

THE SPECIALITY AND GENERALITY OF THE CHURCH LIFE

- I. The saving faith – the speciality of the church life.
 - A. The Bible (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - B. The Triune God – the Father, Son, and Spirit (1 Cor. 8:4; Matt. 28:19)
 - C. The Person of Christ (Matt. 16:16; 1 Tim. 2:5)
 - D. The work of Christ (John 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Pet. 1:3; Acts 2:33; Rev. 19:7)
 - E. Our salvation (Acts 2:38, 16:31, 10:43; Rom. 3:24; Acts 13:39; John 3:6; 1:12; 1 Cor. 12:27)
 - F. The church – universally and locally one (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Rev. 1:11)

- II. Receiving all kinds of genuine believers in Christ – the generality of the church life.
 - A. Receiving those whom God has received (Rom. 14:3)
 - B. Receiving those whom Christ has received (Rom. 15:5)
 - 1. Not according to observing certain days (Rom. 14:5-6a)
 - 2. Not according to eating certain foods or other religious practices (Rom. 14:2-3, 6b)
 - 3. Not according to doctrinal considerations (Rom. 14:1)

- III. A believer is to be kept away from the fellowship of a local church, the fellowship of the Body of Christ, because of only four things:
 - A. Idol worship (1 Cor. 8:4-7; 1 John 5:21)
 - B. Heresy – the denial of the incarnation of Christ and His redemptive work (2 John 7-11)
 - C. The committing of gross sins and living in them (1 Cor. 5:9-11; 6:9-10)
 - 1. Fornication
 - 2. Rapaciousness
 - 3. Reviling
 - 4. Drunkenness
 - 5. Homosexuality
 - D. Division (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10)

- IV. God's care:
 - A. For Himself
 - B. For His Son
 - C. For humanity created by Him
 - D. For His organic Body