

# THE CENTRALITY OF THE CHURCH

In God's Plan for this Age

## Overview of Messages from January – May 2010

### INTRODUCTION

*Theological Conviction*

*Spiritual Development*

### THE CENTRALITY OF THE CHURCH

*The Bold Declaration*

*The Purposeful Dedication*

*The Planned Dissemination*

### APPLIED TO BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

*Values*

*Vision*

*Vehicles*

### THE CHALLENGES BEFORE THE CHURCH

### THE AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH

### THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

### THE CHURCH AS REVEALED IN THE WORD

### CORE VALUES

*From Acts*

*From Paul's Letters*

*Activities of Saints*

*Activities of Servants*

*Activities of Shepherds*

*Leadership Development*

*Leadership in God's Household*

### VISION

### VEHICLES

**JANUARY 17, 2010**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES**

### **Theological Conviction**

- Dispensation of Grace—*Ephesians 3:2, 9-10*
- Stewardship / Administration
  - The management of a household or of household affairs
  - Specifically, the management, oversight & administration of others' property; the office of a manager or overseer, stewardship: Luke 16:2-4

### **Spiritual Development**

- Growth in the Lord
  - Personal life
  - Life's work
    - September 1991—January 2010
      - ⇒ 19 years of ministry as an elder, shepherd, overseer

## **THE CENTRALITY OF THE CHURCH**

- *The Bold Declaration*
- *The Purposeful Dedication*
- *The Planned Dissemination*

### **The Bold Declaration**

- I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock *I will build My church*; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (Matt. 16:18)
  - Building
  - Programs / Activities
  - Worship
  - People

### **The Purposeful Dedication**

- *Luke 24:44-49*
- *Matt. 28:18-20*
- *Eph. 2:20*
- *Acts 1:6-11*

### **The Planned Dissemination**

- The Kerygma
  - Gospel
- The Didache
  - Instruction for believers concerning new life in Christ
  - Organizing of believers into local communities of faith
  - Establishing believers in the faith
  - Developing leadership for the future of the faith

## APPLIED TO BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

### Values

- The core beliefs that motivate us
- Why do we do what we do?

### Vision

- That which we see
- What are we going to do?

### Vehicles

- The way to get where we see
- How do we get there?

### An Illustration

- Secular society
- The building program
  - Values
    - The facilities
  - Vision
    - The new facilities
  - Vehicles
    - The building program

## SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING THE SERIES

- Provide you with an opportunity for clarification of a statement or thought that was shared on Sunday morning.
- Provide you with questions for consideration that will allow you to engage in a discussion over the particular topic that was studied on Sunday morning

**JANUARY 24, 2010**

### WILLIAM LYON PHELPS

*“Everyone who has a thorough knowledge of the Bible may truly be called educated; and no other learning or culture, no matter how extensive or elegant, can, among Europeans and Americans, form a proper substitute. Western civilization is founded upon the Bible; our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals, come more from the Bible than from all other books put together. It is a revelation of divinity and of humanity; it contains the loftiest religious aspiration along with a candid representation of all that is earthly, sensual and devilish. I thoroughly believe in a university education of both men and women; **but I believe knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible.**”*

## **CHALLENGES BEFORE THE CHURCH**

### *Rejection of Absolute Truth*

- All truth claims are -

### *Rejection of Metanarrative*

- There is no comprehensive explanation

### *Deconstruction of Language*

- Ultimately the meaning of the text is

## **JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791)**

*"I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book."*

## **THE AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH**

⇒ *How will we define the faith?*

⇒ *How will we live the faith?*

⇒ *These are important questions concerning authority in the church today.*

⇒ *These have been important questions in the history of the church.*

⇒ *We believe that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice.*

## **THE AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH**

### **The Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice.**

- 2 Timothy 3:16

⇒ *The source of authority*

- Revelation
  - Inspired: Of the Scriptures as communication that has been ordained by God's authority and produced by the enabling of His Spirit; strictly God-breathed.
  - External evidence does not validate the Scriptures; God's existence certifies that His word is true.

⇒ *The benefits of authority*

Teaching = Learning

Discipline = Learning

Training = Learning

### **The Bible's authority is self-attesting**

⇒ *Negatively*

- The Bible does not contradict itself
- The Bible does not criticize itself

-

⇒ Positively

- The Bible speaks to its own authority
- The Bible cannot appeal to a higher authority than God
- If the Bible must appeal to a higher authority, then the Bible is subordinate to that authority.

