



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside church of Christ Welcomes You!

July 20, 2014

“What Makes A Church Sound?” Part Two

Bryan Garlock

Sound words formulate sound doctrine. Sound doctrine builds sound churches. What is the measure of a sound church? It is not its size. It is not its location or its building. It is not the absence of mechanical instruments from its worship, or merely the rejection of subsidizing organizations foreign to scripture. It is easy to suggest what a sound church is NOT, but understanding what constitutes a sound church begs investigation. *Continued from last week's bulletin...*

A church can be scriptural, but scripturally unorganized. God “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Eph. 4.11-16). Since we have the confirmed Word, there is no need for apostles and certainly no need for prophets. God then has left His church with evangelists, shepherds and teachers. We should all strive to be one of these, and the men, all of these. God gave qualifications to the evangelists (2 Tim. 4.1-5), the elders (1 Tim. 3.1-7), the deacons (8-13), and the teachers (2 Tim. 2.1-2). Churches in the 1st century had these roles (Phil. 1.1; Acts 14.23) and churches today should be patterned after these examples to fulfill the work it was given to do. *Continued on back...*

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church Of Christ

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"He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16.16

TONIGHT!

We will be starting a teen Bible study soon.

All parents with teenagers are encouraged to meet with Bryan Garlock tonight after evening services. We will discuss scheduling the studies and topics that would be appropriate and centered around the needs of your teen.

Christ has all authority (Matt. 28.18). This fundamental teaching reigns throughout the New Testament and must be recognized or chaos and division is sure to follow. If we are to be a patterned church we must answer to Christ and to Him only. Any attempt to undermine His authority is a full assault on the One who gave the authority, namely, the Father. Paul gave the church in Colossae (Col. 3.17) a formula for glorifying the authority of Christ, that is, "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3.17). We, therefore, have no authority to act on our own will, but rather the Father's will. The work and worship of the church must meet His approval. This would require book, chapter and verse in "whatever [we] do, in word or deed." Further, Paul taught Timothy that "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3.16-17). If it's a good work and God requires it of His church, we should be able to put our finger on the passage! This is specifically seen in the work God gave the church. Three works are defined in scripture by commandment, example, and implication: to evangelize (Matt. 28.19-20), to edify itself in love (Eph. 4.16) and to relieve needy saints (Acts 11.29, 2 Cor. 8-9). A church that recognizes Christ in His authoritative role and obeys Him is, consequently, a patterned church.

There are other indicators to a sound church. For instance, it must be a united body of believers as Jesus prayed (John 17.20-21), without division as Paul pleaded (1 Cor. 1.10) and kind and loving to one another (Eph. 4.1-3). In summary, to subscribe to the apostles' doctrine is to follow the pattern of the New Testament church. May Northside strive to be pleasing to God in all that she accomplishes! BG

