

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT

RLJ-1533

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PART 12: EIGHT BASIC DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

8 BASIC DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

As I see the ongoing apostasy in churches, I understand why the Lord keeps giving me messages concerning basic Christian doctrine. In this message we are going to examine doctrines which were normal during the time of the apostles.

EVANGELIZING

Every born again believer in Christ is commissioned to share the Gospel. This command was first given to the 12 apostles, then the 70 others and then to all believers. Christians are supposed to be fruitful but most modern believers do not share the Gospel with those around them and I would daresay that many had never led a person to Christ.

Inviting someone to church is not the same as witnessing to them. Sharing the Gospel is also known as evangelizing and Christians have been commissioned Jesus to evangelize the world. When was the last time you led a sinner to Christ and saw him born again? **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20**

MIRACLES

All believers in Christ are commissioned to pray for the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. If few Christians share the Gospel, even fewer dare to step out in faith and pray for the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. This is a shame since everyone in the early church did not hesitate to carry out the commands of Jesus.

Are you fulfilling the commands of Jesus in this area? If the answer is no, what is holding you back? **Matthew 10:1, 7-8; Luke 10:1-3, 9, 17-22**

WATER BAPTISM

There is no place in the New Testament where it states that water baptism must be carried out by a pastor or evangelist. Water baptism in the early church was carried out by the person who led you to Christ. When was the last time you baptized a person? **Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1-4**

COMMUNION

Observing the Lord's Supper is also known as communion. This was a memorial Jesus instituted the evening before He was crucified. **Luke 22:14-20**

In the early church, believers in Christ took communion on a daily basis in their homes. Jesus never stated that communion must be directed by a pastor. A husband and wife can take communion together in their home; there is no directive that states communion must take place in a church building. **Acts 2:46**



FOOT WASHING

It is a sad fact that the majority of Christians do not practice foot washing. Modern denominational church doctrine teaches that foot washing was not an ordinance instituted by Jesus. They say He only used it as an example in teaching and yet Jesus stated clearly that this was an act that the disciples were to perform on one another.

Most people are self-conscious when it comes to their feet and they feel uncomfortable having someone wash their feet because it is personal interaction that is humbling for the giver and receiver. Over the years I have called for a foot washing services and the majority of the congregation would not show for church on that particular day. Christians will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ in shame and explain why they rebelled against their Savior and refused to obey His instructions. **John 13:3-17**

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Very few Christians today are baptized in the Holy Spirit and they are certainly not going to pray for someone else to be receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Christian church is spiritually sick because they are operating in the flesh and not in the power of the Holy Spirit like the early church.

Sadly, the majority of pastors think it is normal to be powerless. That is the crux of the matter; Jesus said that we would receive power and go to the ends of the world operating in this spiritual power. If the church leadership is spiritually dead, the people in the congregation are certainly not going to manifest any power from the Holy Spirit as well. This is why modern churches rely on music, entertainment and other programs to make up for the lack of Holy Ghost power. **Acts 1:8; 19:1-7**

HELP THE HURTING

Churches are fairly good in reaching out to the suffering and needy since the pastor and leadership can do this in the flesh without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Even powerless Christians can reach out individually and receive good feelings for having done something virtuous. If people were baptized in the Holy Spirit, this program of helping the suffering and those in need could be a powerful tool in ministering to their spiritual needs as well. **James 2:14-20**

POOR AND SICK

Jesus commanded us to reach out to the poor and the sick. Modern churches excel in this area and a shining example is the Salvation Army. When William Booth founded the Salvation Army, the salvation soldiers made sure to feed and clothe the poor but also to give them the Gospel. What does it profit a man if you clothe and feed him but he dies in his sins and go to hell?

Some of the old fashioned rescue missions still demand that those seeking help attend a Gospel service before they are fed and given a bed for the night. Modern churches mainly cater to the physical needs of the poor and neglect their spiritual needs. **Luke 14:12-14**

SUMMARY

If you were to die today and stand in judgment, how would you fare on the points we have discussed? What will you say to Jesus if you have not carried out these points?

You won't be excused from the Judgment Seat of Christ and you will certainly have to give an account of your life on earth. Are you preparing for this day or will you appear as a fool? **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?