a woman.*

**Gen. 19:4&5**

“Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom, both young and old surrounded the house, they called to Lot ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to use so that we can have sex with them.’”

- *The men of Sodom were wicked and corrupt. They had given into homosexual lust, and that was a big part of why Sodom and Gomorah were destroyed.*

**Lev. 18:22**

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman’ that is detestable.”

**Deut. 23:17**

“No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute.”

*- A shrine prostitute was a male homosexual whore.*

**New Testament References:**

**Rom. 1:24-27**

“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised, Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to **shameful lusts**. Even their women exchanged natural relations for **unnatural ones**. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were **inflamed with lust for one another**. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

*-When it says “shameful lusts” it is referring to homosexuality.*

**I Cor. 6:9-10**

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the **sexually immoral** nor idolaters nor adulterers or **male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders** nor thieves or the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

**I Thess. 4:3-6**

“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified; that you should **avoid sexual immorality**; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathens who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.”

*-If you truly love someone, why would you do something against God that could send that person to hell or give them a life threatening disease? The average age of a heterosexual married man is 78 years. The average age of a homosexual man is 42 years. Why would you engage in activities that not only draw them away from God, but also pose a threat to their health?*

**I Tim. 1:9-11**

“We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for the lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and **perverts**, for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”

**Jude 7**

Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, **giving themselves over to**

**fornication, and going after strange flesh**, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (KJV)

***Rev. 22:14-15***

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city, outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the **sexually immoral**, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

***James 1:14***

“But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”

**Statistics on Homosexuality:**

- Only 8% of homosexual men have had a relationship that lasted longer than three years. The thought behind gay marriage is a lie. There is almost no proof of a loving, monogamous homosexual relationship.
- More than 90% of lesbians were molested as a child.
- The strongest indicator of male homosexual behavior is the lack of a father figure in the home.

# Once Saved, Always Saved

The idea of “once saved, always saved” comes out of Calvinism. The idea is that even if you fall away from the Lord and do not remedy your salvation with you, God’s love is still powerful enough to save you.

## Verses that are often used to support this idea:

The story of Adam and Eve is used to back this idea, however, it is not applicable. Adam and Eve repented of their sins, and followed God after their sin.

### **John 5:24**

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

### **John 6:35-37**

“<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

### **John 10:27-28**

“<sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

### **Rom. 7:15-25**

“<sup>15</sup>I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. <sup>19</sup>For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup>but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. <sup>24</sup>What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”

### **Rom. 8:1**

“<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

### **Rom 8:35-39**

“<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither

the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### ***I Peter 1:5***

“<sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

### ***I John 3:9***

“<sup>9</sup>No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.”

After reading through these verses, the group of people at the teen study came up with their own list of verses that we believe disprove the theory of “once saved always saved”

### **Verses to Counter With**

#### ***Gal. 6:1***

“<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

*- Why would we need to restore someone who is caught in sin, or worry about falling into sin ourselves if we are “always saved”?*

#### ***Gal 6:7-9***

“<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

*- The very idea behind “once saved, always saved” does not mesh with this verse at all. How can we reap what we sow if we are guaranteed eternal life, even if we do not follow God for our entire life? Also, it says we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up**. That implies that it is possible to give up, and if we do give up we will not be restored.*

#### ***Luke 8:13***

“<sup>13</sup>Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.” (from the parable of the sower).

#### ***Heb 10:26-28***

“<sup>26</sup>**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,** <sup>27</sup>but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. <sup>28</sup>Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

#### ***II Peter 2:20-22***

“<sup>20</sup>If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are

again entangled in it and overcome, **they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.** <sup>21</sup>It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. <sup>22</sup>Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

#### ***1 Cor. 10:12-13***

<sup>12</sup>So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup>No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

*- If we are always saved, why would we need to be careful not to fall?*

#### ***Heb 6:4-6***

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, <sup>6</sup>if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace."

*- It is impossible for them to be brought back to repentance, so how will they always be saved?*

#### ***Heb 3:12***

<sup>12</sup>See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God."

#### ***Gal 5:4***

<sup>4</sup>You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have **fallen away from grace.**"

#### ***Rev 22:18-19***

<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

#### ***Rev 2:4-5***

<sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. **If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place.**"

*- There will be consequences if we do not repent when we sin!*

#### ***Rev 3:1-5***

<sup>1</sup>To the angel<sup>[a]</sup> of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the

sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. <sup>4</sup>Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”

*-The Church at Sardis was dead. They had once followed the way, but now they needed to wake up, and follow God again.*

### **James 5:20**

“<sup>20</sup>remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

### **I Tim 3:6-7**

“<sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.”

