

Preaching / Teaching –

Why? After Christ's victory over death and sin on the cross, he commissioned his disciples to go and to proclaim the message of salvation to all the world. In doing so, he commanded them to 'make disciples', teaching them the ways of the kingdom of God. These are students or learners who are exposed to the gospel, who pay their allegiance to Christ as their Lord and King. The ekklesia or 'the gathered ones', come together for several important functions, not least to hear the teaching of the Word of God. Paul in his letter to Timothy wrote "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching' (1 Tim. 4:13). It is the cornerstone of the fellowship, and it shifts the church's focus unto the work of redemption on the cross.

As this world continues to be ruled by the kingdom of darkness, the church has been commissioned to call as many people as possible into the kingdom of God. The church does not discriminate against who should or should not hear the gospel. Our task of proclamation is a non-negotiable part of what the church's mandate. The bible repeatedly warns the believer to stay alert as many false teachers roam around, confusing the flock. The pulpit ministry exists to solidify the truth already planted in the heart of the believer. Furthermore, in the process of sanctification, the believer comes face-to-face with the life altering truth of God. A life that is turning away from sin and a godless future, needs constant reminding that one's life has been bought with a price. The life one lives now is not one's own, but has been entrusted into the care of the Savior. The church believes Christ's return is imminent, therefore it functions as a herald of the coming king, just as early disciples proclaimed the coming of the Messiah. The church has been given the mandate to proclaim that 'the kingdom of God has come near'. The gospel is the power

unto salvation, therefore it is the church's responsibility to uphold the truth, to be a light in a world falling in love with an ever-growing desire for godlessness. Those belonging to Christ must withstand the temptation of this age and be instructed in the ways of God. Paul wrote, defining the role of preaching in 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness".

What? Throughout both Old Testament and New Testament accounts, there were men of God who exhorted the Scriptures. They are teachers and preachers who have been given the task to instruct the people of God, from the Word of God, to live for the will of God. Preaching is a calling that must be lived out with passion, precision, and power. There is a distinction to be made between teaching and preaching. Although there are many teaching moments in the ministry of preaching, it is much more than that. It is the proclamation of divine truth. The preacher is simply a vessel who is empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring near the realities of the kingdom of God. Preaching challenges, it convicts, it confesses, and it calls the listener to a decision, whether they will obey Scripture or not.

How? In the local church context, the Word of God must be the centerpiece of everything it does. It must be the goal of all ministries, all activities, and programs. The overarching goal is to instruct the people of God with the truths of God.

Preferably this would allow Sunday morning worship services to be designed that not only the adults, but also the youth and the kids work through the same biblical content in their respective groups, giving the chance for the whole church body to learn the same truths. Working expositionally through books of the bible is the best approach to familiarize with the Scriptures. Studying verse-by-verse gives the preacher the opportunity to slowly unfold the deeper meaning behind the texts. It is crucial to help the

church connect Old Testament and New Testament stories and encounters in the long unfolding of divine history. As each age group works through the same bible stories and passages, it provides a platform for engagement with each other and learning from one another. Practically, the church strives to grow in its knowledge of the Scriptures, but also in its community with each other, pursuing to live in obedience to Christ. The church in its pursuit of Christlikeness will take the truths learned and apply them to their daily lives.

4.1

Church Leadership –

Why? Let there be no doubt about it, there is a spiritual battle going on. When talking about the gospel, we fight for a person's eternal state. The forces of darkness rage against the gospel and the servants of the kingdom of God. They spew their lies, their deceit and their falsehoods against those who stand for righteousness. Those who have turned to Christ, those who profess to know, love, and obey Christ, need to be led. They need shepherds who care for them, teach them, reproof them, encourage them, guide them, lead them and steward them as they "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" (Ps. 23:4). The responsibility to care and shepherd God's flock, falls to those who have been called by God to step into roles of church leadership. Christ is the ultimate shepherd of his flock, but He has appointed under-shepherds who are to love and nurture the church. Paul speaking to the church elders in Ephesus reminds them to, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Those who have been given this role, cannot execute their tasks lightly, but must always remember what price Christ paid to purchase believers out of the grip of eternal damnation. Leaders must defend the flock from any external or internal attack, from any false teaching, from sin that could take hold of the flock and destroy the work of the Holy Spirit within the fellowship. One must remember that any apostasy, any deviation from the truth, muddles

the testimony of the church and dilutes the gospel's message. Therefore, it is key that a church is led by those who strive to shepherd the people of God, without equivocation or compromise.

