

Each Believer's Place in the Church - Leveling (chap 3-4) a study for the
college and career class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas 1/4/26

Introduction

Having recognized that heroic individualism is not the biblical model of the church, and the scorecard measuring the success of the church has been reset, we need to ask the question: what dangers can make the church unhealthy? These chapters deal with the dangers of professionalism and materialism.

The leader of the church being ordained, educated, and trained is a value to the church. But to say that only men who have been ordained, degreed, and trained can serve in the church would leave us with a dearth of laborers in the world's churches, especially in the poorer areas of the world. What is the answer here?

Materialism makes the parishioners to be patrons and the church leadership into the peddlers of a watered-down gospel that seeks to draw and make the most people comfortable as possible.

This danger can rob the church of its greatest resource, a familial body that seeks to give, instead of consume.

Danger of _____.

Materialism teaches that those who attend church are the _____ and it is the "professional's" responsibility to _____ the goods and services.

The professionals "do" ministry, and the consumers pay them... maybe, if they like the _____ that they are getting.

If every church leader/teacher should be _____, _____, and _____ that means that it is wrong for a church to have laymen serving in a teaching capacity.

It is necessary to affirm the _____ of the believer. (1 Peter 2:4-5,9)

One of the reasons we are so _____ is that we are expecting one to three people to do what God has _____ the entire _____ to do.

The key to accomplishing what God has called the church to do is the _____ - God _____.

Danger of _____

Just _____ Jesus to our lives is a materialistic proposition. It is basically the prosperity gospel plus the _____.

Philippians 12:1-8 _____ the view of a believer seeking to be served instead of the one doing the _____.

What is needed is the understanding that church should be more about _____ than _____. Rom 12:1-2

We do not worship to _____ but to _____. The beauty of God-honoring sacrificial worship, is that the more we give, the more God _____ us up.

Heb 10:24-25 builds a _____ of corporate worship that builds up and feeds into one another, not something where one is _____ away without pouring in.

Believers should be _____ (of the Body) instead of _____. 1 Cor 12:24-26.

As _____ of a club, people can demand their preferences. As members of a family and body, however, we set aside our preferences for the sake of _____ and _____.

The goal is _____. This can't happen when the church is a group of professionals doing the work on behalf of the patrons. _____ the church , _____ the impact of the family ministering to each other.