

Christ Speaks to the Church

I. The Foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus is the chief cornerstone and holds the church together - *Ephesians 2:20*
- B. Jesus is the living stone and brings the faithful together - *I Peter 2:4-8*
- C. Jesus is the original foundation and sets the church apart - *I Corinthians 3:11*
- D. Jesus is the rock of salvation and draws people of faith to join Him - *Matthew 16:17-19*
- E. Jesus is the creator of all things and leads the church - *Colossians 1:15-18*
 - 1. By Word - Christ speaks the truth in love - *Mark 1:14-15*
 - 2. By Example - Christ humbles himself for others - *Mark 10:41-45*
 - 3. By Obedience - Christ completes his mission - *Mark 14:48-50*
 - 4. By Power - Christ overcomes death - *Mark 16:6-7*
 - 5. By Grace - Christ gives what we cannot earn - *Mark 16:19-20*

II. Seven Words for the Church

- A. The Letter to Ephesus on **Love** - *You have forsaken your first love - Revelation 2:4*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to live in God's love - agape
 - 2. Love for God includes worship, obedience, sacrifice and truth
- B. The Letter to Smyrna on **Suffering** - *Do not fear what you are about to suffer - Revelation 2:10*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to endure loss - redemption
 - 2. Suffering for God tests our faith and patience
- C. The Letter to Pergamum on **Truth** - *You remain true to my name - Revelation 2:13*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to speak the truth in love - authentic
 - 2. Truth will set people free in the long run
- D. The Letter to Thyatira on **Holiness** - *You tolerate the woman Jezebel - Revelation 2:20*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to embrace holiness - set apart
 - 2. Holiness includes who we are and what we do
- E. The Letter to Sardis on **Reality** - *You have the reputation of being alive - Revelation 3:1*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to live in reality - examination
 - 2. Reality includes being honest to God, self and others
- F. The Letter to Philadelphia on **Opportunity** - *I have set before you an open door - Revelation 3:8*
 - 1. Christ calls each church to make the most of every opportunity - mission
 - 2. Faith in God leads to mission and service
- G. The Letter to Laodicea on **Wholeheartedness** - *You are lukewarm - Revelation 3:16*
 - 1. Christ call each church to a wholehearted faith - devotion
 - 2. Full devotion means heart, mind, soul and strength

III. Four Characteristics of the Early Church - *Nicene Creed*

We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church

- A. **One** Church - we pray for unity in the Body of Christ
- B. **One holy** Church - we pray for a community of faith that is set apart from the world
- C. **One holy catholic** Church - we pray for a church that embraces all peoples
- D. **One holy catholic and Apostolic** Church - we pray for a fellowship that goes into the world

Church on the Move

I. A Healthy Biblical Community

A. Free Methodist Church of North America

A healthy biblical community of holy people multiplying disciples, leaders, groups and churches.

B. Emotionally Healthy Church - Peter Scazzero

1. Looking beneath the surface - awareness of feelings and actions
2. Breaking the power of the past - discern the major influences of the past
3. Living in brokenness and vulnerability - humility as the greatest virtue
4. Receiving the gift of limits - seasons and rhythms of life including rest
5. Embracing grief and loss - life as a journey and process
6. Modeling incarnational holiness - holistic approach to faith

C. Moving From Unhealthy to Healthy

1. *I Timothy/II Timothy/Titus* - church structure, pastoral authority, **doctrine**
2. *Colossians/Ephesians* - love and holiness, growth, **reform, leadership**
3. *Luke/Acts* - outreach, mission, Holy Spirit, **Judaizers**
4. *I Peter* - assurance, family context, grace, **exclusiveness**
5. *John* - individual relationship, community, Holy Spirit, **loss of Jewishness**
6. *Matthew* - law and authority, pastoral issues, **legalism, isolationism**

II. Church Models

A. The Church in America

1. Church A (35-100 in worship attendance) - *acts like a family*
*Church energy is focused on maintenance
2. Church B (100-250 in worship attendance) - *acts like a clan*
*Church energy is spent on programs
3. Church C (250-400 in worship attendance) - *acts like a tribe*
*Church energy is centered on leadership training
4. Church D (400-800 in worship attendance) - *acts like an institution*
*Church energy is moved to service the community
5. Church E (800 plus in worship attendance) - *acts like a denomination*
*Church energy is divided between worship and programs

