

THE CHURCH'S INTERNAL ORGANS
The Master's Plan For His Church
Colossians 3:1-17

The Church...it's relationships.

- *The bride of Christ*
- *The body of Christ*
- *The family of God*

Skeletal System...The Foundation and Framework.

- *Theology*
- *Doctrine*
- *Spiritual/Scriptural Leadership*

The *foundation* and *framework* of the church consists of *nonnegotiable, essential truths* on which we cannot afford to *yield* or *compromise*. Like the *piers* and *pylons* that support a *foundation*...these *essentials* are *rigid* and *unbending*...they are the *backbone* or *skeletal system* of a biblical church.

Even though a *skeletal system* provides the *framework*, it doesn't give the structure *life*...and the church is a *living organism*. Just as a physical body has *organs* and *fluids* that keep it *alive* and *functioning*...the church also has *internal systems* that bring it *life*...*certain spiritual manifestations* or *attitudes*. The *life* of the church comes from these *spiritual attitudes* and *manifestations*...and *life reproduces life!*

If the right kind of *spiritual indicators* are present in the church showing *life*...the *structure* will take care of itself, because *Spirit-controlled people are going to be Spirit-led people who are going to do Spirit-directed things*. The problem is...sometimes that becomes difficult because there always seem to be some people who just want to *maintain control*...it's *their* Church.

Unfortunately, sometimes it's easier to just step back and let those individuals *have their own way* and do "*good*" things... even if they do it with a *bad attitude* or in the *flesh*. But when that is allow to happen *two problems arise*...first, the people with the bad attitudes *appease* their *conscience* with *legalistic behavior*...in other words, they engage in *activity* instead of *ministry*...and secondly, the church *suffers*.

Muscular System...The Community of Believers...this is what connects everything and holds the church together.

- *Mature spiritual leadership*
- *Active members of the body*...

Where every member is a minister...serving others.

Where every member is involved in ministry (whether leading or serving).

Where every member is a missionary...on mission with God.

- *Spiritual gifts*...they know their gift and exercise it.
- *Tithing*...*Grace giving*.
- *Accountability*...*Discipline*...*Restoration*.

INTERNAL ORGANS...The Spiritual Life of the Church

- **Faith**...a desire to live by faith...walk by faith (**vs. 2, 10**).

Faith stands above all other attitudes, because *faith* is the *essential foundation* from which every other attitude grows.

“Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

~Hebrews 11:6

“Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

~Hebrews 12:2

- **A desire (hunger) for spiritual growth...** discipleship... spiritual growth...deeper roots of faith (**vs. 2, 4-10, 16**).
- **Hope...**a confident, anxious anticipation (**vs. 4**).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...”

~I Peter 1:3

“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...”

~I Peter 3:15

- **Humility...vs. pride, arrogance, conceited (vs. 12).**

The *humble* person is the one who *knows* he *deserves nothing*...and that he has *nothing to offer* God.

When we come to the Lord with *humble hearts*, we *set aside* all our *preconceived notions* and *interests*, and hold out our hands *meekly* for whatever He may wish to give us.

Everyone struggles with *pride* at one point or another...as a matter of fact; *pride* is the *foundational sin* of man.

Humility is very elusive. To even say that you are *humble* can be *prideful*.

You want to know the ways of God...

“...He teaches the humble His way.”

~Psalm 25:9

“...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

~I Peter 5:5

I hope that you aren't under the illusion that God *needs you*. (**Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:13; II Timothy 3:17**).

“I do not receive glory from men.”

~John 5:41

God has called Christians to be *sacrificial* and *humble*.

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”

~Matthew 16:24

- **Obedience (vs. 17).**

Obedience is *fundamental* because an *obedient* person *does whatever God says to do*. He does not compromise. One's *actions* and *behavior* without an *attitude of obedience* is *meaningless*...because *obedience* is *better* than any *external act of worship*.

“...behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry...”

~I Samuel 15:22

If Jesus is *lord* of your life, then you *will do...what* He asks you to do...*when* He asks you to do it...*how* He asks you to do it.

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ and do not do what I say?”

~Luke 6:46

Being *obedient* also allows us to be *filled with the Spirit*.

Ritual will never replace *obedience*!

When God speaks...what you do next shows what you truly (actually) believe about God.

Hear God...*know* God...*obey* God...*experience* God.

- **Love...vs. hate, self-centered, immoral (vs. 14).**

I'm not talking about the *worldly kind of love* that is *object* or *emotion oriented*. Worldly love is *emotion driven*, and when the emotion is *gone*, the *relationship* is *over*.

Biblical love is not like that. It is not an *emotion*...it is an *act of the will*...it's *action*...it's a *choice*. Love isn't *passive*...it's *active*...it always *does something*. The *words* used to describe *love* in **I Corinthians 13: 4-7**, are all *verbs*.

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...”

~I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Biblical love meets people's needs without expecting anything in return...even a thank you (**the Good Samaritan, Luke 10**).

- **Unity...vs. strife, disharmony, murmur (vs. 14).**

Jesus prayed that all Christians would be *one*, just as He and the Father are *one*, so that the *world* would *know* He was sent by the Father. He prayed that we would be *unified*.

“That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are One.”

~John 17:21-22

Paul told the **Ephesians** to endeavor to...

“Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

~Ephesians 4:3

He didn't tell them to *generate unity*...they were to *maintain the unity* that God had already given them. *Unity* is an important part of church life...*unity* brings *glory* to God...it *honors* His *name*.

- **Willingness to serve...vs. selfish, greedy, reluctant (vs. 17).**

There are several words in the Greek language for **servant**, but the one most commonly used *conveys the idea of a lowly servant*, Gk. *huperetes*, which literally means *an under rower*. Many people are willing to serve if they are *noticed* or *in control*...but God wants *surrendered, obedient* servants.

Seek to *honor others* and *meet their needs*.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

~Philippians 2:3-4

A classic illustration of the *humility of love* through a *servant heart* is in **John 13**. Jesus and the disciples were to have supper together and the disciples were arguing among themselves about which one of them was regarded to be the greatest. It was then that Jesus put a towel around His waist and began to wash their feet. When He finished, He taught them an unforgettable lesson...

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

~John 13:15

- **Fruit of the Spirit (vs. 12-15)...**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...against such things there is no law.

~ Galatians 5:22-23

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

~Galatians 5:25

- **Thankfulness (vs. 15-17)...**
- **Trust...(vs. 1-2).**
- **Heart of/for forgiveness...(vs. 13).**
- **Flexibility...**Blessed are the flexible, for they will not get bent out of shape!
- **Willingness to change...**

PRAYER...Spiritual Awakening...Revival

Would you pray with me for a great awakening? Lord...please send Spiritual Awakening that results in...

- People coming to Christ...the lost saved. The church having a heart for the lost.
- Old animosities being removed.
- Spirit of forgiveness...forgiveness given...forgiveness received... forgiving one's self.
- Victory over strongholds.
- Marriages reconciled, restored, and strengthened.
- Wayward children coming home.
- Long-standing slavery to sin being conquered.
- Spiritual dullness being replaced by vibrant joy.
- Weak faith being replaced by deep faith...deep roots of faith.
- Fear given over to faith.

- Disinterest in prayer being replaced by fervent intercession.
- Bible reading that seems boring being replaced by a hunger and passion for the Word.
- Vision and passion for Christ's name among the nations.
- Lukewarm, lethargic worship being replaced by passion and desire for the greatness of God's glory.
- Spiritual Maturity (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**)...