

WHAT IS THE PATTERN?

INTRODUCTION

- I. The Bible teaches the importance of a “pattern” to follow in matters of great importance. Exo. 25:40; Heb. 8:5; 9:23-24
 - A. This means that something has been *set forth* as a STANDARD for “measuring” our actions before God, which is the BIBLE. Matt. 4:4; 1 Cor. 4:6 (ASV); Phil. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - B. God has a special interest in “measuring the **church**, the **worship**, and the **worshippers**. Rev. 11:1
- II. Now let’s consider the pattern as it applies in these areas.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the PATTERN AND THE CHURCH.

- A. The **oneness** of the church (with all believing and teaching the same thing, 1 Cor. 1:10), which is not a collection of different human religions. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:13
- B. Then, the **name** of the church. Acts 20:28 (ASV); Rom. 16:16
 1. In this last passage, the word church is “churches”, in the plural.
 2. If in the plural, there were churches **of Christ** (because they were all the same, alike in belief and practice, then in the singular, each one was a “church of Christ”, without human names to identify their different and conflicting doctrines and beliefs.
- C. The **organization** of the church.
 1. Jesus is the head, and only head of His church. Col.1:18
 2. Each congregation is to have a plurality of elders and deacons (when qualified). Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1
- D. The **unity** of the church. 1 Cor. 1:10,11-13 (discuss); cf John 17:20-21

II. 2nd, the PATTERN and WORSHIP.

- A. Worship must be in “spirit” and in “truth.” John 4:24
 1. In “spirit” suggests that it must originate in our hearts with our minds involved in what we are doing. Cf Eph. 5:19
 2. In “truth” means that it must be done according to what God’s word says. John 17:17
- B. Worship must involve all the authorized **actions** of worship. Matt. 26:29; Acts 2: 42, 47; 10:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2;; Heb. 2:12 (These acts of worship characterize our worship on the Lord’s day, but all but the Lord’s Supper and contribution can also be practiced any time the church meets).
 1. These are the essential, but there is room for human judgment in the carrying out of these acts of worship. Cf 1 Cor. 14:40
 2. We must **not** corrupt the worship by additions (such as bands, concerts, or other performances of a physical nature,
 3. We must not teach human doctrines that originate in the minds of men. Matt. 15:9

III. 3rd, the PATTERN and WORSHIPERS.

- A. Remember, the pattern **is** the teaching, or word of the New Testament. John 12:48
- B. The pattern presents the **standard** for our personal conduct in worship also.
 1. This means that *purity of life* should characterize God’s people outside of worship. 1 Pet. 4:1-4; 1 John 3:2-3
 2. This also means that *good work* should characterize God’s people outside of worship. Matt.5:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Tit.3:1
 3. This means that *faithfulness* in living should also characterize our lives.1 Cor.15:58; 16:13-14
 4. It also means that each worshiper must not conduct himself or herself with some special or unique action (such as dancing a jig, or rolling in the floor), but only by participating **in** that which is authorized.

CONCLUSION

- I. Our lives before God are measured by the CHURCH of which we are a part, and our WORSHIP in the church, and our CONDUCT in life.
- II. We become part of the church or body of Christ by obeying God in faith, repentance and baptism. 1 Cor. 12:13

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