

## Welcome Class 1

# Why Church Matters

### What is the Church?

- “Ekklesia” - Called out ones
- Hold to the confession of Matthew 16:13-18
- Gospel confession is the bedrock of the church
- Believers - those that have trusted in Jesus to turn from sin, and follow him.

### Church is the Bride of Christ

- Ephesians 5:25-33
- Joined with Jesus in more than a casual way
- Cannot love Jesus and hate *His* bride
- Join with our mutual Love for Jesus

### Church is the Body of Christ

- Ephesians 4:11-16
- 1 Corinthians 12:27
- The Church is an ORGANISM and organization
- The Church is not a thing to be consumed but a mission organism to join.

### We NEED each Other

- We need one another -Genesis 2:18
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- Everyones gifts lead us into the Fullness of Christ
- We follow Christ but NOT Alone
- Proverbs 27:17 -Sharpen each other
- Teaches Love

## Welcome Class 2

### Why Doctrine Matters

Doctrine = Specific sets of beliefs and practices

- Pillars of Faith
  - Start on the foundation of trusting in Jesus
  - Hold up the roof of Our Faith & Church
- 2 Timothy 4:2-3
- Ephesians 4:14 -"no longer ..., tossed... by every wind of doctrine
- Romans 16:17 -"watch out for those cause division... contrary doctrine

Trinity - Tri-Unity - Triune God

- Three in One - equally, eternally, distinctly
  - Genesis 1:26 "Let us make man in our image..."
  - Matthew 3:16-17 & Matthew 28:19-20
- False Views
  - Modalism - God manifests in three ways (modes)
  - Arianism - Jesus was created
  - Tritheism - Three separate Gods

The Bible

- Divinely inspired Words of God -2 Timothy 3:15-17
- Without error -Psalm 19:7-10; Proverbs 30:5-6
- Focus of Scripture is Jesus -Luke 24:44-46; John 5:39
- Given to know God - revelation not speculation
- Guards us -Psalm 119:11; Galatians 3:24-25
- Authority for Individuals & Church
- Authority over the world, culture, & experience

## Humans & Salvation

- Man is fallen and sinful -Romans 3:23; 5:12
  - Cannot save himself -Ephesians 2:1-3
  - Separated from a Holy & Perfect God -Colossians 1:21
- Salvation
  - Only in Jesus -Acts 4:12
  - Made right with God -Reconciled -Colossians 1:22
  - By Grace through Faith -Ephesians 2:8-9
  - Call on Jesus -Romans 10:9-13
  - Repent -Acts 3:19
- Eternal Security ("Once Saved Always Saved")
  - Saved by Grace through Faith -Ephesians 2:8-9
  - Kept by Grace -2 Timothy 1:12; John 10:29
  - True believers will endure to the end.

## Closed Handed and Open Handed Doctrines

- Open Handed: -views on the end times
  - Church Methodology
  - Politics
  - Views on alcohol

## The Southern Baptist Church

- Southern Baptist Churches are "Autonomous"
  - Self-Governed
- SBC - Cooperates for Kingdom Global Work

## Welcome Class 3

### Church Ordinances

#### Lord's Supper

- Commanded to do this in Remembrance
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Does NOT grant eternal life John 6
- Warning 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

#### Baptism

- Baptizo- "dip" "Immerse"
  - to put or go under water
  - Matthew 3:16 -"he went up from the water"
  - Mark 1:10 -"came up out of the water"
- Why be baptized
  - Baptism of Repentance - Then and Now
  - Commanded -Matthew 28:19-20
  - Symbolic -Romans 6:2-4
  - Testimony -Colossians 2:12-13
- Who is baptized
  - After Salvation -Acts 8:35-39; 16:30-33
  - Followers -"Disciples"
  - Does NOT Save -Luke 23

## Questions to Ask When Choosing a Church

1. Is this a church where God's Word is faithfully taught?
2. Is this a church where sound doctrine matters?
3. Is this a church in which the gospel is cherished and clearly proclaimed?
4. Is this a church committed to reaching non-Christians with the Gospel?
5. Is this a church whose leaders exhibit humility and integrity?
6. Is this a church where people strive to live by God's Word?
7. Is this a church where I can find and cultivate godly relationships?
8. Is this a church where members are challenged to serve?
9. Is this a church that is willing to kick me out?
10. Is this a church that I'm willing to join "AS IS" with enthusiasm and faith in God?

## Welcome Class 4

### Membership Matters

#### Expectations

- Plugged into the life of the church
- Involved in a Small Group (Community)
- Seeking ways to serve the church (Servants)
- Engaging the community with the Gospel (Mission)

#### Community (Body of Believers) Hebrews 10:24-25

- Unified in Belief and Purpose
- Meeting regularly together
- Accountable to each other
  - Authentic and confessing of sin
  - Open to rebuke that point us back to Christ
  - Removal if UNrepentant –Matthew 18:15-20

#### Servants

- Church is not a consumer community
- “The greatest among you will be called Servant.”
- Contribute (Steward) - 1 Peter 4:10
  - Physically, Spiritually, Emotionally, Financially
  - Community(Body) that functions NOT a few

#### Mission

- Church is the HOPE of the WORLD - Colossians 1:25-29
- Sent in the World - John 20:21
- Ambassadors of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
- Saints are equipped for the Ministry -Ephesians 4:12
- Usher in the “End” - Matthew 24:14

## Written Testimony

- Do you have a testimony -time and story of meeting Jesus
- Helps to glory in Jesus and humble our hearts
- Equips us to share with the World

## Testimony (No Neutral with Jesus) 3 Easy Parts

- My life before Jesus
- How I met Jesus
- My life now that I am walking with Jesus