

REAL WITH OTHERS: CHURCH DEFINITION

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35 ESV

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

Church is the _____ not the _____

WHAT PEOPLE?

All the people who believe in Jesus, love Jesus, worship Jesus and trust and live according to His work and Word

_____ **Church:** All _____: Past, Present and Future

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18 ESV**

...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 3:10 ESV**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. **Ephesians 5:25 ESV**

And [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **Colossians 1:18 ESV**

_____ **Church:** Specific Group of These People

New Testament Letters Written to Specific _____

The context for "one Another" and "You" or "Your All"

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **Acts 8:1 ESV**

NEW HOPES' DEFINITION OF CHURCH

**A Localized Community Of _____ Believers Committed To One Another
And _____ Of God Who Gather Regularly With Recognizable
_____, Practice The Two Ordinances And Function As A _____
And _____.**

BIBLICAL IMAGE OF THE CHURCH¹

_____ of God (OT – Israel, God’s Chosen People)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **1 Peter 2:9 ESV**

Not everyone is part of God’s people

God’s promises are for God’s people

_____ of the Holy Spirit

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own... **1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV**

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **Ephesians 3:6 ESV**

Garden of Eden – Temple

Tabernacle – Temple

Holy of Holies – Temple

Gentiles – Temple

_____ of Christ

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **Ephesians 5:23 ESV**

STRUCTURE: (The Bible prescribes how the Church should be led)

Two Types Of Leaders Described In The New Testament

Elders: _____ of the church

In NT – Overseer, Pastor and Bishop

_____ - caring for Christians & teaching, exhortation of the Word

_____ - leading and managing the church

_____ - rule and protect the church

Deacons: _____ in overseeing and caring for Christians

Can be men or women

At New Hope – “Minister”

Members

WHY WE PAY PASTORS

Scriptural

Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. **1 Corinthians 9:6-12 ESV**

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

1 Timothy 5:17-18 ESV

Practical

Working a full-time job and being a pastor is _____, but not always _____.

MEMBERSHIP

Why Church Membership?

NT _____ that Christians are members of a local church

Love requires _____

As the Body of Christ: (we need to ask ourselves 2 questions)

What part am I?

What body am I a part of?

There is no _____ without _____

What Do We Mean By “Membership” At New Hope?

By becoming a member of New Hope, you make a covenant to _____ yourself with New Hope, _____ to its mission and vision, _____ to its leadership and love its members.

¹ Taken from Millard Erickson, Christian Theology, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 1045-1051