**The Holy Spirit Provides Conviction of the Bible's authority**

⇒ Illumination is the internal witness of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer

**APPLICATION:**

- We should approach the Word with a submissive attitude.
  - We should approach the Word with an intention to learn.
- We believe that the Bible has the right to demand our obedience, influence or command our thoughts, shape our opinions and require righteous behavior.

**JANUARY 31, 2010 - AM**

**THE AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH**

**THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE**

Definition of the Clarity of Scripture

- The central message of the Bible is clear and understandable, and the Bible itself can be properly interpreted in a normal, literal sense.
- The Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.
- "The Bible is a plain book."
- "Scripture is clear about what it is about."

Scriptural Basis for the Clarity of Scripture

- 2 Peter 1:19-21
- Deut. 6:4-7
- Psalm 119:10

Implications of the Clarity of Scripture

- The Bible is clear enough for believers to live by.
- A believer must use the ordinary laws of language to understand the Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit illuminates the mind of the believer to understand the meaning of a text.
- The unsaved do have intellectual abilities to understand the plain meaning of Scripture.
- In the Word, the moral and spiritual abilities are mentioned as opposed to the intellectual abilities.
  - James 1:5-6
  - 1 Cor. 2:14

### Confusion Concerning the Clarity of Scripture

- There is no longer a need for interpretation, explanation and exposition by a Bible teacher.
- All Scripture is equally clear as to its precise meaning.
- The teaching of Scripture is everywhere equally simple.
  - There is a difference between clarity and simplicity.

### Challenges to the Clarity of Scripture

- In the World
- In the Church
  - The clarity of Scripture does not guarantee nor does it imply that all believers will agree on all the teaching of Scripture.

### Challenges to the Clarity of Scripture

- The clarity of Scripture does tell us that the problems believers might encounter lie not with the text of Scripture but with ourselves.

### Practical Considerations from the Clarity of Scripture

Why might we encounter misunderstanding or disagreements over Scripture?

- Lost people
- Sin in the life of a believer
  - Acts 5:1-11; Galatians 2:11-15; 1 John 1:5-7
- Lack of faith by a believer
  - Luke 24:25
- The need for more Revelation
  - John 12:16; John 16:12-15
- The need for growth
  - John 12:16
- An incorrect interpretation of the Scriptures
  - Lexical-Syntactical Analysis
  - Historical-Cultural Analysis
  - Theological Analysis
  - Literary Analysis
  - Comparison with other interpreters

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

Please consider the following questions this afternoon to help prepare you for participation in our discussion tonight.

- What are some of the changes that have taken place in American society over the last 100 years? The past 55 years?
- What is distinctive about BBC? What are the values that determine this distinction(s)?
- Of the following, how would you characterize BBC:
  - ⇒ A growing church?
  - ⇒ A plateaued church?
  - ⇒ A church in decline?
- What are some of the ways BBC has handled the many changes that have taken place in American society?

- ⇒ What is changing?
- ⇒ What is not changing?
- ⇒ Are our values changing?

- Do you know the core values of BBC? If so, what are the core values of BBC?

**JANUARY 31, 2010 - PM**

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- Are there any questions from the Sunday morning message that need clarification or further explanation?
- What are some of the changes that have taken place in American society over the last 100 years? The past 55 years?

**100 Years Ago (1909):**

- A postage stamp 2 cents
- 1.7 billion people were in the world
- Life expectancy was 47 years old
- Only 14% of homes had bath tubs
- Only 8% of homes had telephones
- There were only 8,000 cars on the road with 144 miles of paved road (10 mph in cities)
- Average wage was 22 cents (\$200-\$400 per year)
- More than 95% of births took place at home
- 90% of all doctors had no college education
- Eggs cost 14 cents a dozen
- Coffee was 15 cents a pound
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo
- Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write
- Only 6% of all Americans had a high school education
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day

