

Series: The Church

Message: A Necessary Authority: Part Three

Scripture: Selected Texts (NASB)

Teacher: Randy Pope

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Week 1

The counterforce to such unhealthy individualism is accountable relationships.

There is no true accountable relationship without a recognized authority.

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

Matthew 16:18-19

¹⁸ "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.

¹⁹ "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."

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ 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.
- 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.

Last week:

Matthew 18:15-18

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

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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.

¹⁸ "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.

3. Two Types Of Accountability In The Church

1) A Church Covenant

This Week:

2. A Faithful Community.

1) A Faithful Community Understands The Essence Of Biblical Fellowship.

Chuck Colson, The Body

But the word for fellowship in the New Testament Greek, koinonia, means none of these; it is something much richer. Literally it means a communion, a participation of people together in God's grace. It describes a new community in which individuals willingly covenant to share in common, to be in submission to each other, to support one another and "bear one another's burdens," as Paul wrote to the Galatians, and to build each other up in relationship with the Lord.

Biblical fellowship involves serious commitment and obligations.

Fellowship is more than unconditional love that wraps its arms around someone who is hurting. It is also tough love that holds one fast to the truth and the pursuit of righteousness.

True fellowship out of love for one another demands accountability.

Acts 2:42-44

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

2) A Faithful Community Knows The Importance Of One Anothering.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.*

¹⁰ *For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.*

¹¹ *Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?*

¹² *And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.*

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

Scott Peck, Different Drum

The only antidote to pseudo community is chaos, where hurts are uncovered and hostilities are revealed.

Conclusion:

1. Every Person Needs Many Special Friends.
2. Every Person Needs A Few Significant Friends.
3. Every Person Needs The One And Only One Supernatural Friend.