The Pattern of the New Testament Church Part 1

Adam Willingham · 2 Timothy 1:13–14 · Series: **Pattern of New Testament Church**

INTRODUCTION

- In any sport, everything that you do is really built upon the basics.
- Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 What Is the Church

Acts 2:47; 1 Timothy 3:15

- The Greek word translated church is the word ecclesia that just means called out.
- As it applies to the Lord's church, we need to realize that the word never means a building.
- The word church never means a denomination, as it is commonly used today.
- The Lord's church is a body of saved individuals.

2 The Church Locally and the Church Universally

Matthew 16:18; Philippians 1:1; Acts 9:26–28

- Universal church is the sum of all the saved of all the world.
- The local church? Well, simply a group of saints who live at the same time in the same area who work and worship together.
- Who determines membership in the universal church? Well, it is God, it is the Lord who determines membership.
- It's possible to reject someone that the Lord accepts. In a local church, it's also possible to accept someone in a local church whom the Lord rejects.

3 A Work of the Church Is to Teach the Truth

1 Corinthians 9:14

- A work of the church is to teach the truth. The church is a pillar in support of the truth.
- This teaching is to be done to the saved as well as to the lost.
- Those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel.

4 Collective Spiritual Activities

Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2

- They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in prayers.
- In the Bible, fellowship is always a spiritual sharing. It never means coffee and donuts.

- The Lord's Supper is something we do on the first day of the week, and every week has a first day.
- Nowhere in the New Testament do we find singing with instruments.
- How does the church raise money? By free will offerings. Not by car washes and whatever. But by free will offerings on the first day of the week.

5 Financial Help of Needy Brethren

1 Corinthians 16:1; Romans 15:25–26; 1 Timothy 5

- Third work of the church is the financial help of needy brethren. This is what we mean when we say benevolence.
- It is saints, faithful brethren, that are to be helped with that money.
- The focus is on those who are needy Christians and who are faithful.

6 Corrective Discipline

Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:15

- Corrective discipline. That is a very important function of local churches that is often overlooked or just completely ignored.
- If he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.
- Do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. It's done in love, with a goal that they will repent.
- When they do, then we need to quickly and openly forgive and embrace that brother or sister.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you're not a Christian, you need to do what they did on Pentecost. You need to believe in the Lord and confess that belief. You need to repent of your sins and you need to be immersed.**

MY NOTES