**None of the following had been invented yet:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crossword puzzles</li> <li>• Canned drinks</li> <li>• Iced tea</li> <li>• Zippers</li> <li>• Tinkertoys</li> <li>• Toasters</li> <li>• Band-aids</li> <li>• Hair Dryers</li> <li>• Wheaties</li> <li>• Traffic Lights</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tupperware</li> <li>• Sun Glasses</li> <li>• Ballpoint pens</li> <li>• Monopoly</li> <li>• Shopping Carts</li> <li>• Duct Tape</li> <li>• Disposable diapers</li> <li>• Velcro</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**55 Years Ago (1955):**

- Average cost of a new house - \$10,950.00
- Average monthly rent - \$87.00

- Average yearly wages - \$4,130.00
- Minimum hourly wage - \$1.00
- Average cost of a new car - \$1,900.00
- Cost of a gallon of gas – 23 cents
- Black and White TV - \$99.99
- “In God We Trust” is added to our currency
- African American Rosa Parks is arrested after refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person
- First pocket transistor radios available
- Fish fingers are marketed by Bird’s Eye
- Ray Kroc starts the McDonald’s fast food restaurant chain
- Velcro is invented in Switzerland
- First Guinness Book of World Records published
- “The Mickey Mouse Club” debuts on ABC
- GM employed 624,000 Americans
- In the copy of the 1955 GM Annual report, it showed that only 27 cents of every dollar of revenue was paid to employees.
- GM market share peaked at 54% in 1954, the same year they sold their 50 millionth automobile.

What is distinctive about BBC? What are the values that determine this distinction(s)?

Of the following, how would you characterize BBC:

- ⇒ A growing church?
- ⇒ A plateaued church?
- ⇒ A church in decline?

**FEBRUARY 14, 2010 - AM**

THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

THE CLARITY OF THE WORD

THE CHURCH AS REVEALED IN THE WORD

-

**The New Testament**

- Historical Narrative
  - The life of Christ
    - The Gospels
  - The life after Christ
    - The Acts of the Apostles
- The Letters
  - ⇒ Paul
  - ⇒ Peter
  - ⇒ Jude
  - ⇒ James
  - ⇒ ? Hebrews
  - ⇒ John

- Prophecy
  - ⇒ The Revelation of John

### **The Acts of the Apostles**

- The historical record of the birth and subsequent growth of the church.
- The book of Acts provides us with the factual legacy of the early church.
- Luke's intent as he wrote the book of Acts
  - Luke 1:1-4
  - Acts 1:1-2
- Luke's history of the Church in Acts
  - Acts 1:1-6:7: Jerusalem
  - Acts 6:8-9:31: Judea & Samaria
  - Acts 9:32-12:24: Antioch
  - Acts 12:25-16:5: Asia Minor
  - Acts 16:6-19:20: Aegean Area
  - Acts 19:21-28:31: Rome

### **The Question**

- From the 6 sections of Luke's history of the church in the book of Acts, can we discern a pattern that Christ used to build His Church?

**FEBRUARY 14, 2010 – PM**

### **CORE VALUES:**

What are some of the ways BBC has handled the many changes that have taken place in American society?

- ⇒ What is changing?
- ⇒ What is not changing?
- ⇒ Are our values changing?

Do you know the core values of BBC? If so, what are the core values of BBC?

Why is it important that a church have constant values?

- Does this mean that a church should never change its values?
- Under what circumstances might they change?
- How should they change?

What are core values?

- What they are not
  - Core values are not vision
    - Vision concentrates on "what are we going to do"
    - Values are "why do we do what we do"
  - Core values are not vehicles
    - Vehicles are "how are we going to do it" (strategies)
      - A method to accomplish a vision
  - Core values guide us in the decision to choose a particular method

- What they are

- Core values are the constant, passionate and sacred beliefs that anchor ministry to the Truth

Examination of our definition of core values:

- Core values are constant
  - Steady, stable, firm, secure
    - Society changes
    - How does the church respond to the change?
      - Discard new evidence
      - Discard old evidence
      - Evaluate evidence
        - Evaluate what is known to the new information

### **The Challenge with Change**

**Knowing how to discern good change from bad,**

**Knowing what change will help ministry and what will hurt it.**

**What should or should not change.**

- Core values are passionate
  - Core values touch the heart and elicit strong emotion (care deeply for and feel strongly about)
  - Values are intellectual. Core values add a component that affects us.
    - Acts 4:32
- Core values are sacred beliefs
  - Beliefs are either secular or sacred
  - The difference is the source of the belief
    - The core beliefs (values) of believers find their source in Scripture
      - God is True
      - Jesus Christ is Truth
      - God does not change
      - God's Word is Truth
        - James 1:17
        - John 14:6
        - John 17:3
        - John 17:17
- Core values are essential parts of a philosophy of ministry
- Core values provide an internal structure for ministry
  - Decisions about ministry
  - Goal setting in ministry
  - Conflict resolution within ministry
  - Commitment to ministry
  - Taking risk through ministry
  - Priorities of ministry

- Identification of core values
  - Acts 2:42-47 – Prayer – Breaking Break – Apostles Teaching - Fellowship

### **The Question**

- From the 6 sections of Luke's history of the church in the book of Acts, can we discern a pattern that Christ used to build His Church?

**MARCH 7, 2010 – PM**

### **CORE VALUES**

- From the six sections of Luke's history of the Church in the Book of Acts, can we discern a pattern that Christ used to build His Church?
- Can we find some "core values" of the early Church as revealed by Luke in the Book of Acts?

### **CORE VALUES FROM ACTS**

- The Gospel
  - ⇒ Acts 3:15; 4:33; 8:4; 10:40; 13:32; 14:7; 16:10; 17:18
- The Instruction in the Faith of New Believers
  - ⇒ Acts 2:42; 5:42; 11:23, 11:26; 14:21-22; 15:35-36; 18:11; 28:31

### **SUMMARY**

- Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Instruction of New Believers
  - Discipleship

**MARCH 14, 2010 – AM**

### **CORE VALUES FROM ACTS**

- The Gospel
- The Instruction of New Believers
- The Organization of Believers into Local Churches
  - ⇒ Jerusalem
    - Acts 2:44; 6:1; 11:30
  - ⇒ Damascus
    - Acts 9:19
  - ⇒ Syria
    - Acts 15:23
  - ⇒ Paul's Missionary Journeys
    - Acts 14:21; 16:2; 20:7; 20:17
- The Establishment of Believers

⇒ To Strengthen: To cause someone to become stronger in the sense of more firm & unchanging in attitude or belief.

- Acts 14:22
- Acts 15:22
- Acts 15:41
- Acts 18:23

### **CORE VALUES FROM ACTS**

- Thus far in our study of core values from the Book of Acts...

⇒ What comparisons can you make between the core values of the early church and Bethany? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?

⇒ Would you characterize these core values as a strength of Bethany? As a weakness of Bethany? Please explain.

**MARCH 14, 2010 – PM**

### **CORE VALUES FROM ACTS**

- **The Gospel**
- **The Instruction of New Believers**
- **The Organization of Believers into Local Churches**
- **The Establishment of Believers**

- **The Development of Leadership**

⇒ Acts 4:13

How did Jesus develop the Apostles?

- Taught them
- Mentored them
- Modeled for them

⇒ Acts 11:25

⇒ Acts 13:3

⇒ Acts 14:23

⇒ Acts 16:3

⇒ Acts 20:17-35

**MARCH 21, 2010**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- Paul's Early Letters
- Paul's Prison Letters
- Paul's Farewell Letters

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S EARLY LETTERS**

- ⇒ Galatians
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Corinthians
- ⇒ Romans
  
- ⇒ **2 Thessalonians**
  - Written shortly after the 1st letter
  - Paul continues to establish the Saints
  
- ⇒ **1 Corinthians**
  - Written from Ephesus
  - Paul continues to organize the Saints
  - Paul continues to instruct the Saints
  - Paul continues to establish the Saints
  - Paul continues to develop leadership
  - Paul continues to defend the Gospel
  
- ⇒ **2 Corinthians**
  - Written from Macedonia
  - Paul continues to defend the Gospel
  - Paul continues to instruct the Saints
  - Paul continues to establish the Saints
  
- ⇒ **Romans**
  - Written from Corinth
  - Paul explains the Gospel
  - Paul continues to establish the Saints

**APPLICATION:**

- Core values from Acts
- Core values from Paul's Early Letters

**MARCH 28, 2010 - AM**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S PRISON LETTERS**

- ⇒ Ephesians
- ⇒ Colossians
- ⇒ Philemon
- ⇒ Philippians

⇒ **Ephesians**

- The letter was not written to address a particular problem or false teaching.
- The letter was written to instruct and establish believers in the faith.
- The theme of the letter is the church being the body of Christ
  - Christ is the Head of the Body
  - The body is composed of Jews and Gentiles who have believed the Gospel
  - The church is a new community purchased by Christ to carry out the purpose of God

