

February 14, 2024

## **Marks of a Healthy Church Part 2: Conversion/Evangelism & Church Membership**

### **Goal for This Week:**

To consider how conversion/evangelism and church membership helps the church and its mission begin with God, remain with God, and end with God.

### **Review of Past Weeks:**

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Our Ecclesiology and Missiology flow out of our doctrine of God and leads to doxology.

### **Conversion and Evangelism**

“True conversion is a change of mind, but it is not just a change of mind. It is a change of heart, though not a mindless emotional experience. As God converts the heart and gives new birth, new actions flow from our new identity as those who are united to Christ by faith.” – Mark Dever

How does real change happen in a person’s life?

*Ezekiel 36:25-27* – “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. (26) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

*John 3:2-5* – “This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with them.’ (3) Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ (4) Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ (5) Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

Why evangelize when God alone is the one who can convert someone?

February 14, 2024

What is evangelism? Why should we do it?

Common ways evangelism is often misunderstood: (From Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church)

1. Evangelism is not an imposition of our beliefs on others.
2. Evangelism is not simply a personal testimony.
3. Evangelism is not the same things as social action or political involvement.
4. Evangelism is not simply encouraging positive thinking.
5. Evangelism is not the same as apologetics.
6. Evangelism is not to be confused with the results of evangelism.

How should we evangelize? (From Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church)

1. Pray
2. Tell people with honesty that if they repent and believe they will be saved – but it will be costly.
3. Tell people with urgency that if they repent and believe they will be saved – but they must decide now.
4. Tell people with joy that if they repent and believe the good news, they will be saved.
5. Use the Bible
6. Realize that the lives of individual Christians and of the church as a whole are central to evangelism.
7. Build relationships with non-Christians.
8. Work together with other Christians to take the gospel to those who don't live around any Christians.

How does conversion and evangelism begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?

February 14, 2024

## Church Membership

Why is church membership important?

“Church membership puts into practice what the Bible teaches about self-conscious commitments that should exist within a church – the commitment between an individual Christian, his or her pastors, and a defined gathering of Christians.” – Mark Dever

*Hebrews 10:23-25* – “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Church members are required to do the following: (From Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church)

1. Care for one another physically and spiritually (Matthew 25:40; John 12:8; Acts 15:36; Romans 12:13; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; Hebrews 13:16; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17; Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 11)
2. Watch over one another and hold one another accountable (Romans 15:14; Galatians 6:1-2; Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:15; Hebrews 12:5; Leviticus 19:17; Psalms 141:5)
3. Edify one another (1 Corinthians 14:12-26; Ephesians 2:21-22; 4:12-29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Peter 3:18)
4. Bear with one another (Matthew 18:21-22; Mark 11:25; Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:2; Colossians 3:12)
5. Pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16)
6. Contend together for the gospel (Philippians 1:27; Jude 3)
7. Be examples to one another (Philippians 2:1-18)

What does church membership entail? (From Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church)

1. Baptism
2. Agreeing to statement of Faith and signing church covenant

How does church membership begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?

February 14, 2024

**Preparation for Next Week:**

Read – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-supper-and-the-self> (Also attached to this document).

**Resources That Will Be Used This Semester:**

Akin, Daniel L. *10 Who Changed the World*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Clark, Elliot. *Mission Affirmed: Recovering The Missionary Motivation of Paul*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

George, Timothy and Denise George. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 1996.

Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *One Assembly: Rethinking the Multisite & Multiservice Church Models*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Leeman, Jonathan and Gregory A. Wills. *The Rule of Love: How the Local Church Should Reflect God's Love and Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation among All People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.