

**“The Skeleton and the Flesh of the Church” Applied Pt. 12**  
**CBC Congregational Update & Vision Meeting, April 26, 2023**

**II Tim. 1:13, II Tim. 3:10-17, Titus 1:9** Concerned about? How does doctrinal drift/purpose drift take place? (What clues can you find in these passages)? **1. Look for easiest natural path** (not persecuted—gets called reasonable, successful, “I get it”); **2. Pay more attention to what is right in front of you** (people, words, feelings) **rather than words/examples given from God** (ie. Strange New World vs. final sufficient trustworthy eternal Word); **3. Find alternate purposes inside true purposes**—come back to this; 12 part, only 2x a year but think so essential—dovetails w SS, putting these ideas into membership class—if lost, please ask for notes, main message is that it is **dangerous to ignore where we focus as church**; WHAT is our identity, our purpose (individually/together must be able to answer this) been working off the statement that the **why leads to the “what” driving the “how” the WHY? has already been determined** dividing line—God Himself—are you in fellowship with Him, under Him, or against Him, proved by being under someone/thing else; if He is the WHY, then HE determines the WHAT; (what are His goals/purposes) **IF** do NOTHING else together, Duty of People of God includes; **I. Worship God Together** Rom. 15:5-6 **II. Grow individually & corporately with a growth that comes from God** Eph. 4:15-16 **3. Protect/Defend the Name of God: His character and eternal purposes** II Tim. 1:13-14, verses telling what to do if people won’t stay in line w these doctrines **4. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, 25, Eph. 4 **5. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9; **What is needed to head toward these goals together? Must NOT focus on methods to fix why/what issues until the why/what are FIRMLY established; why not?** methods focus on what we do; we care very much about what we do; attitude, desire, care, precision all reveal where we are heading, what value; **if not clear on God’s why/what, we will choose methods that seem to be godly but will end with OUR why/what;** (food more than fellowship, friends who give/do/excite more than building co-workers in the gospel from real soul level relationships, expect people to affirm my thinking rather than examine my thinking, cover rather than expose character, put me in better light rather than consider how reflects on others/God Himself)—the methods must flow FROM the why/what—Happens piece by piece, slow/intentional; need couple of boundaries/guidelines to ask about our methods **1. Does this method show we are focusing on God, not us?** **2. Does this method show we are focusing on the “we,” not me?** Showed strange clip about how we try to FIT—looked to uncover presuppositions in clip, then looked at how we are supposed to build a “we” inside the church—for Christian, only ONE difference/ fitting in that matters; it is our WHY, in center of Youth Definition for Church **The Church is a group of people, created and loved by God, tied by their relationship to God, originated by God but accepted individually** PEOPLE—I Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10, church—place where living God dwells w His people Eph. 2:19-22 you have THIS, then you FIT; THIS identity must bleed through EACH church—THIS provides tie, place of belonging—otherwise—“accepted, but don’t quite fit” like video; **THIS identity is why general commands for all in how we act with one another in** Rom. 12, Eph. 4, Col. 3, Gal. 5—but all these passages focus on unity as well as showing diversity through that unity; **I Cor. 12:14, 18-20** THIS focus, THIS identity, **THIS common way of ALL behaving toward ALL Christians SO important that Rom. 13:11-14 focuses on urgency, and on ONE LINE that matters** (put on Lord Jesus Christ and make NO provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts); work through strong/weak—how define, how not leave behind, then comes to **Romans 15**; the forces that would pull people apart are SO great that disparate people have to go back to God’s Why, What OR quit; (interpersonal, backgrounds, focus for life and growth, cultural identities) **if all realize that church larger than us, most of us don’t want to be known as selfish, then how do methods end up producing a greater focus on me than we?** Must look past whether it works for you or not; **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?** **1. God must get what He desires more than us getting what we desire;** (involves CLEARLY being able to articulate what He values/wants); God, not you, God, not them, (NOT just about niceness, kindness, b/c goal NOT to give them something they desire) **2. Including all the pieces God cares about leads to some methods that will seemingly not initially “work” for you.** including all the pieces/people/times in history/personalities/attitudes/fears will make it seem impossible to get where God is calling us—therefore, some of methods won’t produce immediately noticeable results that you/others want; may include, but won’t be limited to methods that work for you **3. Must think through an eternal lens to determine appropriate value.** but ALL required to think through eternal rather than earthly Col. 3:1-3, Matt. 6 lay up treasure in heaven—**what does eternity do to this issue? What is God thinking about that I am not; valuing that I am not;** Even when start to collect these answers, both leaders and members need to think--**how are they not like me, what am I expecting of them,** what are THEY not seeing that you assume; what they not seeing that enables you to keep going—looking for a path forward, NOT necessarily path desired (ie. **Someone not getting math needs to have path forward even before always desire/love math**) NOW, **while we should be able to get where God wants us to through couple of different methods, what would identify healthy “we” focused methods? OR What would show we care more about “we” than “me” with methods?** **1. Something that includes you, but doesn’t necessarily “fit”** (unless you are totally sinless, Jn. 17 One w Trinity); **fits w God’s goals** **2. Something that calls us to look farther** (ie. When feels like “not working,” look beyond what it DOES for us—farther than personality, background, your emotions--annoy, make happy, change, remind; EVEN past—“they” are getting something; **looking only at you/them NOT far enough;** If THEY only growing because of their method, then NOT dependent on God alone for life, love, service, dependent on THAT method); **calls for God’s perspective/dependent on His**

