

- Proskyneō = lit. “to fall on your face before someone.” Understanding God is infinitely worthy and comparatively we are worthless.
- Sebo = devotion to / desire for something. It flows out of proskyneō.
- Latreuō = is the outward expression. Often translated as service. (Romans 12:1)

Bible Study Questions

1. The Marks of a Healthy Church are also Marks of a Healthy Believer. Which of the marks (characteristics) do you struggle with most? Why? What can you do to change it?
2. Why is membership (whether formal or not) something many Christians struggle with?
3. What is the purpose of church discipline? Why do so few churches practice it? What is the effect of neglecting it?
4. Are you willing to do what it takes to make Trinity Bible Church a healthy church? What will that practically look like in your life?

If you miss a sermon and want to listen to it, it will be posted to trinitybiblelynden.org, normally on the following Monday.

Marks of a Healthy Church

Ephesians 5:25-32; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

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Review: The Church

- The church is the only institution Christ promised to build and to bless (Matthew 16:18)
- The church is the most precious assembly on earth because Christ purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-32)

1. Commitment to the Absolute Authority of Scripture

- The Word teaches us all that we need to know about God and how He wants us to live (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Sola Scriptura = Scripture Alone. Scripture is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. It is sufficient.

2. Sound Doctrine / Biblical Theology

- What we are taught matters. We must understand it correctly. (1 Timothy 1:3; 6:3-4a; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 4:3; Titus 1:9, 13; 2:1)
 - I. Doctrines Essential to the Faith.
 - II. Doctrines Essential to Church Life.
 - III. Doctrines Where Disagreement Does Not Threaten Fellowship.

3. The Gospel—Believe It, Teach It, and Live It Out

- It is so easy to soften the gospel to make it more acceptable, but when we do that we change it, we turn it into a false gospel.

4. Conversion—

- It is a work of God (John 3:1-14; Ezekiel 36-37) resulting in repentance (1 Cor. 1:21-30).
- It results in fruit /good works (Mt. 7:17-20; 13:23).

5. Evangelism —

- Called to care, to plead, and even to persuade others (2 Cor. 5:11)
- It is not about getting “decisions for Christ” it is about faithfully sharing the truth of the gospel
- It emphasizes repentance.

6. A Biblical Understanding of Membership

- Involves Commitment (Heb. 10:23-25)
- Involves Responsibility (living out the “one-another’s”)
- Affirmation of Salvation

7. Holiness / Discipline in the Church

Is this for every sin?

- Not about personal wrongs we can cover (1 Cor. 13:5, 1 Peter 4:8)
- Not about personal preferences or convictions (Romans 14)
- Not about things we heard second hand
- Not about sins we haven’t repented of (Mt. 7:3-5)

What sins is it for? Clear violations of God’s Word

- Sins characteristic of the non-believer (1 Cor. 5:9-11)
- False teaching (1 Timothy 1:20)
- Not working (2 Thess. 3)
- Divisiveness (Titus 3:9-10; Romans 16:17-18)

Biblical Reasons:

For the sinning Christian:

- To restore him to the Lord and the Church (Mt. 18:12-14; Gal. 6:1)
- To create a sense of shame (2 Thess. 3:14)
- To deliver him over to Satan for destruction of his flesh (1 Cor. 5:5)
- To save his soul (1 Cor. 5:5)

For the Church:

- To keep the church pure (1 Cor. 5:2, 6-8, 13; 11:27)
- To protect the church from false teachers and doctrinal error (1 Tim. 1:19-20; Titus 3:10-11)
- To make us afraid of sinning (1 Tim. 5:20)

8. Discipleship

It is what the Great Commission is all about (Mt. 28:19-20). We must be a church where we are reproducing leaders (2 Tim. 2:2), older men are training younger men, and older women are training younger women (Titus 2:1-8)

9. Biblical Church Leadership—Plurality of Godly Elders

- The local church is to be overseen by a plurality of elders (Titus 1:5)
- They are to be wise, understanding, and experienced men (Deut. 1:13-17) who meet the qualifications God has given (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)

10. Commitment to Worship

- Worship is significantly more than singing.
- Three Greek words for worship: