



The PLUMB LINE

*Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My People”
— Amos 7:8b*

A discipleship class designed by Pastor Troy aimed at building our Community of Faith toward its vision of growing faithful followers of Christ.

Pastor & Leader Booklet- COMPLETE

THE PLUMB LINE- Class Outline

PART I BASIC: Accepting our Responsibility as Disciples

1. **Introduction:** *“The Plumb Line”*
2. **The Master Builder:** *“Who is God? Who are we?”*
3. **The Master’s Plan:** *“God’s Basic Plan of Salvation”*
4. **The Support Beams:** *“Basic Doctrine”*

PART I ADVANCE:

5. **Building Spiritual Stamina:** *“The Spiritual Disciplines”*
6. **Styling It:** *“From the Upper Room to a place called Azusa Street”*

PART II BASIC: Assisting in Spreading & Living out our Responsibility as Disciples

7. **The Big House:** *“The Church- It’s Nature, Mission and Power.”*
8. **Assessment Tools:** *“Determining Spiritual Phase with the Phrase.”*
9. **Building Dynamics:** *“Shepherding & Flock Dynamics”*

PART II ADVANCE:

10. **Variances & Code:** *“Spiritual Gifts & The Spiritual Health of the Leader”*
11. **Driveways:** *“The Wesleyan Way”*
12. **THE WRAP: Apprentice-Journeyman-Craftsman & Finishing Touches:**
“Growing into a Faithful Follower of Christ!”

PART II BASIC:

Assisting in Spreading & Living out our Responsibility as Disciples

7. PART II BASIC- The Big House: “The Church- It’s Nature, Mission and Power.”

(REVIEW)

a. Small Group Breakout Questions:

i. If a Child were to ask you the question “What is Church?” how would or have you answered the question?

ii. What is “The Church” to you?

iii. What do you think God’s Plan for “The Church” is?

iv. As a group, can you write a clear and concise definition of the Church that you believe honor’s God’s plan for the Body of Christ?

b. Large Group Review of Small Group Breakout:

c. Introduction: The Big House- God’s House is God’s Mechanism for assisting us in Spreading the Gospel.

d. From our Study of Doctrine in section 5- The Support Beams we stated:

The Church- The Church is composed of all such persons (*Biblically Functioning Faithful Followers*) who through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which Jesus is the head.

e. Community of Faith Constitution- Article IV

The Church

The Church is composed of all such persons (Biblically Functioning Faithful Followers) who through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which Jesus is the head.

- Article IV Statement of Faith, Summary of Core Beliefs, COF Constitution, page 3

“The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is vested all the power for its government. According to His commandments, Christians are to associate themselves into particular communities of local churches. God admonishes His people to assemble regularly for worship. God still heals, delivers and works miracles through His Church.”

- Article IV Statement of Faith, Additional Theological & Biblical Reference to our Core Beliefs, Item 9. COF Constitution, page 4

f. WALKING OUT THE DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH:

(1) It is **The Body of Believers** Gathered. (2) Believers in **Jesus Christ**, who is the Head of the Body, the Bridegroom, (3) who has instructed us to continue His work in **the Great Commission** until His return for the Bride- His Church!

g. Rick Warren's Definition of the Church-

"It's not about YOU!" It's about the 1 that is not yet in the Body and not the 99 that are present in the Body!

Matthew 18:12-14 nkjv

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? ¹³**And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.** ¹⁴Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

h. Defining the Church by what it does: The Mission of the Church.

Matthew 28:18-20 nlt

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

i. Troy's Definition: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

It is a TEAM, **A Community of Faith**, who is **growing faithful follower of Christ**. These followers are commissioned by Christ to be His witnesses, His body, His team on earth in order to fulfill the Great Commission. When two or more gather in the name of Christ- the church is in session!

j. Church-Ecclesia **ἐκκλησία** [*ekklesia* /ek·klay·see·ah/] Translates as “church” or “assembly.” (1) in a Christian sense an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting, a company of Christian, or of those who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs, according to regulations prescribed for the body for order’s sake.

- It can refer to those who anywhere, in a city, village, constitute such a company and are united into one body.
- or to the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth including those faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven.³

k. The Order of the Church: Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church- The Body!

Colossians 1:15-19 nkjv

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸**And 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.

³ A Redacted version of Strong, J. 1996. *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship: Ontario

I. **The Unadulterated Church or what I want to call**
“The Acts Prototype”: (See Acts chapters 2-10)

Acts 2:38-47 nlt

Peter replied, “Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles* —all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this generation that has gone astray!”

⁴¹Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all. ⁴²

They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s Supper and in prayer.

⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

1. The Prototype shows the formation of the original church: (Acts2:42-47)

- They devoted themselves to the **Lord's Teaching.** (v.42)
- They shared in the **Lord's Supper.** (v.42)
- They **Prayed** together. (v.42)
- A Deep sense of awe overcame them. (v.43)
- **Signs & Wonders** were done in their presence by the Apostles. (v.43)
- The believers met together **CONSTANTLY** and **SHARED EVERYTHING THEY HAD.** (v.44)
- They sold their stuff & shared with **those in need.**(v.45)
- They worshiped together each **day.** (v.46)
- They met in **homes.** (v.46)
- And while doing it they all **"PRAISED GOD"** and Enjoyed **"GOODWILL"** among all the people. (v.47)
- And each day **"THE LORD ADDED"** To the Church-people who were **"BEING SAVED."** (v.47)

2. LET'S LOOK AT THE WHOLE ACTS PICTURE:

In Acts 2:1: We see 120 people filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. By the end of that day some 3000 people had given their life to Christ and were filled with the Power of God.

And it was just beginning. In the next day's many, many more are converted.

The Gospel starts burning in CHAPTERS 1-7 of Acts and quickly begins to move throughout Judea and into Samaria by Acts 8-9 and by Acts 10 it is burning through the world moving from the Hebrews to the Gentiles and from Jerusalem all the way to ROME!

In Acts 3: Peter and the Disciples begin Preaching and sharing the Gospel. Peter & John heal the crippled beggar.

In Acts 4: They were arrested and forbidden from proclaiming the name of Jesus in Acts 4:13-22, but they refuse to bow, and the people are rallying to their support for the Lame Man had been known by the crowd for 40 years. They gave all credit & glory to THE LORD!

The believers are filled with more boldness and begin to share their possessions and preach with more boldness. THE NUMBERS ARE GROWING DAILY.

In Acts 5: The High Priest and establishment imprisons, threatens and flogs the disciples and instead of being dejected they left blessed to be worthy of such flogging.

In Acts 6: They are having growing pains, so they broke the work down assigning 7 Deacons to supervise the care of the church, and the Apostles continued teaching and preaching the Word. The early church had all kinds of growth issues—Great Problems to Have!

In Acts 7: In a move of desperation, a Pharisee named Saul attempts to squelch the movement by Killing one of the deacons STEVEN. He is killed, but the actions don't squelch instead it spreads. The action sends the disciples off into Judea, Samaria and beyond. It doesn't squelch the rebellion, it starts HOME GROUPS, HOME CHURCHES EVERYWHERE. And that which was meant to defeat-catalyzed its growth.

In Acts 8: THE CHURCH HAD A MIGHTY VICTORY:

Acts 8:1-4 nkjv

Saul was one of the official witnesses at the killing of Stephen.

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem, and all the believers except the apostles fled into Judea and Samaria. ²(Some godly men came and buried Stephen with loud weeping.) ³Saul was going everywhere to devastate the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into jail.

⁴But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus.

In Acts 9: Saul is converted and becomes THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES, and then the rest is History.

Our very Church today is a by-product of the Prototype Church: *“We are a product of that first Revival!”* The question to us today is *“Will the revival continue?”*

3. WHAT THEY DID & HOW IT HAPPENED? WE LEARNED

THEY: (Share the essence of the Acts church in the text Acts 1-9)

1. A **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS.
2. THEY HAD A **PASSION** FOR HIS NAME.
3. THEY CARRIED THE **HOLY SPIRIT** WITH THEM.
4. THEY PRESSED ON OUT OF A GREATER FEAR OF **FAILING THEIR LORD** THAN OF THE SECULAR WORLD.
5. THEIR WILL AND DESIRE TO **NEVER GIVE UP** IS WHAT MADE THEM CHAMPIONS FOR THE LORD.
6. AND IT WAS THEIR **COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL** THAT ADDED THOUSANDS TO THEIR CHURCH DAILY AND SPUN OFF HOUSE CHURCHES ACROSS THE WORLD AND TO THIS VERY DAY!

m. **In Summary:** The Body of the Church is the Body of Biblically Functioning Faithful Followers, those that have accepted the Gospel and are assisting the Gospel! As a Body we share in Team-led ministry. As a Body discipleship takes place within small groups as Jesus Himself focused His teaching discipleship ministry in a small group structure of 12.

n. A **Prophecy of the Church** Still in the making:

Matthew 16:18 nlt

¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers *(nkjv-the gates)* of hell will not conquer *(nkjv-prevail against)* it.

o. **Closing Prayer.**

NEXT WEEK

Assessment Tools: *“Determining Spiritual Phase with the Phrase.”*