The New Testament Church

Robert Harkrider · Series: **The New Testament Church**

INTRODUCTION

- Can the church really exist today as it was first established nearly 2,000 years ago?
- In the physical realm, seed reproduces after its own kind. Likewise, spiritual seed reproduces after its own kind.
- When the seed, the word of God is planted. What will be the result? I suggest unto you the result will be the New Testament church.

1 Only the New Testament as Its Creed

- It's the kind of church that has only the New Testament as its creed.
- When you find different kinds of creed books, you know they're filled with opinions of men.
- So everything that's not in the word of God needs to be discarded.
- We're called Christians, and not different kinds of Christians.

2 Its Organization: Christ the Head, Churches Independent

Matthew 28:18; Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1

- Jesus said in Matthew 28 and verse 18, All authority has been given unto me, both in heaven and in earth.
- In the New Testament, we read where there were elders in every church, Acts 14, 23.
- The word autonomous means self-governing. One church did not have authority over another church.
- You never find elders in one locality overseeing the work of several churches.

3 How Does It Worship?

Acts 20:7; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 16:2

- Prayer was one item of worship in the New Testament.
- We read in the New Testament, the disciples met on the first day of the week, Acts 20 and verse 7.
- On the first day of the week, we partake of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine as a memorial, a remembrance. Because that's what Christ instituted.
- Singing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord, Colossians 3 16. Singing and making melody in your heart, Ephesians 5 19.
- As every man purposeth in his own heart, let him give bountifully.

4 Its Mission Is a Spiritual Mission

1 Peter 2:5; Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 6

- What we read in the New Testament is that it has a spiritual mission.

- Ye also as living stones are built up into a spiritual house to offer a spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Christ Jesus.
- The church has that responsibility to build itself up by preaching the gospel that men might be saved, but then to build up the members that they may stay saved.
- The church can do the work God gave it to do. We do not need to build super or human institutions to do the work for churches.
- Whatever is the work for the church to do, God gave it an organization with elders and deacons that it can accomplish its own work.

5 Terms of Admission: How Do You Become a Member?

Romans 10:17; Acts 17:30; Galatians 3:26–27

- The scriptures never even say, in order to be saved, just say the sinner's prayer or just accept Christ.
- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
- The kind of faith that saves is a kind of faith that obeys, and so believers, true believers, are taught to repent of their sins.
- As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- When you're born again, you're added by the Lord into his family.

THE CHALLENGE

If you believe Jesus to be the Son of God, you're willing to repent of your sins, confess your faith in him, and be immersed into his death. We bid you to obey just that simple plan of salvation.

MY NOTES