⇒ **Colossians**

- The letter was written to primarily stabilize this church doctrinally
- The church was being affected by heretical teaching of asceticism, Jewish legalism and Greek philosophical mysticism

⇒ **Philemon**

- A personal letter by Paul to his brother in the faith, Philemon.
- The letter was written in order to intercede for a slave who had accepted the Gospel
- The slave's name was Onesimus

⇒ **Philippians**

- The letter was written to thank the Philippians believers for sending a financial gift
- The letter affirms the preaching of the Gospel despite difficult circumstances
- The leading thought of this letter is joy & gratitude
- An underlying issue in the church was selfishness

**APPLICATION FROM THE PRISON LETTERS:**

- The Gospel
- The Instruction of New Believers
- The Organization of Believers into Local Churches
- The Establishment of Believers

**APRIL 11, 2010**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- **Paul's Early Letters**
- **Paul's Prison Letters**
- **Paul's Farewell Letters**

- ⇒ 1 Timothy
- ⇒ Titus
- ⇒ 2 Timothy

⇒ **1 Timothy**

- Written from Macedonia
  - Leaves Rome after 1st imprisonment and travels to Ephesus
  - Arrives at Ephesus and Timothy joins him
  - Paul travels to Macedonia and leaves Timothy in Ephesus

- Theme
  - Household
    - As a place for habitation;
      - Literally, house, home dwelling
        - Physical Structure
        - Social Structure (family)
      - Figuratively, as the members of God's family household
      - An emphasis on how God has ordered the affairs within His Home (the Church)
- 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 3:14-15; 4:6, 11, 16; 6:2, 12-14
- The Activities of Saints in God's Household
  - Men: Pray
  - Women
    - Adorn yourselves with good works
    - Learn about the faith
    - Limit for teaching the faith

⇒ **1 Timothy**

- The Activities of Saints in God's Household
  - Generational Relationships
    - Older Men                      Younger Men
    - Older Women                  Younger Women
  - Widows
  - Wealthy Saints
- The Leadership of Shepherds in God's Household
- The Position of Servants in God's Household

<b>SHEPHERDS</b>	<b>SERVANTS</b>
<b>Desire</b>	No Mention of Desire
<b>Character</b>	<b>Character</b>
Above reproach	Beyond reproach
Temperate	
Prudent	
Respectable	
Hospitable	
Not addicted to wine	Not addicted to much wine
Not pugnacious	
Free from the love of money	Not fond of sordid gain
Gentle	
Uncontentious	
<b>Able to Teach</b>	No Mention of Teaching
<b>Home</b>	<b>Home</b>
Manage the home = Manage the church	Manage the home

<b>Spiritual</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
Not a new convert	Holding the mystery of the faith
	First to be "tested"
<b>Outsiders: Good reputation</b>	Not mentioned

- There is no mention of the type of work for the servants of the church
- There is mention of the responsibility shepherds have in the church

**APRIL 18, 2010 - AM**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- **Paul's Early Letters**
- **Paul's Prison Letters**
- **Paul's Farewell Letters** (1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy)

⇒ **1 Timothy**

- **Theme:** Household—An emphasis on how God has ordered the affairs within His home (the church)

- **The Activities of Saints in God's Household**

- **The Activities of Servants (Deacons) in God's Household**

- The NT translates the word "Deacon" in various ways

- \* Servant
- \* Minister
- \* Deacon

- The usage of the word "Deacon" in the New Testament

- \* Practical Sense: Matt. 25:44
- \* Financial Sense: Acts 11:29
- \* Waiting on Tables: John 12:2; Acts 6:2
- \* By Jesus: Mark 10:43-45
- \* By Paul: 2 Cor. 4:1; Romans 12:7

- Qualifications for Servants

- There is no specific mention of the type of work for the Servants of the church

- \* The Verb

- Generally, of services of any kind; to serve

- \* The Noun

- Generally, service
- Generally, of a person who renders helpful service, servant, helpers

- \* The needs within local churches change over time

- What was a need in the early church may not be a need in the 21st century church

- \* Acts 6:1-7

- The situation in the church

- The concern for the church
- The support within the church
- The witness through the church

**APRIL 18, 2010 - PM**

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

⇒ Thus far in our study, what are your thoughts concerning the 5 core values as outlined?