*- When giving the standards for which to choose Elders, Paul said that the men being appointed should not be new in the faith, or else they may fall away. What would it matter if an elder, or any man, fell away if he was “always saved?”*

### **I Tim 4:1-3**

“<sup>1</sup>The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup>Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. <sup>3</sup>They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.”

### **I Cor. 9:11-12**

“<sup>26</sup>Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. <sup>27</sup>No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

*- We can all agree that Paul had accepted God and been saved. In that case, why does he have to “beat his body” so that he “will not be disqualified for the prize”? If we are “once saved, always saved” why would Paul not be able to go to Heaven, even if he did fall away?*

### **II Peter 3:17**

“<sup>17</sup>Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.”

### **II Tim 2:17-18**

“<sup>17</sup>Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup>who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.”

### **Ez. 18:24**

“<sup>24</sup> “But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable

things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die.”

**Ez 33:12-13**

“<sup>12</sup> “Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, ‘The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. **The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.**’<sup>13</sup> If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will die for the evil he has done.”

**I Peter 2:25**

“<sup>25</sup>For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

*- When we go astray, we have to return to our Shepherd if we want to be saved.*

**John 12:47-50**

<sup>47</sup>“As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. <sup>48</sup>There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. <sup>49</sup>For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup>I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

**Mat 10:22**

“<sup>22</sup>All men will hate you because of me, **but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.**”

# Miraculous Gifts

What was the point of miracles and spiritual gifts?

To prove that Jesus Christ's claim that he was the Son of God was true (John 3:2)

**John 20:30-31**

“<sup>30</sup>Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may<sup>[a]</sup> believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

## **Examples of Miracles:**

**John 9:1-12** – sight to the blind

**Matt 21:14** – healed the blind and lame

**Luke 17:11-19** – healed the leper

**Mark 7:31-37** – healed the deaf and dumb

**Matt 8:14-17** – healed Peter's Mother-in-law from her illness and cast out devils

**Matt 8:28-34** – cast out demons

**Matt 14:22-33** – walked on the water

**Matt 8:27** – calmed the sea

**Matt 14:13-21** – fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fishes

**John 11:32-45** – raised Lazarus from the dead

**Acts 1:3** – raised himself from the grave

Jesus' death was not the end of miracles

Why did the apostles do miracles?

To prove that what they were teaching was true and to proclaim the Gospel.

**Acts 1:4-5**

“<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**Mark 13:11**

“<sup>11</sup>Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.”

**John 14:26**

“<sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

**John 15:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup>And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”

**Mark 16:15-20**

“<sup>15</sup>He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. <sup>16</sup>Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup>Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

**Heb 2:3-4**

“<sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. <sup>4</sup>God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

**-After God's word has been spread around the world, there is no purpose or need for miraculous works.-**

The Apostles could pass on their gifts, but the people they gave the gifts to could not pass it on anymore, therefore there is no physical way we could still have miraculous gifts.

**Acts 8:9-25** – The story of Simon the Sorcerer

**Acts 6:1-6** – An example of the passing on of the Holy Spirit

# Church Government

- The Church is a Monarchy. Christ is the King of Kings and the Ruler over all.

## **Col 1:18**

“<sup>18</sup>And He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

## **Eph 1:22-23**

“<sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

- God placed Christ at the head of the Church, and then Christ appointed the Apostles. In Matt 16:19 Christ tells the apostles that he is giving them the keys to the kingdom, they are the foundation of the Church.

## **Matt 16:19**

“<sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- After the apostles were appointed by Christ, Paul set up the evangelists, Timothy and Titus. Timothy and Titus then set up elders and deacons in the sixth chapter of Acts. Those elders and deacons were chosen by the people.

## **Acts 6:1-7**

“<sup>1</sup>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup>and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup>They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

## **Acts 14:23**

“<sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.”

## **Tit 1:5**

“<sup>5</sup>The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.”

- Without elders we are lacking. This is the verse that encourages us to have more than one elder, as it says to appoint "elders".

There are four Greek words translated into seven English words which are synonymous and completely interchangeable. We tend to not use the more complicated English words in parentheses because they are often used in other denominations to mean something other than what we consider an elder to be.

<b>Greek:</b>	<b>English:</b>	<b>Examples:</b>
episkopos	overseer (bishop)	Tit 1:7, Phil 1:1, Acts 20:28
poimeen	shepherd (pastor)	Eph 4:11, I Pet. 2:25, I Pet. 5:1-4 Acts 20:28
Presbuteros	elder (presbyter)	I Pet 5:1, Tit 1:5, Acts 20:17, I Tim 4:14
Proisteemi	to rule	I Thess 5:12, I Tim 5:17

**Matt 23:9**

“<sup>9</sup>And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven.”

