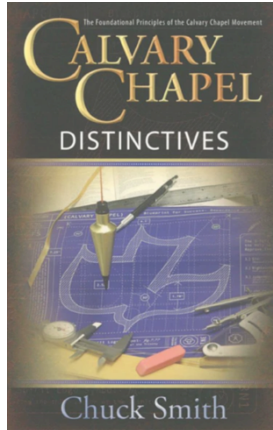


INTRO: As the Calvary Chapel movement began to grow in the early 70's, many questioned why it was growing and how Calvary Chapel was different from mainline denominations. The late founding pastor of Calvary Chapel was Chuck Smith, who never claimed an elitism or superiority over other denominations. He recognized that certain practices which the Spirit of God revealed to him, has made Calvary Chapel distinct from other churches in operation and emphasis. And so, for those with questions he wrote a small little book called **CALVARY DISTINCTIVES**.



Having read and taught this book many times, I believe it is beneficial for us as a church leadership to review these principles so that we can know why we are affiliated with Calvary Chapel.

For the next several weeks we will use the topics in these chapters as an outline to gain a better understanding about our operation as a church and how we can grow deeper in a meaningful spirit-filled relationship with Jesus Christ. Furthermore, as we learn about what makes our fellowship unique, we will also better understand our position in the body of Christ.

As we venture though this course together, I ask that you be faithful to attend each Servant-Leadership Class with enthusiasm and eagerness, ready to learn and grow as a disciples of Jesus Christ. I will teach these classes and answer any questions to help you mature in your walk with God.

Today, we will start with **an outline of the book**, which I made to help me prepare for a test in Bible College. As we review it, you will notice that most of the content from Calvary Distinctives parallels the Book of Ephesians, with exception to a few chapters, which also use scriptures to support the topics.

Disclaimer: While most of the principles in this book derive from the Holy Scriptures, there are some points that are “just pastor Chucks opinions or personal experiences,” which are **NEVER** to be taken as scripture or even supersede the Bible.

Calvary Distinctives/Ephesians Outline

I. The Call to the Ministry (1:1)

- A. The call is by the will of God and can be revealed in many ways
 - 1. Peter was called into the ministry (Its of God, not man)
 - 2. Paul was called into the ministry (It can be abrupt & unconventional)
- B. How to spot the calling in someone else's life
 - 1. They are already doing the work
 - 2. Others see it
 - 3. God reveals it to you
 - 4. There is a desire to seek to serve
 - 5. They seek God for this

II. The Centrality of Christ (1:2-23)

- A. Jesus is the center of our Spiritual Blessings
- B. Jesus is the center of our being Chosen
- C. Jesus is the center of our Adoption
- D. Jesus is the center of our Accepted
- E. Jesus is the center of our Redemption
- F. Jesus is the center of our Forgiveness
- G. Jesus is the center of our being Enlightened
- H. Jesus is the center of our Inheritance
- I. Jesus is the center of our Guarantee
- J. Jesus is the center of our Faith
- K. Jesus is the center of our Revelation
- L. Jesus is the center of the Church
- M. Jesus Christ is the Central Figure

III. Grace upon Grace (2:1-10)

- A. The sinner is undeserving of God's grace
- B. We were no better than others were
- C. God's perfect love implores Him to offer grace
- D. God will continue to show the riches of His grace towards us
- E. Salvation is God's gift of Love
- F. The Master Craftsman has a plan for you

IV. The Supremacy of Love (2:11-22)

- A. We need to remember our past
- B. Christ is our peace
- C. We are built up in Christ's love

V. The Mystery of the Church (3:1-12)

- A. The mystery is the dispensation of the grace of God
- B. The mystery has been completely revealed
- C. The mystery incorporates all members into one body
- D. The mystery is revealed to the most undeserving
- E. The mystery brought us close to God

VI. The Rapture of the Church

- A. It is a mystery (1 Cor 15:51,52)
- B. Definition – a sudden Catching up (1 Thess 4:13-18)
- C. Purpose of the Rapture (To protect His bride, to provide Hope, to promote holiness)

VII. Ventures of Faith (3:13-21)

- A. By faith you see trials as ventures
- B. You enter ventures through prayer
- C. Christ enters that venture with you
- D. Ventures fill you up with God
- E. Ventures are beyond imagination

VIII. Building the Church God's Way (4:1-10)

- A. Build in a worthy manner – be noble
- B. Build in Lowliness – without self-exaltation/esteeming others
- C. Build in Gentleness – without force/ & with carefulness
- D. Build with Longsuffering – without fretfulness/ with patience
- E. Build in Mercy – without severity/with compassion
- F. Build in Peace – with conflict / with one accord
- G. Build on Unity – One body / On Spirit / One Hope / One Lord! / On faith / one baptism / One God!
- H. Build upon His Gifts

