BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Ecclesiology I

What Is the Church?
What Is the Ministry of the Church?

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What is the Church?

Starting Point: People of God in History

- ✓ Genesis 1–11—Emphasis on global matters (church not revealed)
- ✓ Genesis 12—Malachi—Emphasis on national Israel, the channel for future blessing to the nations
- ✓ Matthew – Acts 7—Emphasis on Israel including the true Israel
- ✓ Acts 8 – Revelation 3—Emphasis on Church and Gentile salvation
- ✓ Revelation 4–22—Emphasis on Israel and the nations with the Church participating in ruling the nations

The Church is a piece of God's plan, but not the center of it.

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Importance of the Church

- ✓ Christ founded the church (Matt 16:18)
- ✓ Christ purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28).
- ✓ The church is the body of Christ (Eph 1:23; 4:12).
- ✓ The church is the chief instrument for glorifying God in the world.
- ✓ The church is God's instrument for bringing the Gospel to the nations in this age.
- ✓ Christ promised to build his church (Matt 16:18)

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Why so Much Disagreement?

- ✓ Disengagement of leadership from the Lord of the Church.
- ✓ Disengagement of leadership from the Word of God as authoritative.
- ✓ Disengagement from concept of obedience; now obedience is "legalism"

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The Church as *Ekklesia*

- ✓ Originates with term *ekkaleō*—to "call out"
- ✓ In general secular sense, just a gathering
- ✓ New Testament use (114x, 109x for the Church)
  - ❖ Twice in the Gospels and both in futuristic sense
  - ❖ *Ekklesia* could be … a group of believers in specific city, small house churches, believers in larger geographical area, local church gathering, all the saved from Pentecost to present day

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Parameters of the Church

Definition

- ✓ The Church is the New Covenant community of God as it exists in this dispensation between the events of Acts 2 (Day of Pentecost) through the rapture of the Church prior to the Day of the Lord.

Constituents

- ✓ Believing remnant of Israel and believing Gentiles between Acts 2 and Rapture. True believers only make up the Church.

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Parameters of the Church

Purpose.

- ✓ God's instrument for Gospel and Kingdom proclamation while Israel under temporary judgment.
- ✓ Take the Gospel to the world so that people can be saved and qualified to enter Kingdom.
- ✓ Mission: bring glory to God by reaching the lost for Christ, preaching the Scriptures, edifying Christians
- ✓ God's instrument for His truth
- ✓ Pillar and buttress of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)

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Parameters of the Church

Relationship to Israel

- ✓ Church is NOT Israel but in close redemptive relationship
- ✓ Church participates in Abrahamic and New Covenants
- ✓ Believing Israel and believing Gentiles participate in "one new man" of Eph 2:15
- ✓ When fullness of Gentiles are saved, then "all Israel will be saved" (Rom 11:12)
- ✓ The Christian Jew has "dual citizenship"

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Parameters of the Church

Future of the Church

- ✓ After the coming of Christ, those who comprised Christ's church will have positions of authority over the nations which is part of Christ's reward for faithful service.
- ✓ The Church will rise from persecution to positions of authority (Rev 2:26–27)

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Nature of the Church

- ✓ People of God—Church belongs to God
  - ❖ Romans 9:24–26; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Peter 2:9–10
  - ❖ Implications: Owned, cared for, and expected to be holy
- ✓ Body of Christ (Paul)
  - ❖ Romans 12:4–5; 1 Cor inthians12:12–27; Eph 1:22–23; 4:15–16
  - ❖ Implications: Subordinate to the Head, nourished by Christ, unity (Eph 4:1–3), barriers removed

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Nature of the Church

- ✓ Temple (1 Cor 3:16–17; 1 Cor 6:19; Eph 2:21–22; 1 Peter 2:5)
- ✓ Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)
- ✓ Saints = "holy ones" (over 100x)
- ✓ Believers, the faithful (Eph 1:1; Col 1:2)
- ✓ Disciples = "learners" (John 8:31; Luke 14:33; Matt 10:37ff)
- ✓ Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)

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Unique Characteristic of the Church

Romans 8:9–11

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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What is the Ministry of the Church?

Main Purpose of the Church

Glorify God by Proclaiming Christ (Matt 28:18-20)

- ✓ We are "the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15).
- ✓ "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Col 1:28).

