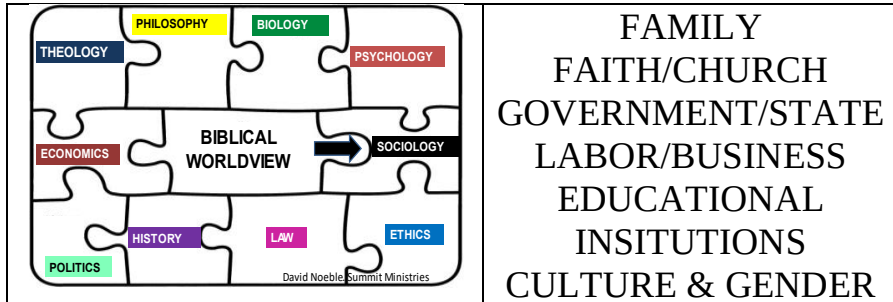


JULY 11, 2021

SOCIOLOGY: PART D

THE CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY LOVING GOD, LOVING ONE ANOTHER



“Sociology is a social science that focuses on society, human social behavior, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and aspects of culture associated with everyday life”. [the American Heritage Science Dictionary. 2011. "sociology." Dictionary.com. Random House. Retrieved 20 April 2020.

Biblical Worldview Sociology Seeks to Guide & Restore Our Society Back to Compliance with God’s Will & Word.

Biblical World View Sociology is Dependent on the Family of God...The Church.

Jeff Myers & David Noebel in their book “*Understanding the Times*” (Summit Ministries.2015) states this:

“God ordained the church to serve specific functions.
One: To proclaim the truth regarding sin, repentance and salvation.
Two: To help form individuals into communities working together to nurture each other and serve the larger society.

The church can model true community by demonstrating what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”. (Matt. 22:39,40) (p. 329).

Francis Schaffer in his book ‘*The Church at the End of the 20th Century*’ makes this statement...
“I am convinced that people all over the world will not listen if we have the right doctrine, the right polity, but are not exhibiting community”.

Myers & Noebels go on to say The Church is not merely a place for people to listen to sermons. It is a place where people of all backgrounds, ages, and experiences all learn to obey God in every area of their lives.

The word CHURCH comes from the Greek word ‘*ekklesia*’ and generally refers to a group of people who had been ‘called out from the general population to serve in the parliament, congress, or counsel of the community in order to establish the governance, rules, and regulations for the broader citizenry.

When you look at it this way it fits well into our study of the various groups that make up the study of Sociology (our society).

The three key Biblical areas are Family – Church – State. We see here that the Church is vital to all three elements. It is a family of faith that is to help provide government and leadership to the society at large and guide the governing authorities to follow God’s laws. In the largely secular society we live in today that is a challenging, but worthwhile endeavor.

Tony Evans states “to be part of the Church of Jesus Christ, as Jesus defined it, is to be a part of a spiritual legislative body tasked to enact heaven’s viewpoint in hell’s society”
(Oneness Embraced)

As Noebles & Myers state “Jesus taught that the church is more than just a place of worship at the edges of culture; it belongs at the very center of culture and society in order to teach and model who God is and how the human race might be redeemed”. (p. 329)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CHURCH AND IT’S ROLES

(adapted from Rick Warren CLASS Seminars)

A. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY _.

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds." I Pet. 3:8,

B. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..." Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and _____unity _____.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

C. THE CHURCH IS A FUNCTIONING BODY

We are a Body - not a business!

We are an organism - not an organization!

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in

Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us." Romans 12:4-6

D. **THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK** _____.
(Jesus's favorite description of the Church) John 10:1-30,
Matt. 25:33

What Impact Should the Church Have on Society

The Church (*the Family of God, and a primary place of Community*) should have a positive, constructive and formative effect on society. (*Graham Taylor*)

- The Church should model and teach the plan and purpose that God has ordained for humans and society.
- The Church should be an example of Christ and His ministry...which includes salvation, discipleship, service, justice, concern for the needy, and peace.
- The Church should be a place of acceptance and accountability in wise and loving balance. It should be an example of community, fellowship, love, encouragement as well as accountability.
- The Church should work in cooperative effort with Families, Government, Education Institutions and Business/Work to bring about positive, constructive and formative change and success for all. Obviously the Church’s role will focus on a spiritual foundational approach keeping in balance the social, emotional, economic, physical, and intellectual aspects that are needed for a successful society.
- The Church is a key element in God’s plan to bring about His Kingdom rule and reign.

