

5. THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

We Believe the Church Is God's Called-Out People... His Body (Ecclesiology)

CALLED OUT! CALLED TOGETHER! CALLED TO STAND!

"...the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

1 TIMOTHY 3:15



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

When we hear the word *church*, what comes to mind?

- building with a steeple?
- worship service on Sunday morning?
- a pastor, choir, youth group, or Sunday School class?

Biblically, **The church is a people.** The Greek word *ekklesia* – those who are called out.

God has called us out of the world and out of sin, and He has called us into a community of believers who worship Jesus, serve one another, proclaim the gospel, and guard the truth.

The church belongs to Christ. And it is called to stand.

Matthew 16:18

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

I. WE ARE CALLED OUT FROM THE WORLD AND OUT FROM SIN

1. We have been called out of darkness.

1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world..."

The church must not look exactly like the world.

We have been called out of it.

2. We have been called out of sin.

Ephesians 4:22-24

"You were taught... to put off your old self... to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Christianity isn't simply about changing where you go on Sunday. It's about changing who you are every day. If Christ has saved us... He is also transforming us.

II. WE ARE CALLED INTO COMMUNITY... A FAMILY

God never intended Christianity to be lived in isolation. The church is a family.

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

1 Corinthians 12:27

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Every believer has a role and a responsibility.

Called to...



1. WORSHIP

Worship isn't entertainment. We're gathered because God is worthy enough.

Psalm 95:6

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."

What does God deserve?



2. FELLOWSHIP

Sharing life together because we share Christ together.

Romans 12:10

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Galatians 6:2

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

That's church.



3. SERVICE

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 4:10

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

The church becomes healthier when every believer understands: "I am here to serve Christ and serve His people."



4. MISSION

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Acts 1:8

"You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."

A going church for a coming Christ.

III. THE CHURCH GUARDS TRUTH

The church is called to guard and proclaim sound doctrine.

1 Timothy 3:15

"...the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

The church doesn't invent truth. The church doesn't vote on truth. The church doesn't rewrite truth. The church receives, believes, teaches, protects, and proclaims God's truth. And where do we find God's truth? In the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that

IV. WHAT KIND OF CHURCH SHOULD WE BE?

1 BE A CHURCH THAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT HOLINESS.

1 Peter 1:15-16

"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

2 BE A CHURCH THAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT COMMUNITY.

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another."

3 BE A CHURCH THAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT MISSION.

Who are you discipling? Who are you trying to reach? Who needs to hear the gospel from you?

He saved us to go. He saved us to make disciples.

4 BE A CHURCH THAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT TRUTH.

The church must stand on the Word.

Not because we're trying to be controversial.

But because God has spoken. And when God speaks, His church listens.

CALLED OUT, CALLED TOGETHER, CALLED TO STAND

The world needs the church to be the church.

A redeemed people. A holy people.

A worshipping people.

A people who know the truth, love the truth, live the truth, and proclaim the truth.

And ultimately, a people who point everything back to Jesus Christ.

The church is His. The people are His. The mission is His.

*Millers Creek Baptist,
let's be faithful to Jesus.*