**Qualifications for elders and deacons, taken from the I Timothy chapter 3.**

- Must have faithful children
- Husband of one wife
- Sober/calm/not agitated
- Not a drinker
- Not a new Christian/Novice
- Must have control over his household
- Not greedy for power or money
- Must be able to control his temper
- Hospitable
- Male
- Humble/acting as a servant to his flock
- Vigilant/watchful for his flock
- Must have a good reputation both in and out of the church
- Law abiding
- Innocent
- Able to teach
- Respectable

### ***1 Tim 3:1-13***

“<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer,<sup>[a]</sup> he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. <sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.”

### ***Tit 1:5-9***

“<sup>5</sup>The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. <sup>6</sup>An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>8</sup>Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

How are **you** doing on these different criteria? Today's young people are the church of tomorrow's leaders. It is never too early to begin thinking about living up to those standards, not necessarily to become an elder or deacon, or an elder or deacon's wife, but because they are good criteria for every member of the congregation. If every member of your congregation was exactly as strong as you, how strong would your congregation be?

# Women's Role

## **Gal 3:26-29**

<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

*-This verse is often used as a way of saying that men and women are equal on this earth, and that is not what it is saying. It is saying that we will all eventually have a part of the inheritance of Heaven. On Earth, the male and female rolls are important, but they will not be important in Heaven.*

## **1 Peter 3:1**

<sup>1</sup>Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup>when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup>Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup>Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. <sup>5</sup>For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

*-Sarah was a beautiful woman on the outside, but she is commended much more for her inner beauty. In fact, her outer beauty often got her in trouble (Gen 20:1-18). There is nothing wrong with braiding your hair, or wearing jewelry. The point this verse is trying to make, is that outward beauty has very little to do with inner beauty. What makes you beautiful should come from the inside.*

*- Sarah is commended for her obedience to her husband. It was easy for Sarah to follow her husband, because he loved her and cared for her. Without love and respect from a husband, it is hard to follow him. This cycle of love and respect creating obedience can be a very positive cycle. However, without the love and respect, it can become a very vicious cycle.*

## **Eph. 5:22-27**

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[a]</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

*- Men are over women as Christ is over the church. This is a good thing, even though our society often tries to make it a negative thing. Christ died for the church. Husband should love their wives to that same extent. The whole point of the husband/wife relationship is to mirror the relationship between Christ and the church and to help us understand it.*

**I Cor. 14:33-38**

“<sup>33</sup>For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, <sup>34</sup>women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. <sup>35</sup>If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. <sup>36</sup>Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? <sup>37</sup>If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. <sup>38</sup>If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.”

*-This clearly states that women should not speak in the church. They are not to take part in the worship service. The exclusion from participating in the service is not intended to be demeaning. It is set up like this because women have different roles that include different areas.*

**Acts 18:26**

“<sup>26</sup>And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla had heard him, they took him unto them and expounded unto him the Way of God more perfectly.”

*-Here Priscilla is clearly helping her husband to teach, and she is mentioned in similar ways many more times in the scriptures. The scriptures do not say that women cannot teach others, it just says they cannot hold positions of authority in the church.*

**Titus 2:3-5**

“<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup>Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

*-Whatever the age or the gender, we all have roles to fill that God has assigned to us.*

**II Tim. 1:5**

“<sup>5</sup>I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”

*-One of those roles for women is to raise the children. Timothy's mother and grandmother were a great part of his faith, and they raised him to be a good man.*

**I Cor. 11:1-6**

“<sup>1</sup>Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. <sup>2</sup>I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, <sup>[a]</sup> just as I passed them on to you. Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. <sup>4</sup>Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. <sup>5</sup>And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved. <sup>6</sup>If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.”

*-Men and women need each other. They have different roles in the church, and they should look different as well.*

**I Tim 2:9-15**

“<sup>9</sup>I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, <sup>10</sup>but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

<sup>11</sup>A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup>And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. <sup>15</sup>But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety”

*-Again, women should not teach men in the church setting. Man was created because it was pleasing to God. Woman was created to help man. The sin in the Garden of Eden came about because of a role reversal.*

*- When it says “women will be saved through childbearing” it could mean one of two things. In the Greek, “women” means “she” as in she (Eve) was saved through the birth of her child, Seth, who was in the lineage of Christ, and Christ was able to save her from her sins. It could also mean that women should have children if they are capable.*

**Gen 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

*- Adam and Eve gave their parent, God, pain. Since God had gone through pain because of his children, Adam and specifically Eve would have to go through pain to have children.*

# Divorce and Remarriage

## Marriage:

### **Eph. 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup>But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them."