What? Throughout Scripture, the people of God have been led by men. Ever since, Israel rejected a Theocracy, God has called men to guide His people. Moses was appointed leader over the people of God and called to his side elders who would govern the people alongside him. The apostle Paul in the New Testament travelled throughout Asia Minor, establishing churches wherever people turned to the Lord in faith. These fellowships needed to be led by men who could teach, preach and provide certain character traits that made them Christlike and therefore suitable for the role of elder. These churches would be established amid fierce opposition in both the Jewish and Roman cultures. These leaders needed to be able to withstand attacks, both spiritual and human. They needed to be firmly rooted in the Word of God and be filled with the Spirit of God to lead new believers in their faith. They needed to be able to say with Paul 'follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ' (1 Cor. 11:1).

How? In any given church context, there must be a governing structure in place. Although there are different models, the foundational biblical qualifications are essential to permit a man be considered for the eldership of the church. The church leadership must be comprised of men who meet the qualifications laid out in Titus 1:6-9, "For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it". These men give spiritual oversight to the church. Any ministry program offered to the various age groups must be sanctioned by these elders, whose main

responsibility is to ensure that sound doctrine is taught, biblical values are upheld and spiritual gifts are mobilized to encourage the body of Christ. The elders must be men who devote their time to study the Word, to better expound the Scriptures to the flock. They must be able to teach, counsel and be a Christ-like example to those God has placed into the body.

6.1

Youth/Student Ministry –

Why? If the church has been entrusted with a student ministry, it is of the utmost importance to train and teach the next generation the truth of the kingdom of God. There are plenty of luring temptations in this world that could entangle a young person into a life of sin. The church has a responsibility to introduce Christian doctrine and biblical truth to them to help equip them to function holistically in a world that is using all of its resources to entice and entrap a generation for unwholesome things. It is key to invest into students early on, so they are prepared to face the challenges, withstand peer pressures and resist the ever growing offers thrown at them. If there is any confusion as to where to look for a firm foundation, the bible makes that clear in Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word”. To be introduced to the Word of God at an early stage should be the foremost aim for any student ministry. There are plenty of non-circular activities outside of church, students could get involved with, thus, it is not the church’s primary objective to offer alternatives to what is already on offer. However, it is the church’s role to expound the gospel, to all age groups. Scripture’s mandate on parents and all those given the task to care for young people is clear. Proverbs 22:6, gives not only an instruction, but it comes with a promise “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. It is a spiritual battle, and the church must recognize its responsibility to lay a foundation, before other interests and other values, capture the imagination of the youth.

Furthermore, students have a strong need to belong, to connect and there would seem to be no better way, than to do so than with other youth who are also pursuing Christ, living for God, and wrestling with similar issues. This can be a great comfort and encouragement to the youth who may not feel as free and comfortable to face their challenges with people of a different age group.

What? A ministry should be based on the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 4:13 “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” These famous words reveal the heart of God. Children in ancient Israel were the lowest in society, as they contributed the least. However, it was them who had the Lord’s attention, love, and care. A bible-based church desires to follow in the footsteps of Christ and invest in the little ones in its midst. It reaches out to present the saving message of the gospel to the youngest, the lowest of the low in society, so that early on a conscious decision to follow the Lord can be made.

