

**Series:** The Church

**Message:** A Necessary Authority: Part Two

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:15-18

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**Dates:** 3 / 4 November 2018

### **Definition of Worldview**

A framework of ideas and beliefs from which we interpret who we are, who God is and how we see the world in which we live.

The counterforce to such unhealthy individualism is accountable relationships.

There is no true accountable relationship without a recognized authority.

### **Last Week:**

1. The Establishment Of The Church's Authority. Mt. 16:13-19

### **Matthew 16:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

<sup>19</sup> "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

1) What Are The Keys To The Kingdom?

2) What Does It Mean To "Bind" And To "Loose"?

3) Who Are The Recipients Of The Keys?

### **Hebrews 13:17**

<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

## 2. Four Implications

- 1) Every Believer Should Be Declared A Member Of God's Earthly Kingdom By Ordained Leadership Within The Church.
- 2) Every Believer Should Be Under The Spiritual Authority Of Ordained Leadership Within The Church.
- 3) Every Believer Should Be In Submission To And Accountable To Ordained Leadership Within The Church.

(1) Is there anywhere other than the Bible that we can know for certain the will of God?

- 1) Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)
- 2) Family (Ephesians 6:1)
- 3) Government (Romans 13:1)
- 4) Church (Hebrews 13:17)

(2) If in the will of God, is someone therefore for certain in the wisdom of God?

- 1) Bible – yes
- 2) Family – no
- 3) Government – no
- 4) Church – no

- 4) Every Believer Must Be A Member In Good Standing With The Church To Have Access To The Lord's Table And To Marry Another Member Of A Church.

### **This week:**

#### **Matthew 18:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

<sup>16</sup> "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

<sup>17</sup> "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup> "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

## 1. Every Believer Needs The Spiritual Accountability Of A Church Covenant.

### 1) Why Do We Make A Covenant With Christ's Church?

#### **Cyprian**

He cannot have God for his father who does not have the church for his mother.

#### **Chuck Colson, The Body**

So membership in a church particular is no more optional than membership in the church universal.

Yet membership in a confessing body is fundamental to the faithful Christian life. Failure to do so defies the explicit warning not to forsake "our assembling together." His understanding of this prompted Martin Luther to say, "Apart from the church, salvation is impossible." Not that the church provides salvation; God does. But because the "saved" one can't fulfill what it means to be a Christian apart from the church, membership becomes the indispensable mark of salvation.

"So highly does the Lord esteem the communion of His church," Calvin wrote, "that He considers everyone a traitor and apostate from religion who perversely withdraws himself from any Christian society which preserves the true ministry of the word and sacraments."

If apart from the church particular one cannot participate in the ordinances or sacraments, then one cannot claim to be a Christian and at the same time claim to be outside the church. To do so is at the least hypocrisy – at the worst, blasphemy.

When someone is converted and thereby comes into the church universal, the first step of discipleship is membership in the church particular.

### 2) What Are Other Benefits Of Being A Church Member?

#### **Chuck Colson, The Body**

Maybe it's because we simply haven't taught accountability. Or maybe it's because, in today's fiercely individualistic culture, people resent being told what to do, and since we don't want to "scare them off," we succumb to cultural pressures.

But accountability is a hollow concept unless it is enforced. There must be teeth in a church's demand for orthodoxy and righteous behavior; that is what we call discipline.

Even pragmatically, no one should expect to join a church (which, after all, involves a free decision) and then refuse to accept its authority (its rules, if you will). For failing to attend a few meetings, one can be thrown out of the Rotary Club. For failing to live up to a particular dress code, one can be dismissed from most private clubs. For failing to perform the required community service, one can be thrown out of the Junior League.

Yet when the church imposes discipline – denying the benefits of membership to those who flout its standards – it is charged with everything short of (and sometimes including) fascism. But shouldn't the church have at least the same right to set its standards as the Rotary Club? People who don't like it can and should go elsewhere.

We weaken the church when we fail to discipline.

Discipline should be applied not only to enforce orthodoxy, but to maintain righteous behavior in the church. Sermons on holy living are empty exercises unless the church is willing to back them up with action.

But, "discipline guards the purity of the church, preserves the church by removing evil, and provides severe but loving correction for one who is in danger of falling into perdition." Without effective discipline, there can be no accountability.

### **Next Week:**

2. Every Believer Needs The Accountability Of A Faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

1) A Faithful Community Understands The Essence Of Biblical \_\_\_\_\_.

2) A Faithful Community Knows The Importance Of \_\_\_\_\_.

3) A Faithful Community Is Willing To Experience The \_\_\_\_\_  
And \_\_\_\_\_ Often Produced By Spiritual Accountability And  
Biblical Community.