- The Gospel
- Instruction of Believers
- Organization of Believers
- Establishment of Believers
- Development of Leadership

⇒ Since you have been at Bethany, would you say that these 5 core values have been our core values? Please explain.

⇒ What might be the benefit of writing down our core values?

⇒ What would be our obligation to those core values we write down?

**APRIL 25, 2010**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- Paul's Early Letters
- Paul's Prison Letters
- Paul's Farewell Letters (1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy)

⇒ **1 Timothy:**

- **Theme—1 Timothy 3:14-15:** Household—An emphasis on how God has ordered the affairs within His home (the church)

- ***The Activities of Saints in God's Household***
- ***The Activities of Servants (Deacons) in God's Household***
- ***The Activities of Shepherds in God's Household***

- **The terms:** *shepherd, elder and overseer*

- \* Acts 20:17, 28
- \* 1 Peter 5:1-4
- \* Titus 1:5-7
- \* 1 Tim. 3:1; 5:17

- **To protect their character**

- \* 1 Timothy 4:6

- \* 1 Timothy 4:16
- \* 1 Timothy 6:11
- \* 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- To be an example for the brethren
  - \* 1 Timothy 4:12
  - \* 1 Timothy 3:1-3
  - \* 1 Timothy 5:19-27
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:22
- To teach sound doctrine
  - \* 1 Timothy 1:5
  - \* 1 Timothy 4:16
  - \* Titus 2:15
  - \* 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- To rebuke false teachers
  - \* Titus 1:10-11
  - \* 1 Timothy 1:3
  - \* 1 Timothy 1:18-20
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- To correct false teaching
  - \* 1 Timothy 1:3-8
  - \* 1 Timothy 6:20-21
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:14-19
  - \* Titus 3:8-11
- To do the work of an evangelist
  - \* 2 Timothy 1:8-12
  - \* 2 Timothy 4:5
- To manage the assembly
  - \* 1 Timothy 3:1
  - \* 1 Timothy 5:17
- To develop elders, shepherds, overseers for the assembly
  - \* 1 Timothy 3:14-15
  - \* 1 Timothy 4:14-15 / Acts 16:1-2
  - \* 2 Timothy 3:10-17
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- ***The Activities of Shepherds in God's Household***
  - To protect their character
  - To be an example
  - To teach sound doctrine
  - To rebuke false teachers
  - To correct false teaching
  - To do the work of an evangelist

- To manage the assembly
- To develop leaders for (the assembly)

**May 16, 2010**

**CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- **Paul's Early Letters**
- **Paul's Prison Letters**
- **Paul's Farewell Letters** (1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy)

⇒ **1 Timothy:**

- **Theme—1 Timothy 3:14-15:** Household—An emphasis on how God has ordered the affairs within His home (the church)

- ***The Activities of Shepherds in God's Household***

- To protect their character
- To be an example for the Brethren
- To teach sound doctrine
- To rebuke false teachers
- To correct false teaching
- To do the work of an evangelist
- To manage the assembly
- To develop elders, shepherds, overseers for the assembly
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:1-2
  - \* 2 Timothy 2:14-19
  - \* 2 Timothy 3:10-17
  - \* Titus 1:5-9
  - \* 1 Timothy 3:1-7
  - \* 1 Timothy 5:17-25

- ***Leadership Development from 1 & 2 Timothy***

- Character
  - \* Who the man is
- Ministry
  - \* What the man does
- Academic
  - \* What the man knows
- Assessment
  - \* Recognition of the man

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- *How were elders, shepherds, overseers developed as leaders in the New Testament era?*
- *How are elders, shepherds, overseers developed as leaders today?*

- *Is the degree system an adequate anchor for effective leadership development of elders, shepherds, overseers today?*
- *What happens to the shape and orientation of leadership development if it shifts from a church-driven (pastoral) tradition to the academy (academic) tradition?*

### **CORE VALUES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS**

- The qualification for leadership should be based on a biblical criteria rather than primarily relying on measurements that focus on degrees (academics).
- Leadership development should be understood as gradually acquired as one proves faithful in the ministry, rather than something bestowed on someone as a result of graduating from an institution
- The assessment and recognition process of leaders should be church-based at its core, involving the local team of elders, shepherds and overseers and a local congregation.
- The assessment and recognition process should focus on a life-long process of leadership development rather than a "completion of training at graduation" mindset.

