

Three Basic Steps to Bible Study:

1. **Observation** – like a detective, we read our Bible looking for clues and asking questions.
2. **Interpretation** – looking for the original writer’s intended meaning to the original readers.
 - Take Scripture into context.
 - Compare Scripture with Scripture.
 - Eisegesis is to read *into* the passage what you want it to say.
 - Exegesis is to read *out* of the passage the original intended meaning.
3. **Application** – this is the “so what” of the passage. What does this verse expect out of me?

“**We American Christians** have a way of taking the Jesus of the Bible and twisting him into a version of Jesus that we are more comfortable with. A nice middle-class American Jesus. A Jesus who doesn’t mind materialism and would never call us to give away everything we have. A Jesus who is fine with nominal devotion and that does not infringe on our comforts. A Jesus who wants us to be balanced, who wants us to avoid dangerous extremes, and who for that matter wants us to avoid danger altogether. A Jesus who brings comfort and prosperity to us as we live out our Christian spin on the American dream.” David Platt

“**Jesus loves the church and we should love what Jesus loves.**”

- **Matthew 18:15-20** deals with a believer who refuses to repent of their sin and is therefore brought before the church.
- **1 Timothy 3:1-16, Titus 1:1-9** provides the qualifications for pastors and deacons.
- **1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians** are letters written to churches providing encouragement, instruction and, at times, rebuke for those in the church.
- **Revelation 2-3** Jesus addressed seven churches with words of commendation and condemnation.
- **1 Corinthians 5:1-13** is the clearest and longest chapter on church discipline. It deals with a professed believer who was having immoral relationships with his step-mother. The man was addressed for discipline and yet the woman was not addressed, communicating she wasn’t a member.
- **3 John 9** rebuked Diotrephes for treating guests of the church so rudely as a result of his desire for preeminence within the church.
- **Hebrews 13:17** Submission is called for towards the spiritual leaders who will give an account to the Lord of those under their soul care.
- **Acts 13:1-3** The church at Antioch sent out the first team of missionaries, suggesting a plan and a commitment for financial support.

The Bible describes leaders, submission, future accountability, church discipline, sending of missionaries, individuals named in rebuke, and has hundreds of passages directly written to churches. These all suggest that there was active membership in place within the context of first century Christianity.

“In many ways, it’s more fun to be a part of movements than churches. We can express our own individuality, pick our favorite leaders, and be swept off our feet at conferences. We can be anonymous. Although encouraged by like-minded believers, we are not bound up with them so that we should feel compelled to bear their burdens or suffer their rebukes.” Michael Horton

1 John 1:3–4 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Ephesians 5:25-27 · Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

1. Christ’s love for His church is a sacrificial love.
2. Christ’s love for His church is a sanctifying love.

Galatians 6:9-10 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Two Major Roles Grace Baptist Church wants to have in your life:

1. Help you do life within the context of God’s Word
2. Help you prepare for eternity

Ephesians 4:11-13 - God gave gifts of leaders to the church to equip the membership for service to edify the body towards unity and maturity.

“The Church is a family that comes together for encouragement, spiritual nourishment and discipline. It’s an army that assembles to be equipped for battle and to hear God’s marching orders. It’s a flock that seeks God’s protection in a dangerous world, a bride that expresses devotion to the heavenly Bridegroom, a group of servants that seek their Master’s will. We meet together, not to escape life, but to be equipped and encouraged to go back to life with its burdens and battles. Yes, we have our times of happiness, but that’s not our primary goal. **Our goals are obedience and godliness; happiness is only a by-product.**” Warren Wiersbe