



“Church 101”

Bishop Frank and JoeNell Summerfield

Texts: Ephesians 4:1-5, 11-16, I Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24, Luke 12:41-48, Hebrews 6:9-12

Many people attend church but fail to realize the real value and importance of serving in it. They have little to no understanding of how God uses the church to determine faithfulness and servitude. God has created the church as the operational place to develop people into saved and delivered believers that develop and mature enough in their walk with God to live a God empowered Kingdom life. It takes real spiritual maturity, faithfulness, and servitude to live a God empowered kingdom life.

In Ephesians 4 the Apostle Paul teaches New Testament believers the importance of being developed to maturity in the church by being exposed to and taught by the Five Fold ministry gifts. His emphasis is on **unity** and **growing** and **maturing** together with every person faithfully and committedly giving themselves to the process of the church and its members becoming a compacted many member body and every person being a joint that supplies love, strength, and ability to the body in all areas of growth.

The Apostle Paul also teaches his spiritual son Timothy the importance of people knowing how to conduct themselves in the church which is God’s pillar and ground for the truth of His word. See I Timothy 3:15.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2: With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4: There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

11: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

The church can’t fulfil its God ordained assignment with spiritually immature people. We must grow up together as a many membered body that produces the fullness of Jesus Christ.

14: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,

STUDY NOTES



“Church 101”

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whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

We must grow up in faithful servitude, grow up in faithful giving, grow up in unity, grow up in patience and longsuffering, grow up in divine love, grow up in loyalty and commitment, grow up in knowledge of God’s word.

16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Many people never realize that the service they perform in the local church should be done unto God and not to man. The local church is where God provides opportunity for everyone to establish and prove their faithful service to God by volunteering and serving in areas of ministry that help the church reach and win people to the Kingdom. Paul teaches this very clearly in Ephesians 6:5-8, and Colossians 3:22-24.

In Luke 12:41-48 Jesus teaches very clearly the value and importance of being a faithful and wise servant in order to be rewarded with

all God’s Kingdom contains and avoiding ending up with the unbelievers.

The Apostle Paul assures us in Hebrews 6:9-12 that God will not forget any faithful service and labor we perform to help the local church and those who attend, as we faithfully follow the set leaders (Pastors) who follow faith and patience, we also receive the divine promises of God.

Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

10: For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Please note that minister means to serve and assist the cause of reaching souls and causing them to mature to the level of Godly Kingdom living.

11: And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

God desires that we give ourselves to faithful service all the way to the end with no breaks

STUDY NOTES



“Church 101”

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or quitting because of fatigue. We can't afford to get weary in well doing and faint because if we do, we won't reap our Kingdom rewards. See Galatians 6:9.

12: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Please note the word slothful comes from the Greek word *nothros* and means: lazy, unfit for mental activities, dull in the mind, figuratively stupid.

Our enemy, the devil knows that if we could ever get totally unified in love, patience, long suffering, and sincere passion for the vision, we'd put him completely out of business in all of our lives. That's why he keeps deceiving people so they are in and out and never stable and locked in loyalty to the Pastor and his vision for the local church. He knows we are supernaturally strong when we are unified or on one accord like the early New Testament church.

Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ.

We must think the same about the local church and the vision God has given the Pastor for it. We must all desire it to be strong, powerful, anointed, and able to reach and draw souls to be developed into the Kingdom sons and overcomers God has ordained and called them to be as declared in I John 4:4, I John 5:4-5, and Revelation 12:11.

7: Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Notice how the Apostle Paul continues to teach and encourage unity in the church. He knew the devil can't defeat unity. When we get unified on one accord the supernatural miracle power of God is released for divine healing, divine increase and prosperity, and miracle breakthroughs.

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11: For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of

STUDY NOTES



“Church 101”

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the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

II Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3: Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4: Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

The Apostle Paul is teaching here that we should be so unified in the local church that we are concerned about the wellbeing of each other.

He also taught that there should be specific rules, guidelines, and standards we all have to follow for God’s divine power to dwell among us.

Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Unity and being on one accord causes God to supernaturally add souls to the local church’s vision. See Acts 2:38-47. It also causes God to move miraculously with divine healings.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13: And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14: And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

15: Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16: There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

STUDY NOTES