



CITY OF GOD CHURCH

WWB: THE CHURCH

THE MARKS OF A CHURCH

Mark Driscoll¹

Mark Dever²

Wayne Grudem³

Martyn Lloyd-Jones⁴

Regenerated Membership	Membership	Effective Fellowship	
Qualified and Competent Leadership	Leadership	Biblical Church Government	
Preaching	Preaching	Preaching (Doctrine)	Preaching of the Word
Sacraments are regularly performed		Sacraments	Sacraments Administered
Unified through the Holy Spirit	Biblical Theology	Effective Fellowship	
Disciplined for Holiness	Church Discipline	Personal Holiness	Discipline Practiced
Obeys the command to love	Discipline	Love for Christ, Care for the Poor	
Evangelism	Evangelism	Spiritual Power in Ministry	
Worship		Worship	
	Gospel		
	Conversion		

¹ Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 308-313.

² Mark Dever, "What Are the 9 Marks?" *IX Marks: Building Healthy Churches*, <http://www.9marks.org/what-are-the-9marks/>

³ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 874.

⁴ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Great Doctrines of the Bible: Volume 3 The Church and the Last Things*, (Wheaton, Crossway, 1998), 25.



“And yet it is sheer cowardice to avoid dealing with a subject simply because it is controversial. Whatever our upbringing or background, whatever our prejudices, we must endeavour to consider, with as open a mind as possible, what the Scriptures have to tell us. Let us all try to do that, praying that God will deliver us from the prejudices from which we all tend to suffer.”⁵

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

(Acts 2:42 ESV)

[25] ...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

(Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV)

Being a Christian on mission involves three things. It involves loving the Gospel, the culture, and the church. When one of these is lost we get off balance...

Gospel + culture – church = parachurch

Gospel + church – culture = fundamentalism

Church+ culture – gospel = liberalism⁶

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1. The Church is made up of regenerated believers

The church is made up of individuals that are following Jesus and devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, and worshiping together (Ac. 2:42).

However, unbelievers participate in the activity of the church, and play an important part in the community (1 Cor. 14:22-25)

2. The Church is organized under qualified and competent leadership
 - a. The senior leaders are called “elders”
 - b. The Bible also describes the leadership of deacons (ministry teams led by men and women)

⁵ Lloyd-Jones, 3.

⁶ Mark Driscoll, *Confessions of a Reformation Rev.*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006), 15.



3. The church gathers to hear God's Word and to respond in worship
 - a. The church is under the apostolic authority of scripture
 - b. The church also gathers to respond in worship including...
 - i. Adoration of God's works (Ac. 2:11)
 - ii. Service to others
 - iii. Participation in life and mission together (1 Jn. 4:12-15)
4. The church is where the sacraments of baptism and communion are performed regularly
5. The church is unified through the Holy Spirit. This includes...
 - a. Theological Unity
 - b. Relational Unity
 - c. Philosophical Unity
 - d. Missional Unity
 - e. Organizational Unity
6. The church is disciplined for holiness
7. The church obeys the great commandment to love
8. The church obeys the Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples
 - a. This was evident in the church in Acts (Ac. 2:47)

WHAT IS JESUS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH?

Jesus gives us the pattern for what our mission as the church is to be

- a. Jesus was a cross-cultural missionary
- b. He participated in it fully by using: language, holidays, food, parties, befriending people, etc.
- c. Jesus never condoned sin, nor did he himself sin
- d. He was in the world and not of it

Jesus sends the church on mission (Jn. 17:18; 20:21)

- a. The Holy Spirit descended on both Jesus (Lk. 3:21-22)
- b. And the church (Ac. 2:1-4)
- c. This allows us to continue his mission

As a church we must remember that Jesus is:

- a. The head of the church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)
- b. The leader who builds the church (Matt. 16:18)
- c. The shepherd who rules the church (1 Pt. 5:4)
- d. Present in the church (Matt. 28:18-20)
- e. The judge of the church (Rev. 2:5)



WHO LEADS A CHURCH?⁷

Jesus is the head and senior pastor of the church

ELDER-PASTORS

1. Oversees the doctrinal soundness and spiritual health of the church
2. It is best to use the term “pastor” synonymous with the term elder (Ac. 20:28; 1 Pt. 5:1-4)
3. The duties of elders revolve around
 - a. Pastoral Care (1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:17)
 - b. Guiding and guarding the teaching of the church (1 Tim. 4:14; 5:17; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2; Titus 1:9)
 - c. Elders lead by *servicing* the people (Matt. 20:25-28)
4. Who can be an elder? (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
 - a. A Godly Christian man whose life is clearly and faithfully devoted to Jesus⁸
 - b. A Godly husband (if he is married)
 - c. A Godly father (if he has children)
 - d. A Godly man in all other areas of his life

For passages on the role of women in church see: 1 Cor. 11:1-16; 14:33-35; 1 Tim. 2:8-15

“We are arguing for the complementarian view of church leadership, whereby only qualified men can occupy the office of elder-pastor (as compared to the egalitarian view, in which women can also serve in the office of elder-pastor). The office of elder and the specific functions that are unique to elders are limited to highly qualified and appointed men. Women should use their spiritual gifts and natural abilities that God has given them to their fullest extent, ministering in every way in which other non-elders do.”⁹

Some things to remember...

1. *Everyone* in the church is under the authority of Jesus
2. This model builds on the order we’ve seen God establish in the home

⁷ For further study see: Alexander Strauch, *Biblical Eldership*; Gene Getz, *Elders and Leaders*; Mark Driscoll, *On Church Leadership (A Book You’ll Actually Read)*; John Piper, *Biblical Eldership*, (http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/40_Biblical_Eldership/1586_Biblical_Eldership_Part_1a/).

