

BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINE

Lesson 7

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH (ECCLESIOLOGY)

What is "The Church?" When talking to others we may mention what we did "at church" or arrange to meet someone "at church" which implies that "the church" is a location. We may read materials which talk about trying to reach out to the "unchurched," which implies that some people are "churched" and others are "unchurched." This may lead some to think that the goal of Christianity is to get people "churched," whatever that means. You may hear people talk about the "local church" or the "universal church" or recite a creed that mentions the "Holy Catholic Church." Sometimes you hear people talk about the "Mormon Church" or the "Christian Science Church."

What do all of these terms and designations mean? Do you know what "The Church" is and could you show someone else from the Bible what it is? Is church something we go to? Is church a building or an institution? Is everyone who attends a Sunday morning service part of "The Church?" Does the Bible give different definitions of the church? How do we know who is not part of the church and how does someone become part of the church? If someone is part of the church, what are their privileges and responsibilities?

The doctrine of the church as found in the New Testament is a broad subject with many details, implications and overlapping doctrines that relate to it. The church has a wide variety of meanings in our culture and it is important for you to know what definitions are biblical and which are not. The way you view the church will determine how you live. For these reasons and others, this lesson will survey some of the key texts related to the Doctrine of the Church or as theologians call it – "Ecclesiology."

I. DEFINITION OF "THE CHURCH"

- A. **English definition: "Church"** comes from an old English word meaning, "The Lord's House" or "Belonging to the Lord."
- B. **Greek definition: "ekklesia"** means "assembly or those called forth or called out into an assembly." Hence the church describes a group of people that have been called out from one thing to another to assemble. There are **three** different ways the word "church" is used in the Bible.
 - 1. The word "*ekklesia*" is used in a general way to refer to any assembled group of people
 - a. Acts 7:38 "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you."
 - b. Acts 19:32,39-40 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority did not know for what cause they had come together. . . "But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. "For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's affair, since there is no real cause for it; and in this connection we shall be unable to account for this disorderly gathering."

2. It is used of professing believers in a local church
 - a. Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.
 - b. Rev. 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."
3. More specifically it is used of true believers, who are the chosen of God, that have been saved by faith in Christ (the universal church of true believers).
 - a. I Cor. 1:2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:
 - b. Eph. 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.
4. Based on what you learned from the Scriptures above, how would you define the church?

II. **SYNONYMS USED TO DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

- A. Look up the scriptures below and find the terms that are used to describe true believers.
 1. Acts 6:1 Now at this time while **the disciples** were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.
 2. Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and **the disciples were first called Christians** in Antioch.
 3. Rom. 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
 4. Rom. 8:29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many **brethren**;
 5. Rom. 8:33 Who will bring a charge against **God's elect**? God is the one who justifies;

6. II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man is **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
7. Eph. 1:1 Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to **the saints** who are at Ephesus, and who are **faithful in Christ Jesus**:
8. Col. 3:12 And so, as **those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved**, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
9. I Pet. 1:23 for you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
10. I Jn. 3:10 By this **the children of God** and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
 - a. What do the titles and descriptive terms mentioned above tell us about those who are truly saved and part of the universal church?
 - b. What do the titles and descriptive terms mentioned above tell us about how all believers must live?
 - c. What is the difference between a Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, or Christian Scientist and a true believer in relation to the church? Do the terms above describe them? Why or why not?

III. METAPHORS USED TO DESCRIBE THE CHURCH

- A. Look up the Scriptures below and find the terms that are used to describe true believers
- B. **The Body of Christ**
 1. Rom. 12:4-6 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,⁵ **so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**⁶ And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;
 2. Eph. 2:11-16 Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, **who made both groups into one**, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by

abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself **He might make the two into one new man**, thus establishing peace, 16 and **might reconcile them both in one body** to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

3. Eph. 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for **we are members of one another**.
4. Col. 1:18 **He is also head of the body, the church**; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.
 - a. What do the verses above tell us about every true believer?
 - b. What responsibility do these verses place on every believer who is part of the church?

C. **The Temple of God**

1. I Cor. 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I laid a foundation**, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can **lay a foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
2. Eph. 2:20-22 **having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, in whom the whole **building**, being fitted together is growing into a **holy temple** in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a **dwelling of God in the Spirit**.
 - a. What do the above verses tell us about who we are?
 - b. What are some of the characteristics of a temple of God and what spiritual parallels are true of the Christian?

D. **The Sacrificial System of the Church, the Temple of God**

1. Rom. 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
2. Phil. 2:17 But even if **I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service** of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.
3. Heb. 13:15-16 Through Him then, let us continually offer up **a sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And **do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased**.

4. I Pet. 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God** through Jesus Christ.
 - a. What do the verses above tell us about the sacrificial system of the church and how it differs from the sacrificial system of the Old Testament?
 - b. How should knowing there is a sacrificial system for the church affect the way you live?

E. The Bride of Christ

1. Eph. 5:29-32 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
2. Rev. 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. And he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."
 - a. What are some of the characteristics of brides? What are brides expected to behave like?
 - b. When you look at your life do you see your character and behavior manifest that you are the bride of Christ?

F. God's Sheep

1. Jn. 10:11-30 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for **the sheep**. . . "I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, . . . "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. "**My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one."
2. Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and **for all the flock**, among **which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood.

3. I Pet. 5:1-2 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
 - a. How does the sheep/shepherd metaphor help believers understand what they really are in Christ?
 - b. What are some of the characteristics of sheep that have spiritual parallels for believers?

G. The Branches Connected to Christ the Vine

1. Isa. 5:1-7 Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. 2 He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it And also hewed out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes, But it produced only worthless ones. 3 “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge between Me and My vineyard. 4 “What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? 5 “So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground. 6 “I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned or hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it.” 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel And the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.
2. John 15:1-8 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. “By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
 - a. What are some of the literal characteristics of grape vines?
 - b. What are the spiritual parallels between literal grape vines and Christians and how they live?

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH

A. Below are some verses which describe the purpose for the church being on earth. Note the phrase or word in each verse which explains your responsibility as a member of the church.

B. Evangelism

1. Mt. 28:19-20 "**Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
2. Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**"
3. I Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**;
4. When you look at your life, would you say you are fulfilling your purpose as described in the verses above?

C. To Worship God

1. John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
2. Rom. 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
3. Phil. 3:3 for we are the true circumcision, who **worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh.
4. When you look at your life, would you say you are fulfilling your purpose as described in the verses above?

D. To Perform Good Deeds

1. Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**
2. I Tim. 6:18 Instruct them **to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.**

3. Tit. 2:14 who gave Himself for us **to redeem us from every lawless deed**, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, **zealous for good deeds**.
4. Would you say the verses above describe your life today?

E. To Give Glory to God

1. I Cor. 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**.
2. Eph. 1:6, 12, 14 **to the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. . . 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be **to the praise of His glory**. . . 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, **to the praise of His glory**.
3. I Pet. 4:11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, **to whom belongs the glory** and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - a. According to the above verses, why has God allowed the church to remain on earth?
 - b. When you look at your life are you fulfilling God's purpose for saving you?

V. GOVERNMENT IN THE CHURCH

A. Elders

1. Acts 14:23 When they had **appointed elders** for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
2. I Tim. 5:17 The **elders who rule well** are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
3. James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must **call for the elders of the church** and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

B. Overseers

1. Phil. 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the **overseers** and deacons:
2. I Tim. 3:1-2 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 **An overseer**, then, must be above reproach, . . .

C. Shepherds (Pastors)

1. Eph. 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and **some as pastors and teachers.**

D. Elders are Overseers

1. Titus 1:5 & 7 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and **appoint elders** in every city as I directed you, . . .7 For the **overseer** must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

E. Overseers are Elders and Shepherds (Pastors)

1. Acts 20:17, 28 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and **called to him the elders** of the church. . . 28 **"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood.
2. I Pet. 5:1-3 Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, **as your fellow elder** and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **shepherd the flock of God** among you, **exercising oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
3. What do the verses above teach you about God's government within the church?

F. Your Responsibility Towards the Leaders of the Church

1. I Thess. 5:12-13 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
2. I Tim. 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
3. Heb. 13:7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.
4. Heb. 13:17 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.
5. What do the verses above teach you about your responsibility to the leaders God has placed over the local church?

VI. DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE CHURCH

When a believer falls into sin and refuses to repent, the church is required to show love to them according to the Word of God as described in the Scriptures below.

A. Matt. 18:15-17 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.”

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

B. Acts 5:1-11 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. 7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?” And she said, “Yes, that was the price.” 9 Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.” 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And **great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.**

1. What are two purposes of church discipline according to the verses above?

C. Rom. 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.** 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and **by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.**

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

D. I Cor. 5:1-13 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife. 2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, **so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.** 3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.** For Christ our Passover also has been

sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote you in my letter **not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.** 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge those who are within the church?** 13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

E. Gal. 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness;** each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

F. II Thess. 3:6-15 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life** and not according to the tradition which you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. 10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. 14 **If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.** 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

G. I Tim. 5:20 **Those [elders] who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.**

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

H. Titus 1:13; 3:10, 11 This testimony is true. **For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, 10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11** knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

1. What is the purpose of church discipline according to the verses above?

I. Rev. 2:2, 14, 15, 20 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that **you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;** . . . 14 **But I have a few things against you, because**

you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, **to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.** 15 **So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.** . . . 20 **But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.**

1. When someone asks you why the church must practice church discipline you can tell them that the purpose of church discipline is:
 - a. To restore an unrepentant sinning brother from repentance to obedience by exposing and confronting him and his sin
 - b. To make those in the Church fearful of sinning
 - c. To make those outside the church fearful of the Lord of the Church
 - d. To protect the church from false teachers and their false doctrine and ungodly behavior
 - e. To keep immorality out of the church
 - f. To keep the church from being infected by the example of the ungodly
 - g. To shame those who are in unrepentant sin for the purpose of restoring them to obedience
 - h. To make those who have fallen into sin sound in faith
 - i. To keep the factious person out of the church

2. When someone asks you how church discipline is to be performed you can tell them:
 - a. (For all believers) First confront them in private, if they do not repent, confront them with two or three others, if they still do not repent, tell it to the church, if they still do not repent, treat them with holy disdain (Mt. 18:15-17).
 - b. For Elders that continue in sin they are to be rebuked in the presence of all (I Tim. 5:20).
 - c. Liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons are to be reprovved severely (Titus 1:12-13).
 - d. The factious man is to be rejected after the first and second warning (Titus 3:10-11).

VII. Errors Concerning the Church

- A. *False* > Israel and the Church are one and the same thing.
- B. *False* > The church existed in the Old Testament.
- C. *False* > The Church is a physical building or earthly institution.
- D. *False* > All those who call themselves believers and profess to be Christians are part of the universal church.
- E. *False* > It is OK to be a Christian but not be part of a local church body.
- F. *False* > It is OK to say we are part of the body of Christ but never function as part of that body.
- G. *False* > You become part of the church by going to church on Sunday, by claiming a denomination, because your parents were Christians, because you call yourself a Christian, because you are involved in a local church body, because you made a decision for Christ, walked an aisle, signed a card, prayed a prayer, or someone told you that you were a Christian.

In 1866 the Church of England's foundational doctrines were being attacked by liberalism. Concerned about this, Pastor Samuel Stone decided to write a series of hymns based on the Apostle's creed designed to affirm the cardinal doctrines of Christianity. One section of the Apostle's Creed says, "We believe in the Holy Catholic (not Roman Catholic, but universal) Church, the communion of saints: He [Christ] is the head of this body." This is the hymn that Pastor Stone wrote in defense of the doctrine of the church "The Church Has One Foundation."

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the Word: from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.