WHAT IS THE KEY SOCIOLOGICAL CORNERSTONE THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD PROVIDE?

I believe that it can be summed up in Five Words...
Loving God, Loving One Another

John 13:34, 35... ³⁴ *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”*

1 John 4:7-11;19-21... ⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another..... ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

The Church can make it's biggest impact by obeying and observing these two things. Society would be most greatly impacted when the Church (the Family of God) displays, and puts into consistent practice... LOVE.

It sounds so simple and trite yet it is the most profound and challenging thing of all.

Sociology is all about relationships and community. What is most vital to these than LOVE.

Obviously Loving God is the 1st and foremost, yet according to scripture we cannot truly say we love God without LOVING ONE ANOTHER!

So for the last few minutes of this message I want to remind you of our Biblical, Spiritual and Sociological responsibility: LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

There are at least 59 “One Another” passages in the New Testament. How are we supposed to carry them all out if we do not have a local central body. There are also numerous verses that list a Church body in a specific location, with their own appointed leadership.

<https://overviewbible.com/one-another-infographic/>

“One another” is two words in English, but it's only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (ah-LAY-loan). It's used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. 47 of those verses give instructions to the church, and 60% of those instructions come from Paul. There are actually 59 “one another” passages, but “love one another” is repeated multiple times

Love

- ✓ Love one another (approx. 16 times) (Jn 13:34)
- ✓ Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- ✓ Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)
- ✓ Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)
- ✓ Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)
- ✓

Humility

- ✓ Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
- ✓ Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
- ✓ Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- ✓ Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)
- ✓ Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
- ✓ Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
- ✓ Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

Unity

- ✓ Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
- ✓ Don't grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
- ✓ Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)
- ✓ Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
- ✓ Wait for one another before Communion (1 Co 11:33)
- ✓ Don't bite, devour, and consume one another— (Ga 5:15)

- ✓ Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26).
- ✓ Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
- ✓ Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
- ✓ Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
- ✓ Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
- ✓ Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)
- ✓ Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16)

Misc.

- ✓ Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
- ✓ Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
- ✓ Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Co 7:5)
- ✓ Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
- ✓ Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
- ✓ Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
- ✓ Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
- ✓ Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- ✓ Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
- ✓ Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- ✓ Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)

It's time for us, the Church, to rise up and be the Church...
Loving God, Loving One Another. Will you join us?

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with First Baptist statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the First Baptist church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members and guests

...By refusing to gossip or criticize others but instead choose to speak as Jesus would (truth in love)

...By respecting & working in harmony alongside fellow members and with the leadership of the church
(under the Holy Spirit's direction))

1 Peter 1:22... *"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another with all your hearts."*

Eph. 4:29...*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..."*

Rom. 15:19...*"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together."*

Heb. 13:17...*"Obey your leaders & respect their authority. They keep watch over you as ones who must give an account. Obey them so their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that is no advantage to you."*

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for and supporting other members, church leaders, and ministries of FBCB

...By sharing the Good News of Jesus to others around me and inviting them to attend worship services and other events.

...By warmly welcoming those who visit our church

1 Thess. 1:2...*"To the church ... we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly."*

Luke 14:23...*"The Master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full.'"*

Rom. 15:7...*"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified."*

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

...By discovering, and using my gifts and talents to serve at FBCB

...By continuing to grow in my faith under the leadership of our church's Pastors and other church leaders

...By developing in myself a servant's heart of gentleness, kindness & humility

1 Peter 4:10... *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

Eph. 4:11-12...*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."*

Phil. 2:3-4...*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..."*

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

... By faithfully attending Worship services, Bible Studies, Discipleship classes and church events

...By living a like Christ in all areas of my life

... By giving of my time, talents and finances in a regular and cheerful manner

Heb. 10:25... *"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another."*

Malachi 3:10...*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house...and I will open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."*