

Sunday Morning – April 6th, 2024

Welcome To
The New Testament Baptist Church

Current Series
Bible Doctrine

Today's Message
Church Membership
Matthew 16:18

Pastor Jack

Introduction

- Many seem to be against “organized” religion
 - Indeed, “organized” religion has done much harm
- A play on words
 - We do not “have” church
 - We attend a church meeting
 - Church is not something you do
 - Church is something you join

- You must be saved before you could ever be a church member
 - We believe in a regenerate church membership
- You are born-again into God's kingdom
 - Being born-again doesn't make you a church member
 - There is a difference between the kingdom and the church

What Is A Church?

- “Church” – 114 times in the New Testament
 - Defn. – A people called out or an assembly
 - To be an assembly is must be local
 - Cannot be local and universal
- The church’s (plural) were at...
 - Thessalonica, Laodicea, Ephesus, Galatia, Philadelphia.....
 - The very meaning of the word church implies organization
 - Each church is a local body of believers

Jesus Christ Founded His Church

- Matt. 16:18 – “I will build my church..”
 - Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone
- **Isaiah 40:3**
 - This was a prophecy about John the Baptist
 - **Matthew 11:7-11**
 - What did John do to prepare the way before Jesus?
 - **Matt. 3:1-6**
 - **I Cor. 12:28**

Jesus Teaches Us to be Church Members

- A candlestick represents the church – Rev. 1:20
 - This pictures the church holding up the light
 - **Matt. 5:14-16**
 - You cannot shine as much on your own
- Paul did not work apart from the church
- Our gifts and talents are best used when supported by the church

“I know there are some who say, “Well, I’ve given myself to the Lord, but I don’t intend to give myself to any church.” I say, “Now why not?” And they answer, “Because I can be just as good a Christian without it.” I say, “Are you quite clear about that? You can be as good a Christian by disobedience to your Lord’s commands as by being obedient? There’s a brick. What is the brick made for? It’s made to build a house. It is of no use for the brick to tell you that it’s just as good a brick while it’s kicking about on the ground by itself, as it would be as part of a house. Actually, it’s a good-for-nothing brick. So, you rolling stone Christians, I don’t believe that you’re answering the purpose for which Christ saved you. You’re living contrary to the life which Christ would have you live and you are much to blame for the injury you do.” ~ C.H. Spurgeon

The Ordinances Are Found in the Church

- **Matthew 28:18-19**
- Water baptism is a church ordinance
 - **Acts 2:41**
 - When you are baptized by this body then you become a member of this church
- The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance
 - **Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:13,16; Luke 22:14**
 - Only members in good standing of that body are to take the Lord's Supper
- The ordinances in the O.T. were “the ordinances of the house of the LORD.” (Ezek. 44:5)

The Church Has a Divine Commission

- We “go” under the command and authority of Jesus Christ
 - The commission did not start with the reformation
- A never-ending commission
 - **Eph. 3:21**
 - The Lord’s churches were here before the reformation

The Church...

- provides you with daily and weekly fellowship
- warns and encourages you
- helps hold you accountable
- provides a place for your gifts to be exercised
- helps protect you from heresy
- guides you to godly living
- spiritually ministers to your family
- helps you when you are spiritually, emotionally, physically or financially in need
- is the pillar and ground of the truth in your area.
- disciplines you when you develop a sinful lifestyle.

These are just a few of the benefits of
belonging to a good local church