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How Colossians 1:28 Works itself Out

- ✓ Exaltation
  - ❖ Corporate worship (Col 3:16–17)
  - ❖ Lifestyle worship in obedience (Rom 12:1–2)
  - ❖ Preaching/Teaching God's Word (2 Tim 4:2)
- ✓ Equipping
  - ❖ Preaching/Teaching God's Word
  - ❖ For works of service to build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12–13)
  - ❖ Edifying and building one another up (1 Thess 5:11)
  - ❖ Fellowship and body life (Rom 12:10ff)

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How Colossians 1:28 Works itself Out

- ✓ Evangelism
  - ❖ Proclaiming the Gospel IN the Church gathering (2 Tim 4:5)
  - ❖ Proclaiming the Gospel IN the world (Matt 28:18-20)
- ✓ NOTE: Preaching/Teaching Scripture covers all three facets of Exaltation, Equipping, Evangelism

Therefore, the preached Word of God is the central activity of worship, growth, and gospel proclamation

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Church Ministry as Outlined in Acts 2:42–47

- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Service
- ✓ Evangelism

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Church Discipline/Restoration

Scriptural Support

- ✓ Hebrews 12:1–14—Discipline is a positive thing. God disciplines all whom He loves.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 5:1–11—disfellowshipping of the habitually sexually immoral
- ✓ 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15—the one who refuses to acknowledge the authority of Scripture (3:6) and who causes trouble with idleness and gossip
- ✓ 1 Timothy 1:20—ferreting out false teachers

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Church Discipline/Restoration

Scriptural Support

- ✓ 1 Timothy 5:19–20—purified leadership
- ✓ Titus 3:9–11—ferreting out those who cause division
- ✓ Matthew 18:15ff—giving opportunity for repentance to the unrepentant in habitual sin

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Purpose of Church Discipline

- ✓ To glorify God and do what He commands for the maintenance of His Church.
- ✓ Restoration—The goal in every type of discipline, whether it be gentle correction, admonition, rebuke, or excommunication, is always the restoration of the offender
- ✓ Serve as a warning to Christians to see the dangers of habitual sin (1 Tim 5:20)
- ✓ To purify the body of Christ (1 Cor 5:6–7)

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Attitude in Church Discipline

- ✓ Love
- ✓ Humility, knowing you may need grace someday too (Gal 6:1)
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Readiness to forgive
- ✓ With the exceptions of the divisive person of Titus 3 and the false teachers of 1 Timothy 1, there is no call to be quick or hasty.

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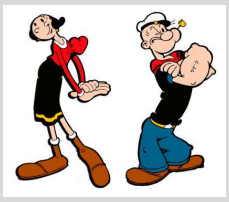
Women and Men in Ministry



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Women and Men in Ministry

Egalitarianism

- ✓ No distinctions between roles of men and women in ministry. All functions and positions in church ministry open to both genders

Complementarianism

- ✓ The view that there are distinctions in roles between men and women in the church (and the home).

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Women and Men in Ministry

Jesus Affirmed the Worth and Dignity of Women

- ✓ Jesus extended salvation to men and women equally
- ✓ Women were called to be Jesus' disciples
- ✓ Women received instruction from Jesus
- ✓ Women were chosen to be the first witnesses to the resurrection of Christ
- ✓ Jesus treated women with tenderness and care far outdoing social customs
- ✓ Jesus was winsome and gentle with women

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Women in Ministry in the New Testament

- ✓ 33 references to women in Acts
- ✓ Women are with the disciples when the new apostle was chosen (Acts 1:14)
- ✓ Multitudes of men and women were added to the church (Acts 5:14)
- ✓ Paul's first European convert was a woman, Lydia (Acts 16:14)
- ✓ Women provided houses for church meetings
- ✓ Women were persecuted for the sake of the gospel (Acts 8, 9, 22)

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Women in Ministry in the New Testament

- ✓ Wives of apostles accompanied their husbands (1 Cor 9:5)
- ✓ Women are charged with discipling younger women (Titus 2:3)
- ✓ There is no evidence in the entire NT that a woman ever served as an elder or overseer
- ✓ Women can serve as official servants in the church (1 Tim 3:11; 5:10) under male leadership.

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Male Church Leadership in the New Testament

- ✓ Carried on OT consistency of men in spiritual leadership
- ✓ All the apostles were males
- ✓ Qualification of an elder is to be "husband of one wife" (1 Tim 3; Titus 1) is uniquely male
- ✓ No evidence in NT that a woman ever served as an elder

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Male Church Leadership in the New Testament

- ✓ Prohibition that a woman is not to teach or exercise authority over a man (1 Tim 2:12)
- ✓ **REASON**

  "Adam was formed first, then Eve" (1 Tim 2:13)
  - ❖ Male leadership is based in God's created order, not based in worth or ability.
  - ❖ Men and women have been designed uniquely and differently to fulfill these roles

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