*-We should not be deceived with empty words, just because a girl (or guy) shows interest in you is no reason to abandon the way you were raised. Relationships outside the church can be a very large distraction. However, dating outside the church can sometimes bring people into the church as well. In a marriage though, the man and wife should work together with the same common goal.*

### **II Cor. 6:14**

<sup>14</sup>"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

*-A Marriage should be an equal partnership, where the man and woman are working together for the same common goal.*

## Divorce:

### **Malachi. 2:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. <sup>14</sup> You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup> **"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,"** says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith."

### **Mark. 10:11**

<sup>11</sup>He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her."

### **Matt. 5:32**

<sup>32</sup>But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."

*-Matthew expands on what we are told in Mark. Matthew tells us that the only reason for divorce is marital unfaithfulness.*

**Matt. 19:9**

“<sup>9</sup>I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

**I Cor. 7:10-16**

“<sup>10</sup>To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup>But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. <sup>12</sup>To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup>And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. <sup>14</sup>For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. <sup>15</sup>But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup>How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”

*-If a believer marries a nonbeliever, and that marriage ends because the nonbeliever abandons the relationship, the believer is no longer bound to their ex-spouse. The band between them has been dissolved. However, this does not necessarily give them the right to remarry (see later verses).*

**I Cor. 7:39**

“<sup>39</sup>A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”

**I Tim. 5:14**

“<sup>14</sup>So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.”

*-Widows and widowers are free to marry again, but they are required to marry in the church. It does not say that people who have divorced because of their spouses adultery should marry in the church, but it is always a good idea.*

# Mutual Edification

“To build each other up”

- Mutual Speaking
  - Mutual Edification
  - Encourages Bible Study
- Exhort comes from the Greek word *Periclesis*, which means a calling to one’s side. To speech, to teach.
  - Edify comes from the Greek word *Oikodomer*, it is the act of building up, to promote growth.

Teaching and spreading God’s word has progressed since the beginning of time. During old testament times the teaching would have occurred at the **tabernacle** during the wandering in the wilderness. After they became stable in the Canaan Land and Solomon built the **temple**, they would have taught there. By Jesus’ time they were teaching in the **synagogue**, and today the teaching occurs in the **church**.

Synagogues:

## **Neh. 8:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. <sup>2</sup> So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup> He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. <sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup> Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. <sup>8</sup> They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.”

*-This meeting was held by the water gate, lots of people participated, and this one probably one of the first synagogues.*

## **John 18:20**

<sup>20</sup>“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.”

*-Jesus did a lot of his teaching in the synagogues, another example of this can be found in Luke chapter 4, and in many other places in the New Testament.*

### **Acts 13:15**

“<sup>15</sup>After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, **if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak.**”

### **New Testament References**

#### **Rom. 15:14**

“<sup>14</sup>I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and **competent to instruct one another.**”

#### **Rom. 12:6-8**

“<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully”

*-Most of the time in a congregation you will have more than one person whose gift is teaching. If only one person teaches, then the other people who also have the gift of teaching will not get to use their gifts, and God wants us to put the gifts He gives us to good use.*

#### **I Cor. 14:26**

“<sup>26</sup>What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”

*-Everyone has something to bring to the service, and all should bring something to the service to strengthen others.*

#### **Eph. 4:11-12**

“<sup>11</sup>It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”

#### **II Tim. 2:2**

“<sup>2</sup>And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

#### **Heb 10:25**

“<sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

#### **I Tim. 3:2**

“<sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, **able to teach,**”

#### **Heb. 5:12-14**

“<sup>12</sup>In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the

elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup>Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

*-These people should already have been teachers. As babies grow, they need solid food to grow strong. The same can be said of our walk with the Lord. In the beginning, we just drink "milk", but we should grow spiritually so that we need the "meat" of the word as we mature.*

#### ***1 Peter 4:10-11***

<sup>10</sup>Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

#### ***1 Thess. 5:11***

<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

#### ***Should all people in the church teach?***

#### ***1 Cor. 12:29***

<sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?"

#### ***1 Tim 1:6-7***

<sup>6</sup>Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. <sup>7</sup>They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm."

#### ***James 3:1***

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."

*Not everyone is given the same gifts, and some people are not given the gift of speaking. We should be sure that our speakers know what they are talking about, because if they don't, they may give misinformation to someone who doesn't know any better. Teaching is something that most men in the church should strive for, but it is not something to be taken lightly.*

#### ***Rom 14:19***

<sup>19</sup>Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

*-This verse is not talking about the mutual exhortation we have been talking about so far. It has nothing to do with teaching, but instead it is a command that we should build each other up as often as possible.*