

The Power of the Pattern Pt 3: A Pattern House!

October 11, 2015

(Parts 1 and 2 were delivered on July 26th and Oct 2nd respectively)

Text: 2 Timothy Chapter 1, with emphasis on verse 13

- Today, in ordaining a new *episkopos* (Overseer) in the Lord's Church, we continue following the pattern the Holy Spirit gave us through the epistles.
- I cannot state firmly enough that following the biblical church pattern for leadership is absolutely critical to the formation of a biblical, Christ-honoring, heaven-pleasing, people-equipping, devil-scaring church of the Lord Jesus Christ... 😊

Saints, let me simply ask this question. If we aren't following the pattern that Christ has laid down through the apostles for HIS church, what in the WORLD (James 4:4!) ARE we doing? 😊

The Pattern Revisited

2 Timothy 1:13 ESV Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (emphasis mine)

- The *Pattern* can be described as: **The fundamental doctrines, expressions, and traditions given to the Church by Christ through the New Testament writers.**
- The *Pattern* is simply **"Who Christ intended His church to be, what He intended it to teach, and the way He designed it to operate. All of this is clearly illustrated in the New Testament."**

The Context of 2 Timothy 1

1. Let's understand the heart of the Apostle and the heart of our God in 2 Timothy.
2. This was Paul's last epistle to the churches. It was written while he was in prison in Rome, literally waiting to be **executed**. Imagine the scene.
3. Paul, at the end of his life, isn't worried about his rights, isn't lamenting his situation, and isn't looking to the world for solutions. Rather, Paul writes a "bold, clear call for perseverance in the Gospel in spite of suffering" (ESV Study)...a call to Timothy to **hold fast and stay true!**
4. This heart flows throughout this Epistle. Let us breathe it in some via the "public reading of Scripture." (1 Tim 4:13)
 - 2 Timothy 2
 - 2 Timothy 3
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-7

The Heart of this Pattern House:

Precious friends, can you see why this "**Pattern House Heart**" is important?

1. The church of Jesus Christ, "*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone*" (Eph 2:2), has NO AUTHORITY to ignore Christ's instructions or create a church based upon the sinfulness of our **desires** and Worldisms (see last week's message).
2. We must:
 - "Follow the pattern" (2 Tim 1:13)
 - "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 2:3)
 - "Rightly handle the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15)
 - "Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace" (2 Tim 2:22)

- “Follow (apostolic) teaching” in these “last days” (2 Tim 3:1, 10)
 - Understand that “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Tim 3:16)
 - “Preach the Word, in season and out” (2 Tim 4:2)
 - “Fight the good fight; finish the race; keep the faith!” (2 Tim 4:7)
3. CRCC isn’t trying to **impose** anything on anyone. **We are trying to be faithful to Scripture.**
 4. CRCC is, among other things, called to **model** something of a reformation and a return to Scripture. I believe this call is not unique to us; it is upon many churches around the world. This call is about setting a true, New Testament **apostolic** pattern, speaking prophetically, and encouraging others to do the same.
 5. CRCC isn’t trying to ruin everyone’s fun. 😊 We are simply trying to teach all of who God is, including the beauty of His holiness.
 6. CRCC isn’t naïve as it relates to the culture; but our doctrine must not be driven by the **world**.
 7. CRCC isn’t trying to intentionally be controversial; we just know as teachers, we will be “judged with greater strictness” in some way or another, so we must stick to Scripture! 😊
 8. CRCC isn’t **unloving**; but we do recognize that holding to what the Bible clearly teaches in unpopular areas can seem that way. We pledge to work harder at loving in tangible ways! 😊

Let us read Paul’s “last words.” Listen to his apostolic heart, as preserved by the Holy Spirit for us...

- *2 Timothy 4:8-22 ESV*
- Imprisoned, alone, deserted, cold, hurting...but resolved, faith-filled, still desiring the fellowship of the brethren despite all he’d gone through, he remains focused on Christ and the glory of heaven. Wow.
- **Let us follow the pattern laid down by the Holy Spirit in Holy Scripture. We cannot do any better than that.**

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. (2 Tim 4:22)

Amen.