

**The New Testament Church**  
**BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW TEACHINGS**

**07 – A Biblical View of the Church**

Paul Jehle - April 21, 2024

I The Heavens and the Earth

- A. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* – Genesis 1:1
  - 1. Note that God categorized everything vertically (heaven) and horizontally (earth)
  - 2. All things have an eternal purpose (heaven) to be reflected on earth
  - 3. The enemy wants us mystical (heaven only), or carnal (earth only) – false doctrine
- B. God’s ultimate goal is to restore the fallen earth – “new heaven/earth” – Revelation 21:1-2
  - 1. He has chosen to do this through His people in covenant with Him – when done...
    - a. The Church is called a “bride” – heavenly orientation – fully restored
    - b. The Church is also called a “city” – earthly orientation – fully restored
  - 2. These are the two purposes of the Church – vertical and horizontal...

II What is the Church

- A. Genesis 8:20-22 – God establishes the anti-type (foreshadowing) of the Church
  - 1. The **individual** was created first – Genesis 2:7 (men and women)
  - 2. The **family** was established with marriage in Genesis 2:24
  - 3. Then, the “**church**” was established as Noah took on the role of a priest
    - a. He built an altar and interceded in prayer with sacrificial offerings
    - b. As a king, what was done in heaven was manifested on earth (promise on earth)
  - 4. In Genesis 9:6 **civil government** was established and ordained to protect rights (life)
- B. Genesis 18:17-19 – Abrahamic covenant; foreshadowing of the gospel covenant (Ga. 3:8)
  - 1. Genesis 12:1-3 – the promise of blessing and curse – all nations blessed in him
  - 2. Genesis 17:10 – *receive the blessing by circumcision*
  - 3. Genesis 18:17-19 – *be a blessing through covenantal continuity*
- C. Exodus 19:6 – *You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*
  - 1. Acts 7:38 describes this convocation as an “ekklesia” (Greek)
  - 2. In other words, this was again an anti-type of the Church
  - 3. The nature of the Church is both **priestly** (vertical) and **national** (horizontal)
- D. In summary...
  - 1. The Church is God’s called out people (made of families and individuals) for the purpose of being both priests and kings (see Revelation 1:6)
  - 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2-9 indicates that the church is both a **spiritual house** and a **holy nation**
  - 3. The Great Commission - two key identities of the Church – Mt. 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-20
    - a. All authority is given to Jesus – in heaven *and* earth
    - b. Go and make disciples (learners) of the nations – cultural influence – as kings
    - c. Where we do begin? By preaching the gospel to every creature - priests (see quote from Matthew Henry on the Great Commission)

III The Church as a **Bride** – Matthew 18:15-20

- A. The Church is a “called out” local group unto Christ
  - 1. It is distinct from an individual and a family - believers

2. A gathering of “two or three” means a covenant relationship (v. 19)
  3. Church “membership” was accountability – letters of commendation (ex. Ro. 16:1-2)
  4. Only believers make up the local church – it must have a standard
- B. The Church is involved in evangelism
1. Each believer needs to be ready to share the gospel
  2. This is often done through sharing one’s testimony
- C. The Church is to make disciples
1. Disciples are life-long learners
  2. Building relationships with believers causes maximum growth (see Eph. 4:15-16)
- D. The Church is also a court of reconciliation – Mt. 18:15-20
1. The Church is to purify itself
  2. The Church is a court of reconciliation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17 (see Adams quote)
    - a. Going to one another in meekness (Galatians 6:1)
    - b. Pursuing reconciliation
    - c. Exercising church discipline (excommunication)

#### IV The Church as a City – Matthew 16:15-20

- A. The Church is universal – every born again believer world-wide
1. All who confess the rock of revelation in Christ (pebble on a boulder)
  2. The Church is the womb of the Kingdom (rule of Christ in culture)
  3. The gates (authority) of hell in a culture will never conquer the Church!
- B. The Church and the Culture
1. Culture is *religion externalized...* (see full context of R. J. Rushdoony’s quotes)
  2. The word culture (from Webster’s 1828) means the *growth* of mind, virtue, soil
  3. What produces culture?
    - a. The heart of man produces the culture around him – Pr. 4:23
    - b. From the Hebrew – *to go out, go forth* – produce, germinate, promulgate
    - c. The word “issues” from Webster – event, consequence, or ultimate result
    - d. *Culture is the atmosphere created by behaviors that flow from the heart of individuals*
  4. The mission of the Church as a city is to *alter the culture of a nation from the bottom up*
    - a. Matthew 6:10 – *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*
    - b. Matthew 20:25-27 – *we are called to influence the culture through service*
    - c. John 17:15-18 – *the degree of separation determines the degree of positive influence*
- C. The Beatitudes and Similitudes – introduction to the Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:1-16
1. Attitudes of the believer affect the culture – internal to external
    - a. Poor in spirit – “theirs is the kingdom of heaven”
    - b. Mourning – “they shall be comforted”
    - c. Meekness – “they shall inherit the earth”
    - d. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness – “they shall be filled”
    - e. Merciful – “they shall obtain mercy”
    - f. Pure in heart – “they shall see God”
    - g. Peacemakers – “they shall be called (by the culture) sons of God”
    - h. Persecuted for righteousness – “theirs is the kingdom of heaven; rejoice, great reward”
  2. Similitudes (actions) of the believer – lovingly serving to alter culture for the better
    - a. Salt – as a preservative, if it loses its savor “silent, inactive” we get over-regulated
    - b. Light – exposes darkness, from the individual, to the home, city and nation/world