How? This ministry would have different layers of involvement. There would be the regular Sunday morning youth service that runs parallel to the church service. In it the same passage/curriculum as the adult service would be worked through on an age-appropriate level. Additionally, there would be a Friday night youth meeting that would be focused on a lot more fun activities, fellowship, engaging one-one conversations between leaders and students, a time of worship and a spiritual input. There would be a mid-week bible study that gives youth a chance to connect with other youth who are willing and eager to study the Word of God in more depth. This would be geared towards the older and more mature students in the youth ministry. There would also be an offer to give mentoring on a one-on-one basis that allows for any youth to have a leader who can pray for them, whom they can talk to about issues in their lives and pose any questions that they may not feel comfortable asking in a larger group setting. There would

also need to be planned special events that would allow the youth to take the truth they have heard and apply it in an outreach setting. Whether it is serving the older generation in the church, helping in a soup kitchen, going on an evangelistic outreach or even going on a mission trip, the youth must be challenged to take the gospel and live it out in a context that expands their own horizon.

8.1


Outreach / Missions –

Why? Christ has taught extensively while ministering alongside his disciples. In his last conversations with them, he gave them clear commands as to what they were to do after his ascension into heaven. He commanded them in Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you”. The Great Commission is why the church must live with an iron clad determination to reach out to the souls who have not yet made a profession to Christ’s lordship. The church exists to proclaim the saving gospel. The church must convey this message to all who live in darkness, to all who do not know Christ as their lord and savior. There may be churches who have convinced themselves that they do not need to play a role in the outreach to the lost, but they are mistaken. However, the command was given to all, in fact, the job will not be accomplished until He returns. Paul writing to the church in Rome made clear in Romans 10:14, 15 that it is through the church’s proclamation of the gospel amongst unbelievers, that more souls can be claimed for the kingdom of God. He writes, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” He poses poignant questions, eradicating all illusions as to who is to share the saving message of Christ. The universal church has been

commissioned to perform this important task. Christ does not require academic degrees, titles or any other achievements before we are to begin, calling people unto salvation. Paul reiterates this point in 1 Corinthians 1:25, 26 by laying out 'God's delight in using ordinary people to confound the wise, to use the weak to shame the strong'. All He requires is a conviction of the gospel's truth, a cross-bearing attitude and a passion to call as many people as possible to the Savior.

What? Outreach is the simple sharing of the faith, conveying the message of Christ's accomplishment on the cross and the invitation to surrender one's own control to the King. Outreach is seeing church as more than a building, rather a gathered people in a local community that is hungry for the truth. This body of believers is hungry to be equipped and sent out into a world that has not heard or understood the reality of their eternal situation, about the power that is in the blood of Christ and their need for a savior. The church cannot exist only looking inwardly, concerned with its own affairs, instead its entire operation must lead all church members to take ownership of their role in the gospel presentation. Each believer is gifted in their own way to partake in the commission, sharing the message of redemption, proclaiming the Word of Truth, and calling sinners to repent.

How? The church must have a listening ear to the needs in the community, understand its broader culture and even discern global events. From supporting mission organizations financially, to sending out their own missionaries – this ministry must be a top priority. An important point must be stressed, namely, the work of evangelism cannot rest on a few. Opportunities to evangelize in the community must be planned on a regular basis through a mission team that spear heads all the organizational aspects. Another team should brief the church about mission work happening through our mission partners in foreign lands. Staying in regular communication with missionaries, gathering prayer

requests and sharing those with the church family. Offering regular workshops in the church to train the body on evangelism and missions and giving them tools to be more effective kingdom ambassadors in their sphere of influence. 

Corporate / Individual Prayer –

Why? “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14). The Lord wants to have relationship with his people, he cares, and he loves them. He wants to reveal His heart to them and encounter them through His Word and through the fellowship of prayer. He wants to heal broken relationships, forgive sins, restore lives, give strength, and provide life and hope. Prayer allows the believer to have an intimate relationship with God, it allows for the Spirit of God to transform lives, soften hearts, encourage the troubled, provide wisdom, and increase its love for the savior.

What? Scripture is full of passages that calls the believer to pray. The bible calls on the believer to ‘pray without ceasing’ (1 Thess. 5:16). Prayer is to enjoy communion with God. It is the ability to boldly come before the throne of grace just as we are, knowing that despite our transgressions and shortcomings He hears us, even more, He delights to hear our prayers. The believer can empty himself of worry, fear, anxiety or even sin. The believer can be confident that when He prays, God listens. The Old Testament is full of the commands instructing the people of God to pray. Laid within these calls to prayer is contained a promise. Jeremiah 29:12 says, “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you”. 1 John 5:14 declares a similar promise, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us”. As Christ taught his disciples, He gave special attention as to how they should pray. Acknowledging that we are citizens in His kingdom and that as absolute monarch,

He has the right to do as He wishes. Understanding this truth, gives freedom to the believer to say with confidence, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt. 6:10). Knowing that all things are given freely as a gracious gift from above, broaden the thanksgiving a believer experiences as to what blessed grace has been bestowed upon them.

As a believer journeys through this life, He must be filled with the Spirit of God to discern the issues of life. He must seek wisdom and understanding (Prov. 8) in order that he can determine the things through the eyes of God.

How? ‘Prayer is the engine room of the church’, these words were once supposedly uttered by C.H Spurgeon. He is correct. Any ministry, any initiative, any sermon, any bible study or small group, must be soaked in the prayers of the saints.

The church should set aside one evening per week at which its sole focus should be to come together and to pray for the issues concerning the church, families, or individuals. It should also be a time to pray for the concerns outside of its own four walls, whether it is missions, the country, or any other subject. One evening per week should be issued at a minimum to such issues. The church leadership should be keen in encouraging the entire flock to partake in this regular time of intercession. Furthermore, the church should allow for staff and other members of the Sunday morning worship service to collectively pray for the service. A prayer team should be appointed that informs the church about prayers answered and convey new prayer requests that come from within the church family.

11.1

The Lord’s Supper –

Why? The Lord’s Supper is celebrated for several reasons. Firstly, the believer does so in obedience to the Lord’s command. Secondly, believers celebrate the Lord’s Supper in anticipation of his return. When He instructed them to, “For as often as you eat this bread

and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes", He instructed them to expect a reunion with Him. He further said, recorded in Matthew 26:29, "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom", here He anticipated to be reunited with His disciples in His Father's kingdom. Thirdly, taking part of the Lord's Supper is not simply a time for passive reflection, but moreover it is a time for the congregation to act corporately and affirm our faith, to celebrate Christ's accomplishment on the cross and celebrate the unity we have through Him. Furthermore, it serves as a witness to the world that Jesus is the only way to salvation. The Lord's Supper serves as a testimony to the message of the gospel. It also involves personal reflection and examination. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:28, "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup". This gives further reason to pause and reflect on the seriousness of the event. Fourthly, the Lord's Supper is done to commemorate His sacrifice on the cross. The elements remind the believer on the price he paid as a ransom for the sinner.

What? The Lord very intentionally wanted the symbolism of the event not to be lost. Since Jesus died during the Passover celebration, the striking imagery speaks volumes to believers throughout the ages. Since Old Testament times, a lamb was sacrificed for the sins of the people. However, it was ultimately only Christ who was able to pay the ransom for sinners once and for all. It is one of two ordinances that the church continues to practice as a reminder and a public declaration of biblical truth.

How? The Lord expressed clearly that communion was to be celebrated until He returns in His second coming. Beyond that, there is no strict pattern in which it must be done. It would be best if the Lord's Supper is a regular practice within the local church. The elders should give leadership to the corporate celebration. A passage, either 1 Corinthians 11 or Matthew 26, should be used to remind the believers what is mandated by the Lord. It

should not slip into a mundane, routine, that has lost its meaning and significance. Instead, it should be done with great purpose and hope. It is a reminder of things that have occurred, but also provides hope for things that are yet to take place. It should be limited to born-again believers who are either church members or friends of the church. There should be a time given for personal reflection and even for participants to reconcile with one another, before they take the step of **parting in the** Lord's Supper.

13.2

13.1

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