

KNOW YOUR CHURCH, LOVE YOUR CHURCH

“The Design and Destiny of the Church - The Body of Christ”

(Acts 2; Ephesians 4)

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

❖ **The Characteristics of a New Testament Church**

- Characteristic #1: Preach the Gospel and Baptize New Converts
- Characteristic #2: Minister the Holy Spirit to All Who Believe
- Characteristic #3: Reach the Generations in Accordance with the Will of God
- Characteristic #4: Exhort the People to Escape the Corruption of this World
- Characteristic #5: Disciple New Believers and Create Community
- Characteristic #6: Develop a Prayer Culture and Establish Unity of Belief
- Characteristic #7: Cultivate an Environment of Generosity and Giving
- Characteristic #8: Faithfully Gather Together Corporately and in Homes Breaking Bread Together
- Characteristic #9: Praise and Worship God as a Way of Life Evoking Favor from the People

- Characteristic #10: Evangelize and Add to the Church through Our Testimony and Example

❖ **The Leadership of a New Testament Church** (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, 'When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.' 9 (In saying, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he 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."

- The Manner of a Leader in the Church
 - Humility and Gentleness
 - Patience and Bearing with One Another in Love
 - Eager to Maintain the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace

- The Model of Leadership in the Church

- Five-Fold Ministry Model

- Apostle and Prophet

Government in the Local Church and **Guidance** of the Local Church Rests with the Elders!

- Pastor and Teachers

Guarding and **Grounding** in the Local Church Rests with the Pastors, Teachers and Deacons under the Direction of the Elders.

- Evangelists

Gathering in the Local Church Rests with the Congregation Within a Culture of Evangelism.

- The Motive of Leadership in the Church

"... 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."

- To Equip the Saints for the Work of Ministry
- To Bring Unity of the Faith and the Knowledge of Christ to Everyone
- To Bring Maturity to Christians and Christlikeness Able to Avoid the Deception in the World
- To Speak the Truth in Love in Order to Build Strength in the Body to Grow in Love