

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF
THE CHURCH” APPLIED
PT. 13

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
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

Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." H Richard Niebuhr

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
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

Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." H Richard Niebuhr

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
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

Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."

H Richard Niebuhr

How does doctrinal/purpose drift take place?

1. Look for the easiest natural path to life/success

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
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

Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."

H Richard Niebuhr

How does doctrinal/purpose drift take place?

1. Look for the easiest natural path to life/success

2. Pay more attention to what is right in front of you

(people, words, feelings) rather than words/examples from God's Word

"SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH" APPLIED PT. 13

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

Social gospel's message is that **"A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."**

H Richard Niebuhr

How does doctrinal/purpose drift take place?

1. Look for the easiest natural path to life/success

2. Pay more attention to what is right in front of you

(people, words, feelings) rather than words/examples from God's Word

3. Find alternate purposes inside God's purposes

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13

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?

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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?

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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?**
- 2. Does this method show we are focusing on the “We” more than the “Me”?**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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.

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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.

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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)

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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?

- 1. Something that includes you but doesn't necessarily “fit.”**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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?**

- 1. Something that includes you but doesn't necessarily “fit.”**
- 2. Something that calls us to look farther.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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?

- 1. Something that includes you but doesn't necessarily “fit.”**
- 2. Something that calls us to look farther.**
- 3. Something that fellowship with God allows us to grow to participate in with joyful obedience.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

Thoughts as you listen? What would it take to grow/head in this direction of methods that foster “we” more than “me”?

- Starting the conversation (methodology rather than individuals)
- What is my personal responsibility? Where am I focused?
- Begins with personal relationship with God (not just a horizontal “buy in”)
- Focus on common need in gospel (intentional w/ how what we “know” applies to our lives)
- Just because we know it’s true doesn’t mean we live it
- Watch looking for “answers”/fix in method – instead, look for what will help me persevere and grow with growth from God
- Baseline that this is someone else’s kingdom – Jesus come to people with a culture given by God and they still were being asked to change & grow instead of continuing like “God has already shown me”
- Be dubious about thinking that I already know this, how to build God’s Kingdom, then go back to what has been given
- Be willing to “show your papers” (God’s Word, history)
- Long-term impact, vision

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

How would Ephesians 5:8-21, Colossians 3:12-16 effect the choice of what we do at church, what we value, and perhaps even how often we do it?

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

**How does the Spirit work/produce the fruit of II Timothy 1:14,
Rom. 8:13, and Gal. 5:22-25?**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

How can the Holy Spirit’s accomplishing the work of John 16:5-15 and John 14:23-26 lead to the fruits of the Spirit?

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 13
CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

In light of these thoughts, what elements should be fostered in the public worship and life of the church which would lead toward allowing the Spirit to be the source of life, worship, and mission in the church?