

The Speciality, Generality, and Practicality of the Church Life

A. Speciality

- a. Holding to the faith (2 Tim. 4:7; Jude 3; Titus 1:4; Rev. 14:12; 1 Tim. 6:12) — the things into which we believe and the object of our believing, i.e., Bible, God, Christ, the work of Christ, Salvation, and the church. With these we must be specific and definite. 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 8:4; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1,14; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:4; Acts 2:36; 1 Thes. 2:19; John 3:16; 1:12; Eph. 1:22-23
- b. Caring for the faith in which we grow, rather than insisting on particular teaching and practices (e.g., head-covering, tongue speaking, ways of baptizing, or pray-reading) or the winds of doctrines that divide — Eph. 4:13-14.

B. Generality

- a. We must practice a spirit of generality to keep the oneness of the Body — Rom. 14:2-3, 5-6.
- b. Discerning the difference between a spirit of generality that receives all the believers and not accepting three kinds of persons — Rom. 14:2-3; Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10.
 - i. Turning away from those that neglect to hear the church. This takes care of God's person and authority. Matt. 18:15-17
 - ii. Turning away from those that make divisions and causes of falling away of the believers by teaching wrongly, over-emphasizing particular teachings, or are sectarian. This takes care of the Body of Christ and preserves the oneness among the believers. Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10; 2 John 9
 - iii. Turning away from those that practice idolatry, fornication, railing, drunkenness, and extortion. This takes care of humanity, preserving it for God's purpose. 1 Cor. 5:11
 - iv. Caring for our stand more than our condition. Acts 13:1; Rev. 1:11

C. Practicality

- a. Caring primarily for life, the growth in life, and the healthy teaching and practices that keep us in life. Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 3:6; 1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Tim. 6:3; Rom. 10:12-13; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Cor. 14:31.
- b. Focusing on the building up of the church, both locally and universally. Eph. 4:16.
- c. Caring for the proper stand involves a clear vision and the application of the cross of Christ. Gal. 2:20
- d. Final factors for a healthy church life
 - i. Brotherly love (John 15:12, 17)
 - ii. Serving as slaves, being subject to one another (Matt. 20:26)
 - iii. Being subject to one another (Eph. 5:21)
 - iv. Functioning to minister Christ to the Body (Rom. 12:4-5)
 - v. Practicing our priestly service according to the God-ordained way to bear fruit through the begetting of new believers, feeding and shepherding the lambs, and spreading the testimony of Jesus (through migration) for the building up of the organic Body of Christ both locally and universally. (Rom. 15:16; John 21:15-17)