

I. Intro

A. Series Scripture: **Matt. 16:18**

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18)

B. Re-Cap: The Apostolic Church

1. **Jude 3:** *“...Contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”*
 - a. The church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. (**Eph. 2:20**)
 - b. Revelation of Jesus and His gospel as revealed in the closed canon.
 - i. Elders teach and preach this gospel.
 - ii. Deacons protect the gospel and display the message in their service.
 - iii. The assembly partners with the leadership to help protect the gospel-focus of the church.

II. The Church is Holy

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Eph. 1:1-6)

A. Sainthood (Sanctified Saints)

1. Saints (v. 1): Holy ones, pure ones.
 - a. The members of the church (saints) were chosen to be holy and without blame. (v. 4)
 - b. Prophetic Projection
 - c. Positional Reality
 - i. Sainthood is not attained; it is a state that men and women are called into by grace.
2. Holy: revered, pure, chaste; sanctified, separated.
 - a. Sanctified = marked, different, set apart.
 - b. The “saints” are being sanctified.
 - i. Set apart.
 - c. The Saints are set apart from sin (the cares of this world).
 - d. The Saints are set apart to God.
 - i. His glory
 - ii. His purposes
 - iii. His delight
3. “*That we should be holy*” (v. 4) hints at a corporate sanctification before the Lord.
 - a. Not simply individual.
 - b. Christ is sanctifying His Bride “together” (**Eph. 5:25**)
 - i. Washing her with the water of His word. (**Eph. 5:26**)
 - ii. Presenting her to Himself as a glorious Bride.
 - iii. No spot. No wrinkle.
4. **2 Pet. 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;**
5. The local church is a microcosm (an expression) of the larger church.
 - a. Just like the larger church, the local church is fundamentally marked by a corporate commitment to Holiness.

B. Discipleship

1. As we are saints being sanctified, we are called to have an active role in our brother's sanctification.

Matt. 28:19-20: ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- a. Disciple: making "disciplined" ones.
 - i. Teaching that involves...
 - ii. information.
 - iii. revelation.
 - iv. impartation.
- b. Discipleship is a shared experience, whereby God is making all parties sanctified together.

2. Gifts are utilized in a group context to help facilitate the sanctification process.
 - a. God gave some...
 - i. For the equipping of the saints.
 - ii. For the edifying.

¹³until 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, ¹⁴so 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. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from 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. 4:13-16)

- iii. To develop a unified faith.
- b. Every joint/part working properly facilitates the growth of the entire body into the head (Christ).
 - i. Every part speaks the truth in love.
 - ii. Every part actively participates in the discipleship process.

3. The renewing of the mind is a shared experience whereby God is sanctifying a people until they display the perfect will of God.

- a. “Be not conformed, be transformed...” is a group statement.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them... (Rom. 12:1-6a)

4. God uses the discipleship process to sharpen the mentor(s) and the mentee(s).

- a. Often times correction is a part of the teaching experience.
- b. Sometimes, correction is caught (even if it isn't specifically taught).

C. Discipline: To train/teach people to align their actions with a particular system of governance.

1. Godly Discipline is not a result of hate, but love.

... “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (Heb. 12:5b-8)

- a. The Father actively disciplines his sons/daughters.
- b. Expectation that the church will discipline sons/daughters (in love)
 - i. Teach, correct, challenge, punish.
- 2. Only “God can judge Me”!... Not
 - a. Paul reminded the Corinthian church to remember that they were delegated with authority to judge between injured parties who thought of going to secular courts.

¹ When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! (1 Cor. 6:1-3)

- 3. The Church has been given authority to judge within the church; God judges outside.

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. ³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you

would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Cor. 5:1-13)

4. Purpose of Internal Discipline is not Punitive; but Educational
 - a. What can be learned? Repentance.
 - i. Change their mind
 - b. Repentance is the short-term Objective.
 - i. Learn by Experience
 - ii. Orthodoxy → Orthopraxy
 - c. Holiness is the long-term Goal.
5. There is a corporate responsibility that the church has in the place of discipline.
 - a. How does that look? Varies.
 - i. At times, Matt. 18.
 - ii. At times, simply setting healthy boundaries.
 - iii. At times, corporately pointing out that someone is outside of those boundaries.

III. Conclusion

- A. If the group you are connected to, is not concerned about Holiness...
- B. If the group you are connected to, is not committed to discipling...
- C. If the group you are connected to, is not able to correct/challenge you...