IX. Church Government (4:11,12)

- A. The Administration of the Church – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors & Teachers
- B. Jesus, Pastor, and congregation is the chain of Authority
- C. The assistant pastors and layman implement the vision

I. _____ **TO THE MINISTRY** – Every Christian has a calling on his or her life. We were designed before the foundation of the world to be *His workmanship*, glorifying Him as we bring forth the fruit He desires (**Eph 1:4-5; 2:10**). God’s specific call to service usually begins with a burden for a particular need that relates to the kingdom of God. Some are called to the political arena or to end human trafficking. Others are called to be pastors, teachers, worship leaders, Bible translators, or to a host of other avenues that honor the Lord. Each one utilizes the gifts the Spirit has given. – The book tells us, *We “must first have a sense of calling, a conviction in our hearts that God has chosen us to serve Him.”*

A. The Call is _____ – Yet it can be revealed to an individual in many ways.

1. **Peter’s calling was from Jesus (Matt 4:18, 19; Mark 3:13-16)** – *And Jesus, walking By the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹Then He said to them, “ _____ and I will make you fishers of men.”*

2. **Paul’s calling was abrupt and unconventional (Acts 9:3-6)** – *As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵And he said, *“Who are You, Lord?”* Then the Lord said, *“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”* ⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You _____?”***

- Paul’s calling resulted in a Radical transformation (**Acts 9:4**)
- Paul’s calling was to OBEY the Lord’s instruction (**Acts 9:6**) – _____ in your personal calling! – Jesus tells us to *“Take up our cross and follow Him.”*

3. **People are called, but _____ (Matt 22:14)** – *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”* God has called many to come to Him and serve Him.

- Do you have you sense a calling on your life? A conviction in your heart that God has called you to serve Him. If so, then understand that ...

B. The Call is for _____ in the _____ – *diakonia* {dee-ak-on-ee'-ah} to serve, service or ministration, esp. of those who execute the commands of another.

- The ministry is _____ that we might choose. It is a necessity which God ordains. I have learned firsthand, that if you have been called into the ministry to serve God and fail to do so, you will become miserable. – As the apostle Paul was called to preach the Gospel, he recognized that his call was for service in the ministry. He declares, *“... woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! (1 Cor 9:16b)*

Closing Point: In (**1 Cor 1:26**), the apostle Paul tells his readers, *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called.”* Have you recognized that call on your life yet?

II. GOD'S _____ FOR THE CHURCH – The book of Acts serves as God's perfect Model for the Church, because it provides us with doctrinal truths and principles which, God had blessed. In **(Acts 2:42)** we are given **four simple, yet specific principles** – *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

A. The Need for _____ – The teachings of the apostles (aka The Apostle's Doctrine) served as foundational truths for every believer in the early church and still does today. Scripture was the main resource for spiritual growth and maturity; therefore, the early Church was exhorted to continue steadfastly in it. – In **(John 8:31)** Jesus said, *“...If you abide in my Word, you are My disciples indeed.”*

- Church leaders are responsible to teach the Word of God faithfully. At Calvary Chapel we adhere to this truth as listed in **(Isaiah 28:10)**, line upon line, and precept upon precept. _____ **teaching rather than topical studies every week.**

B. The Need for _____ – The Greek word fellowship is **Koinonia**. It means partnership, or sharing. **(1 John 1:3)** tells us that we have this partnership with Jesus Christ and with those who believe on His name. *“...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*

- Fellowship is a _____ – **(Heb 10:24-25)** *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**”* – Fellowship helps keep you _____!

C. The Need for _____ – The breaking of bread is a direct reference to **the Lord's Table**. – Communion brings us to the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. – In the Early Church, they body of Christ practiced this daily, as implied by *“**continued steadfastly.**”*

- Communion is _____ for all Christians to observe – **(1 Cor 11:24-29)** Paul lays out that this should be practiced amongst the body along with personal examination of our lives.

D. The Need for _____ – The **body of Christ** is corporately and individually called to be in **“Constant Prayer!”** – In **(Acts 6:4)** the Apostles saw that this was what their greatest need for the body. *“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*

- Jesus told His disciples to Pray – In **(John 14:13-14)**, *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**”* – If we are the Church, then we are to pray _____ **(1Thess 5:17)**

Closing Thought: When these simple principles are applied to any small fellowship of believers, it gives way to the Holy Spirit to move freely as He desires. **READ (Acts 2:46-47)**