**May 23, 2010**

### **LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD:**

- **The terms shepherd, elder & overseer are used to refer to the same office:**

- ⇒ Acts 20:17, 28
- ⇒ 1 Peter 5:1-4
- ⇒ Titus 1:5-7
- ⇒ 1 Timothy 3:1; 5:17

- **The terms shepherd, elder & overseer are used in the plural:**

- ⇒ 1 Timothy 4:14 Presbytery

- As a group of elders functioning with administrative authority, body or council of elders
- In Jerusalem equivalent to the Sanhedrin
- In the Church a group or council of elders

- ⇒ Paul's Letters

- Philippians 1:1
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- 1 Timothy 5:17
- Titus 1:5

- ⇒ General Letters

- Hebrews 13:17
- James 5:14
- 1 Peter 5:1

- ⇒ Luke's Letter (Acts)

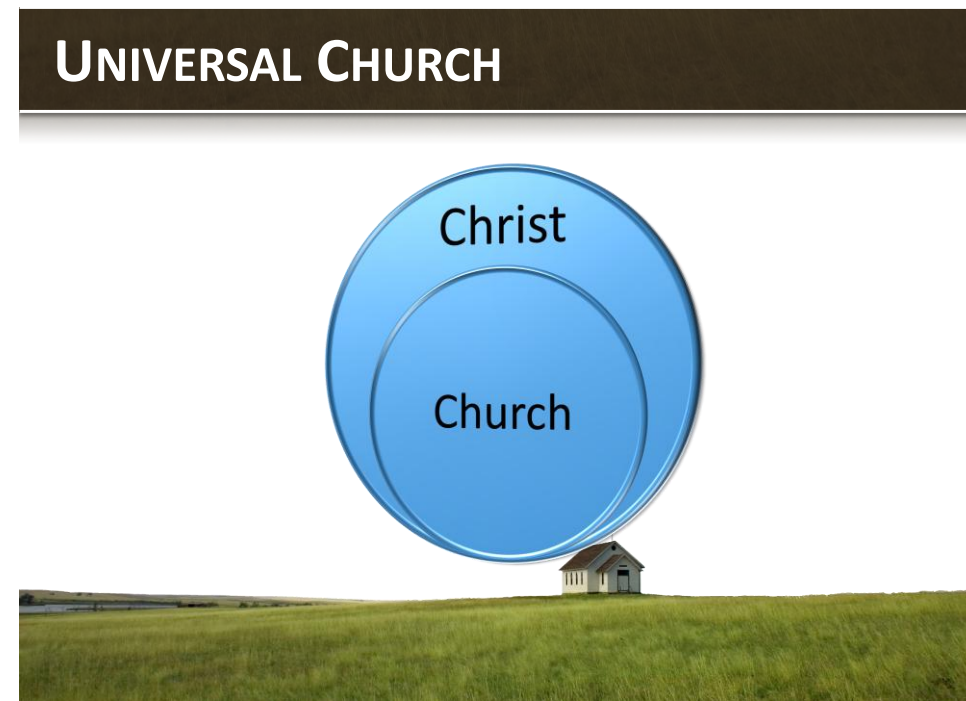
- Church at Jerusalem
  - \* Acts 11:30; 15:2, 4, 6, 22 & 23; 16:4; 21:18
- Church at Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch
  - \* Acts 14:21-23
- Church at Ephesus

\* Acts 20:17

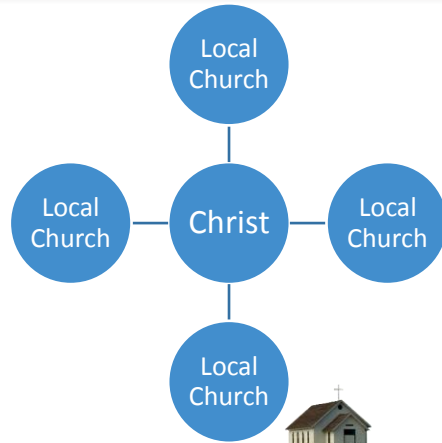
- How did the Church conceive of the pastorate as being just one man?
- How is leadership structure in God's household related to Church polity?

### LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

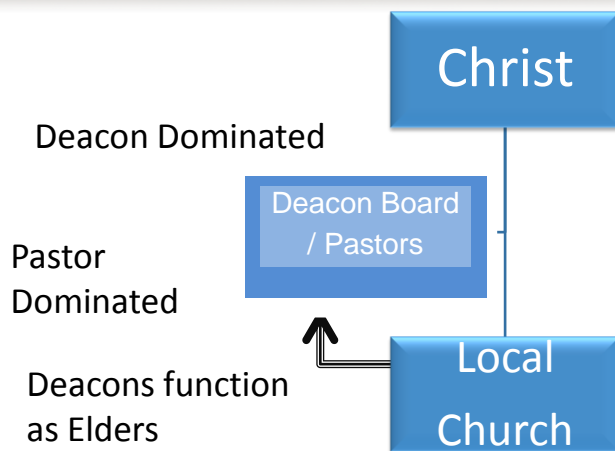
- *The forms of church polity (government)*
  - ⇒ Episcopal
  - ⇒ Presbyterian
  - ⇒ Congregational



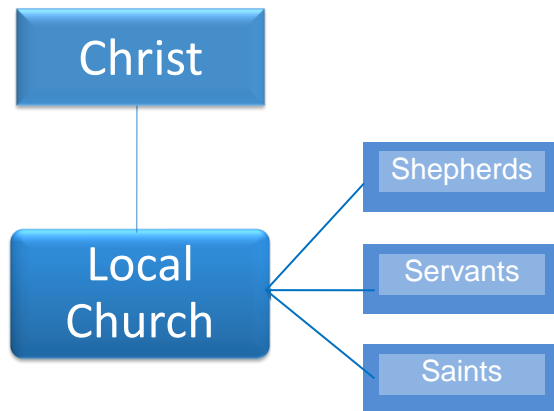
# LOCAL CHURCH



# SINGLE PASTOR



# PLURALITY OF PASTORS



**May 30, 2010**

## I. CORE VALUES

- The core beliefs that motivate us
- Why do we do what we do?

## II. VISION

- That which we see
- What are we going to do?

## III. VEHICLES

- The way to get where we see
- How do we get there?

## DEFINITION OF VISION

- A clear, challenging picture of the future of the ministry as you believe that it can and must be
  - ⇒ Clear                      Challenging                      Future
  - ⇒ Can be                      Must be                      Risk

## DESCRIPTION OF VISION

- Church Documents
  - ⇒ **Current Constitution**
    - General Introduction
      - \* Preamble
      - \* Church Covenant
    - Procedural Matters

- Doctrinal Statement
  - \* New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833)
    - Written by John Newton Brown
    - Milder form of the Philadelphia Baptist Confession of 1742

⇒ **Conceptual Constitution (3 Separate Booklets)**

- Doctrinal Statement
- Philosophy of Ministry
  - \* Core Values / Purpose or Mission
  - \* General / Specific
- Procedural Manual

**SKETCH OF VISION**

- A structure of ministry based upon Congregational Polity

⇒ **A Council of Pastors**

- Staff (Paid)
- Vocational (Unpaid)

⇒ **Task-Oriented Servants (Deacons)**

- A group w/ responsibility for property & vehicles
- A group w/ responsibility for “needs” of believers within the fellowship
- A group to assist in church activity needs

⇒ **Ministry Council**

- Leaders of the various ministries at Bethany
- Leaders’ responsibilities relate to their respective ministries
- Ministry Council would formulate a budget to present to the church at an annual meeting for adoption

**VEHICLES**

- To be determined from the newly-developed structure of ministry

- Bridge to a newly-structured ministry

⇒ **Write a Doctrinal Statement**

- A revision of current doctrinal statement

⇒ **Agree Upon a Set of Core Values**

⇒ **Write a Philosophy of Ministry**

⇒ **Write a Procedural Manual**

- Establish a committee

⇒ **Responsibility of the committee is to write the needed documents**

- The work of the committee is reviewed by the pastors and deacons
- The work of the committee is then reviewed by the congregation
- The work of the committee is voted on by members of Bethany

⇒ **Potentially, this process could take up to 2 years to complete.**