**resources 3.** Something that fellowship with God allows us to grow to participate in with joyful obedience; (whether it works for us or not, able to turn it around a few times to see where it lives and support roots—ie. Looking to glorify God—what is glorifying God in this that I can look to do—glorify, shows by obedience, (this we have as ambition, whether through life/death to be pleasing to Him), but joyful (glorify God and enjoy HIM forever—this is eternal focus) His commandments are not burdensome; practically, **WATCH focus on sideshows** (yes, they need to wear clothes to church, yes, should be respectful, yes, should care for everyone in here, yes, should forgive, **but what is the common goal, hunger, purpose?** FOCUS THERE and on the God who gives it WHILE dealing w sideshow OR it becomes focus; **Watch what stand against**—told we face enemies—WHAT exactly IS the common enemy to guard against, what will bring us together instead of tear us apart (think covid, gluten, exact fix for government, how handle fantasy/mythology, how handle “in world but not of it” ARE THESE TRULY OUR COMMON ENEMIES/PLACES TO FOCUS?); **ALL this going through whatever method—God’s methods include not getting it, faster/slower than we want, etc. because must care about ALL He wants and ALL people He gives which complicates;** Much inherited—why slow to get rid of? b/c don’t have clear, articulated foundation in gospel, gospel purposes—slow to change OR change based on self/culture—but also, part of foundation “what received” **Look through current “how” at this church—where do you see attempts at these focuses, EVEN in things that you might see as “not a big deal”** and ask God for growing desire for fellowship w Him and dependence on Him so His

kingdom will come and His will be done is chief desire of our hearts! --Word prominent (all of it, not just “relevant parts to us”—how does what was relevant to them show us more about God and His program—(ie. Jim Ciraulo—when get truck in, not just problem, but give me history of the truck) (word prominent versus song, experience, etc., prayer—long prayer (some break into smaller prayers throughout—could); songs show more than us (some LIKE diff. ones—fine, part of it; but more, what does HE care about in song—lift HIM up, object of song—what includes people from past as well as people from around world today—focus NOT on us, but INCLUDES them/history

**1 Corinthians 12:14, 18-20** For the body is not one member, but many. <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body.

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

**2 Timothy 1:13** Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

**Titus 1:9** 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.

**1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

**2. Does this method show we are focusing on the Task Assigned, not the Climate Desired**