

Leading The Church Forward

Leader's Guide for the Week Two

The Congregation and the Keys

Acts 2:42-47, Gal 1:1-10, Matt 18:15-20

Note: Please read the Scripture passages and watch the video on your own first and try to answer the questions. This will help you fine-tune things and draw good answers out of the group when you view it again with them.

Open with Prayer

Note: The video is longer this week as it is 2 sermons in one so please jump right into the video. You can feel free to skip some questions if needed to allow for some Q&A. The key point of this session is that a church functions best when a Holy Spirit-empowered congregation takes responsibility to follow God's leadership in picking leaders, preserving the gospel, and protecting the sheep.

1. Pastor Paul taught congregational churches are ultimately under the authority of Jesus. He cautioned us that, since there is no external human hierarchy overseeing Northwest Baptist, the church has the potential, if we lose touch with Jesus, to go WAY wrong. What can individual members do if they believe the church is drifting from sound doctrine?
2. In Acts 2:42-45, we read of a congregation engaged in devotional acts, prayer, the study of doctrine, and assisting needy members. Do you see this mix of activities at Northwest Baptist?
3. While discussing the role of the congregation in church governance, Pastor Paul quoted from Matthew 16:17-19. Some people use this passage to support the teaching that the "rock" of verse 18 is Peter, whom Jesus was appointing as Pope. Further, these people believe that in verse 19, Jesus was giving Pope Peter the authority to forgive sins ("loose" or "bind"). State whether you agree or disagree and support your answer with scripture.

4. Pastor Paul emphasized that the congregation can discern false gospels only in they understand the true gospel. In your personal experience, what elements of the true gospel do false preachers usually contradict?

5. According to Matthew 18, what is the first step in which you should engage if a fellow Christian sins against you?

6. Assuming a church has some type of leadership structure (Pastors, Deacons, Elders, Trustees, etc.), what responsibilities for church governance fall upon the general congregation?

Q&A

Closing Prayer