⁸ For further study see: Driscoll, *On Church Leadership*; John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/OnlineBooks/ByTitle/1599_Recovering_Biblical_Manhood_and_Womanhood/)

⁹ Driscoll, 320.



3. This understanding is modeled by the Trinity
4. Women were involved in the ministries of Jesus and Paul and have crucially important roles to play in the local church

Other notes on Eldership:

1. The Bible speaks of elders in the plural (Ac. 14:23; 20:17; Tit. 1:5)
2. This also keeps elders under accountability and authority
3. However, this does allow for a “first among equals” like Peter (Ac. 2; 1 Pt. 5:1)

DEACONS¹⁰

1. The word deacon simply means “servant” and we aren’t given much detail on what they do.
2. Acts 6 *possibly* refers to deacons and shows them having a service role.
3. The qualifications for deacons is found in 1 Tim. 3:8-13), and is almost identical to elder qualifications minus teaching.
4. Men and women can serve as deacons (1 Tim. 3:11; Rom. 16:1)

WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?¹¹

Many New Testament teachings do not make sense if an individual is not involved in a committed relationship with a local church.

This is more than simply putting your name on a list!

1. The church commits to: build, equip, strengthen, encourage, and comfort its members.
2. To become a member of City of God an individual will...
 - a. Regularly attend Sunday morning worship
 - b. Be involved in some type of Christian community
 - c. Take a Doctrine course
 - d. Sign a membership covenant
 - e. Make an annual giving pledge

WHAT ARE BAPTISM AND COMMUNION?

“Baptism and communion are visible presentations of the gospel performed regularly by the church.”¹²

¹⁰ For further study: Driscoll, *On Church Leadership*; Alexander Strauch, *The New Testament Deacon*.

¹¹ For further study: Thabiti Anyabwile, *What is a Healthy Church Member?*.

¹² Driscoll, 325.



Baptism

1. Is for Christians who have already received Spirit baptism making them part of the church (Rom. 6:1-10; 1 Cor. 10:1-4)
2. Christians are identified with the death and burial of Jesus in their place for their sins
3. Coming up out of the water identifies them with new life in the Spirit
4. All Christians should be baptized (Matt. 28:19; Ac. 2:38)
5. A *sacrament* is a visual symbol of something bigger

Communion

(Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:14-23; Jn. 13:1-4; 1 Cor. 11:17-34)

1. Reminds us of Jesus death in our place
2. Calls us to put sin to death
3. Shows the unity of God's people
4. Anticipates our future participation in this meal with Jesus

Baptism and Communion help the church stay Gospel centered

WHAT IS CHURCH DISCIPLINE?¹³

See: Matthew 18; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Tim. 5:19-21

Biblical discipline is first and foremost *training*

When a Christian sins how will they deal with their sin? They should go through...

1. Conviction
2. Confession
3. Repentance
4. Restitution
5. Reconciliation

Step 1: Consider the Crime

- a. Paul had things to say about the use of secular courts in Christian disputes (1 Cor. 6:1-11)
- b. As long as the act isn't criminal it should be handled in the church

Step 2: Weigh the Offense

- a. In the end the glory of God and the reputation of Jesus must outweigh personal desire to not deal with an issue

Step 3: Admonish

¹³ For further study: Mark Dever, *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*; Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine*; Douglas Wilson, *Mother Kirk*.



- a. In this step we go to a Christian brother or sister in private, discover the truth, and appeal to the person to repent (Matt. 18:15; Rom. 15:14; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Titus 3:10)

Step 4: Reprove

- a. If the individual will not repent we should take along one or two other believers (Matt. 18:15)
- b. If the individual still is unrepentant elders are to be notified (Matt. 18:17; Gal. 6:1)

Step 5: Separate

- a. Jesus commands us to treat a habitually unrepentant person as a “tax collector” (Matt. 18:17)
- b. This would include no longer letting the individual take communion
- c. We no longer have casual fellowship with this person, but use any encounter to lovingly urge him to repent

“The goal of these corrective measures is to make every effort for Christians who love their wayward brother or sister to show their overwhelming sorrow and concern in an effort to compel the sinner toward repentance and reconciliation with God and his church.”¹⁴

See: 1 Cor. 5 for a practical example of the motive for church discipline; for an example of the discipline of an elder see 1 Tim. 5:19-21.

WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN JOIN A CHURCH?

1. Salvation is not just a personal relationship with Jesus. It is also a communal relationship with the church to live on mission for Jesus in this life.
2. The New Testament uses collective metaphors to describe the church of Christ. They include: flock (1 Pt. 5:1-11), temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17), body (1 Cor. 12:12-31), and family (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:1-7). Jesus calls us to join the “people of God.”
3. Real disciples know they need the help of other to keep following Jesus (Heb. 10:25).
4. The church is a body. You need the other members of the body to help carry out mission, and to be encouraged (1 Cor. 12:12-31).
5. Disciples need to be equipped for ministry (Eph. 4:1-16).
6. Disciples need the protection of wise leaders and the help of other Spirit-led believers (Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:17).
7. It allows us to be like Jesus and risk loving others deeply. The church will let you down, but it is worth it.

¹⁴ Driscoll, *Doctrine*, 332.



8. Disciples know that though the church is imperfect, Christ calls them to strengthen it by their presence.
9. God created us to be in community (Rom. 12:5-16; 15:5-7)
10. Jesus' heart and commitment to the church should compel us to love and serve the church (Eph. 5:25).