

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF
THE CHURCH” APPLIED
PT. 12

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CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:13

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Titus 1:9

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What is the concern in these passages?

- **Sound teaching**
- **Maintain everyday**
- **Stay true to what was given you**
- **We must be equipped for all God’s good work**
- **Something solid/foundational that you can live by**

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How does doctrinal/purpose drift take place? (what clues can you find in these passages)

- When can't take anymore, then “it's good enough”
- When can't understand what given, so need something that makes sense
- When so many problems, easy to look for a text that “works” rather than follow the point of the text
- When use our own moralism to reinvent wheel of daily Christianity
- Israelites clinging to God, measuring thing we think we need by whole counsel of God's word
- When God's commands get too hard
- Living God at center of His commands/will

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- 3. Find alternate purposes inside God’s purposes**

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The **WHY** leads to the **WHAT** which drives the **HOW**

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IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

- I. Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
- II. Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
- III. Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
- IV. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
- V. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

What is needed to head toward these five goals? What common character qualities/values lead to this focus/these goals?

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We must not focus on methods to fix why/what issues in our hearts/church until the why/what are FIRMLY established. Why not?

- Objects/tasks rather than relationship
- Morality/mission apart from God
- Progress without lasting benefit – aimless
- Why/what gives foundation for change at level of methods—without intentional focus on the foundation, the Method becomes Identity (the why/what)
- Absolute necessity to instill the foundation (why/what) to guide the methods
- Failure to focus on the why/what leaves us susceptible to false teaching which will often seem to merely be a disagreement about methods

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Helpful guidelines for diagnosing the effectiveness of methods seeking to accomplish God’s purposes for His people

1. Does this method show we are focusing on God, not us?

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CBCYG Goals

The Church is a group of people, **created and loved by God**, **tied by their relationship to God**, **originated by God but accepted individually**



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And coming to Him as to a living stone . . . **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. . . **for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD;** **1 Peter 2:4–5, 9-10**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, **20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling **of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22**

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14 For the body is not one member, but many.

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body.

1 Corinthians 12:14, 18-20

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If we all realize that the church is larger than us, and if most of us don't want to be known as selfish, **then how do methods end up producing a greater focus on me than on the “we”?**

- Past experience determining present
- What is MY take on group building
- Assuming God's Words + God's presence + God's power when we come to life & service
- because need for identity found in service
- Default is to look out for ourselves

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What would it take/what would be needed to avoid the pitfalls of me-centered methods driven by me-centered agendas/identities? Where should we focus more/less?

- More on God
- Others but still not looking far enough
- Focused on tie to relationship with God
- Love is from God & is to be our identify & work
- Prayer life tied to God’s word and people when we consider dreams & plans
- Focus less on problems & solutions, more on character and purposes of God when look at scripture
- Proof of I Cor. 2:4 demonstration of Spirit’s power
- Exposes roots beneath me-centered agendas – i.e. Fear
- Convictions while examined by others, will protect against “me”
- Think about pieces needed to build a reproducing eternal people

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2. Including all the pieces God cares about leads to some methods that will seemingly not initially “work” for you.

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- 2. Including all the pieces God cares about leads to some methods that will seemingly not initially “work” for you.**
- 3. Must think through an eternal lens to determine appropriate value.**

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While we should be able to get where God wants us to through a couple of different methods, **what would identify healthy “we” focused methods? OR What would show that we care more about “we” than “me” with our methods?**

- Allow others to speak into our life, so we can work with them, not against
- Planning should shift toward larger picture (include more people not less)
- Live Phil. 2 – can’t pray/care for one another if harboring resentment or if intimidated
- Methods that show life in/through Christ – that He is actively working, rather than our opinion on sermons & song
- Watch the Gospel gap
- Recognizing their/our choices matter to Him (i.e. What is out of line? Church discipline?) if can’t clarify this, then how do we know how to build up in the Lord
- Show up (this will make you care about why, what, who)

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- 2. Something that calls us to look farther.**
- 3. Something that fellowship with God allows us to grow to participate in with joyful obedience**

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- 2. Does this method show we are focusing on the “we,” not me?**
- 3. Does this method show we are focusing on the Task Assigned, not the Climate Desired?**

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I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14–15

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How would Ephesians 5:8-20 effect the choice of what we do at church, what we value, and perhaps even how often we do it?

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What will be the result of focusing more on the task assigned than the climate desired when we choose/evaluate methods for church life?

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- 3. Does this method show we are focusing on the Task Assigned, not the Climate Desired?**
- 4. Does this method lift up the Holy Spirit as its source of life, not merely the results?**