B. The New Testament Church - *Acts 2:42-47*

1. Different Levels of Communities

- a. *Oikos* - interpersonal relationships - friends/family
- b. *Koinonia* - interprophetic relationships - in the body of Christ
- c. *Ekklesia* - interdependent relationships - mutual beliefs, ideas, goals

2. A Combination of Oikos, Koinonia and Ekklesia Groups

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| *Apostles' teaching-K,E | *fellowship-O,K,E | *breaking bread-O |
| *prayer-O,K | *filled with awe-K,E | *signs of wonders-K,E |
| *together-E | *in common-E | *selling-O,K,E |
| *giving-O,K,E | *temple-K,E | *homes-O,K |
| *praising-O,K | *favor-E | *growth-O,K,E |

Servant Leadership

I. The Call to Humility - *Luke 22:24-30*

A. Competition in the Kingdom of God - vv.24-25

1. Competition produces conflict: flee, flight, hide
 2. Competition fosters pride: defensive towards others
 3. Competition limits grace: turns strengths into weaknesses
- *see "The Humility Prayer" on reverse side

B. A New Way to Lead - vv.26-27

1. Be like the youngest - always learning, always growing
2. Be like the one who serves - placing others ahead of yourself
3. Be like Christ - following his example of service

C. Faithful Service - vv.28-30

1. Standing firm in trials and persecutions - negative responses
2. Standing firm in the kingdom of God - positive changes
3. Standing firm in the day of judgment - eternal rewards

The Call to Lead

A. Ten Observations About Leadership - *Church Leadership* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

1. Leadership needs to be demythologized—**relational**
2. Leadership is not simple—**frustration and joy**
3. Leadership is spiritual—**discernment**
4. Leadership is about group purpose—**community**
5. Leadership is chaotic—**identification**
6. Leadership is funny—**humor**
7. Leadership is not taking place in the church—**bias**
8. Leadership is about learning—**journey**
9. Leadership is an art—**demonstration**
10. Leadership is never an end in itself—**vision and mission**

B. Spiritual Leadership- *Romans 12:8b*

1. Leadership and stewardship- purpose, resources, opportunities, challenges
2. Leadership depends upon the use of the talents God has given
3. Leadership depends upon the work of the Spirit
4. Leadership is the mystery of God at work in our lives
5. Leadership is a gift from God
6. Leadership is confirmed by the church

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13

Vision

I. Do You See This? - *Ezekiel 47:1-12*

A. Ankle Deep - Salvation

1. A world of difference between fresh and salt water
2. What was dead becomes alive
3. Ankle deep means you are in - started the journey

B. Knee Deep - Examination

1. A time where the water moves and splashes
2. Moving from testing to trusting

C. Waist Deep - Consecration

1. A place where there is more of God and less of you
2. Committed to the course of Christ - going deeper
3. Very aware and very sensitive to God

D. A Mighty River - Consummation

1. A life consumed by God - perfect love
2. A mighty river drawing people from everywhere
 - a. Gives nourishment and feeds them
 - b. Gives healing and wholeness

II. An Apostolic Vision

A. A Picture of What Is Possible

1. Vision is a gift from God - He opens our eyes
2. Vision is the reward of disciplines, faithful and patient listening to God
3. Vision allows us to see beyond the visible
4. Vision compels us to move with God
5. Vision works with faith to experience the “not yet”
6. Vision helps us to connect to Kingdom Movement
7. Vision draws us forward with focus, energy and willingness

B. Taking Risks

1. Are we satisfied with the current condition?
2. Are we open to the possibilities of something different?
3. Are we willing to be held accountable to the community vision?
4. Do we have the courage to step outside the current situation?

III. Our Purpose Statement

To love Jesus Christ, to serve one another, and to reach the world, house to house, city to city, nation to nation

1. **Loving Jesus includes**

- a. *Lordship* ~ giving God control of our lives
- b. *Discipleship* ~ following Christ through obedience to His Word

2. **Serving others includes:**

- a. *Stewardship* ~ using our time, money, and energy for the Kingdom of God
- b. *Fellowship* ~ caring for the needs of each other

3. **Reaching the world includes:**

- a. *Partnership* ~ allowing the Holy Spirit to move through us in ministry
- b. *Leadership* ~ equipping others to reach their world for Christ