

Work Of The Church (V)

Figures

Work of Church (Collectively) Includes...

Assembling

Hb.10²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Preaching / studying

Acts 20⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1 Co.14²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

Giving

1 Co.16¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Praying

Acts 2⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Singing

Eph.5¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Col.3¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Support preaching of gospel

2 Cor.11⁸ I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

Ph.4¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

Relieving destitute saints

Ac.2⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Ac.4³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Relieving destitute saints

Ro.15²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

²⁸ Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. ²⁹ But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Church Discipline

1 Co.5² It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I. Figures Emphasize Different Aspects Of Church

“Building”

Mt.16¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

“Building”

1 Cor.3¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

“Building”

1 Pt.2⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

“Kingdom”

Jn.3⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God

Col.1¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

“Flock”

Jn.10¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

“Vineyard”

Jn.15¹⁻⁸

1 Co.3⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building

“Body”

1 Co.12 – Head – members – united

Ep.1:22-23 – Head – members – reconciled in
one body (2:16)

“Temple”

Eph.2¹⁹⁻²²

Hb.8⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

“Family”

Eph.3¹⁴⁻¹⁵

1 Tim.3¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Hb.11⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

“Marriage”

Eph.5²³⁻³³

Rv.22¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say,
“Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!”
And let him who thirsts come. Whoever
desires, let him take the water of life freely.

“Army”

2 Tim.2³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

I. Figures Emphasize...Church

II. Why Are These
Figures Important?

Figures

A. Mt.16¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

B. Ac.8.

1. Not 'many ways'

2. All saved alike (conditions): Ac.10-11, 15

3. All subject to same Law, Ja.1:25

Figures

C. Individual Christians, not churches, make up church universal.

1. Denominations do not know this.
2. Alexander Campbell did not know this.
3. Still true today.

D. Emphasizes Lord's authority.

1. Head over all things to church, Ep.1:22
2. Manifold wisdom...church, Ep.3:10-11
3. A. Campbell attacked wisdom of God.

I. Figures Emphasize...Church

II. Why Are Figures Imp.?

III. What Is The Essence
Of A Local Congregation?

It is a collectivity – plurality of saints.

Mt.18¹⁵ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

It is a collectivity – plurality of saints.

1 Co.12¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

1 Tim.5¹⁶ If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Agreement – common oversight...

Ph.2¹ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Agreement – common oversight...

Ac.14²³ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Tit.1⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.

Pooling means or abilities

1 Co.16¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. ³ And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your **gift** to Jerusalem. ⁴ But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

Pooling means or abilities

Ac.5¹⁻⁴ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Treasury supported evangelists

2 Co.11⁸ I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

Ph.4¹⁵ Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.