

What Are We Doing Here?

Part 4



The Ologies 2

Introduction

I go to the movie theater, etc.. Why do go to those places? To get. To consume. I contribute nothing but the price of admission. I get nothing except the temporary warm fuzzes and some memories. Nothing wrong with that. What about this; I go to church. To get? Consume? Contribute nothing but a few bucks in the box? Get some warm fuzzes and maybe some memories? That doesn't work. At least it shouldn't work. That's not the point.

A church is an interconnected and interdependent body of people with parts and members. A person is either a healthy, functioning, contributing part, or they are functionally dismembered, a fat cell, or a form of cancer. Not trying to be a jerk about it, just trying to cut through all the fluff and get real. There is so much more to being the body of Christ than "I go to church."

Ingression

Review series title and purpose. This is a "what are we" study. Still big picture stuff.

While we are attempting to answer the question, "what are we doing here" we are also defining what it means to be a part/member of TEC, this local body. "I want to be a part of you, I want you to be a part of me."

Levels of Essentiality grid [2]

Die for / Certain / salvation is in peril. **Salvation level.**

Divide for / Convinced / A. issues so central to life and worship that we cannot be in the same church. B. Separate as churches, affirm our unity as evangelicals and believers. C. In scripture, Saul and Barney. **Leadership level.**

Debate for / Confused / A. Issues where we disagree and growl at each other but work positively and laugh together in the same fellowship. **Worship style. Date of creation. B.**

Decide for / Clueless / A. Romans 14 stuff, places for freedom. Who cares stuff.

Another way to look at it

Bible prescribes/teaches/commands. Baptism, both to do and to be.

Bible describes, our guide to practice. Mode of baptism, day of the week to meet.

Bible is silent, encouraging to be wise and spirit-led in our decisions. What time should church begin? Number of meetings?

Last week we talked about what the die and divide for Ologies that TEC looks for in a believer are. The things that every believer should be able to say with a full understanding and without hesitation. Transitional statement: **[3] I agree with the core beliefs of The Exchange Church which are expressed in The Exchange Church beliefs statement. Not a pressure statement, but a statement of Biblical principle; unity.**

Today is really part two of last week's study on The Ologies. We are going to look at the die for and divide for levels of essentiality of the church's statement of faith/doctrine, and highlight where the divide for is on a leadership level and a church/member level.

Nature of God Stuff - Die for

[4] We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice. The Word of God is the foundation upon which this church operates and is the basis for which this church is governed. We believe that the Word of God supersedes any earthly law that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. We use the New King James translation to establish our doctrine and Statement of Faith. (Isaiah 28:13; **Nehemiah 8:8; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:21**) **Talk about logos in conjunction with the written word. Ever get a love letter?**

[5] We believe in what is termed "the apostles' creed" as embodying the fundamental facts of the Christian faith.

[6] 1. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:

3. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary:

4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:

5. The third day he rose again from the dead:

6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:

[7] 7. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead:

8. I believe in the Holy Ghost:

9. I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints:

10. The forgiveness of sins:

11. The resurrection of the body:

12. And the life everlasting. Amen.

[Clarify bit on Hell](#)

[8] We believe that there is one living and true GOD, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all things. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Hebrews 9:14) [Granville Sharp](#)

[9] We believe in the person of God the Father, an Infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3) [Jesus to Peter, Flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father...](#)

[10] We believe in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, his substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal, visible return to earth. (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Mark 16:19; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2; John 8:58; John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 1:2; Revelation 1:8) [Have already talked about.](#)

[11] We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 16:8-11; Romans 15:13,16; Hebrews 9:14) [A Person, not an it or a force. Speaks, can be grieved, always referred to with a personal pronoun.](#)

[12] We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. (John 14:16-17, 16:8-11)

Nature of Mankind stuff - Die for

[13] We believe that all people are sinners by nature and, therefore, are under condemnation; that God regenerates based upon faith, by means of the Holy Spirit, those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord. (Acts 8:15-17; Romans 10:9-10, Titus 3:4-5)

[14] We believe in the sovereignty of God and the sovereignty of man. God, in His eternal sovereignty, has elected, chosen, predestined, drawn, and called those who would be His before the foundation of the world. Man, in his sovereign free will, believes in, trusts, calls upon, confesses, comes to, follows Jesus Christ unto salvation. (Ephesians 1:3-14, John 3:16, John 6:29, 35-40, 65, Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 1:9)

[Not one or the other both. Why/How? Dealing with two different realities/perspectives/points of view. not contradictory. Doorway in heaven. Coin thing. The issue is an emphasis on perspective. Extremes are right in what they affirm, wrong in what they deny. Obviously God's reality is the ultimate reality. But I can't pretend to understand it or operate from it. All I can do is trust it because I trust Him.](#)

[15] We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from the Lord. (Matthew 5:3, 25:31-34; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:22, 18:9; Luke 12:5)

Church Practice - Die for

[16] We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the head and all who are born again are members. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:15-16)

[17] We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the church: (a) full immersion water baptism, and (b) the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) [Baptidzo pictures. How often for communion?](#) Prescribes and describes.

[18] We believe also in the laying on of hands for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the ordination of pastors, elders, and deacons, as well as a way for the receiving of the perpetuity of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 6:6, 8:17; 1 Timothy 4:14) [Our practice, we don't force lay-hands on anyone for anything.](#)

[19] We believe in the creation and God as the Creator. We believe that God created man and that He created them male and female. As such He created them different so as to complement and complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11; Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:18-20; 7:1-3; 7:8-9; Romans 1:18-32) [Sex, marriage, and hate speech. Intention is irrelevant, it's God's standard. Doesn't hurt anyone? What about God?](#)

Divide for leadership, debate for fellowship

[20] We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all Biblical gifts of the Spirit in such a time, manner, and place as is Biblically appropriate. (1 Corinthians 14) [Issues around counterfeits and abuse.](#)

[21] We believe in a literal, historical interpretation of Genesis 1-11, that the universe was created in six literal days about 6,000 years ago, that there was a global, catastrophic flood, and that linguistic evidence and observational science confirm this interpretation. (Genesis 1-11, Exodus 20:11, Mark 5:6, Romans 1:20, 2 Peter 3:4-7) [The issue isn't really the origin of life, but the origin of information.](#)

[22] We believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church where all believers will meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of this world prior to the Tribulation that will come upon the earth. (Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Revelation 5:7-10, 7:13-14) [No timing or event structure tied to the rapture. Paul expected it in his day. We all should expect it in our day. One of the most absurd ideas, yet absolutely taught in scripture.](#)

[23] We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ which is His personal, visible return to earth and the establishment of His millennial kingdom, in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked. (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:4-15)

Implementation

Basis of unity, foundation for building, not the end goal, motivation for doing. Greatest threat to any church - dead doctrine. Become a museum to doctrine, full of fine examples and specimens, actually relics, antiques, dead bodies. Church of Ephesus, [Revelation 2:1-7.](#)

Now that all this is spelled out, going to spend the next two weeks looking at what this does, where this goes, and why.