

SESSION FOUR
THE
OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

“For god is not a God of disorder, but of peace...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”
1 Cor. 14:33, 40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should *not* determined by culture, business practices or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship...” Acts 2:42

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:3

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Rom. 14:19

Any attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Prov. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11, Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Petr 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34, 35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5, 6, Rom 12:16-18, Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS

_____.

“Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you...” 1 Cor. 11:17-18

“Voting” tends to _____.

At Oak Hill Baptist church, we limit the issues to be voted on.

Instead, we let leaders lead.

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:8, Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____.

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.” 1 Tim. 9:1, 2

“(A leader) He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) 1 Tim 3:4, 5

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22, 23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

**We are a Body
Not a Business!**

We are an organism – not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS

OF _____ NOT _____.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Rom 12:4-6

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. In an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

**AT OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE
MAXIMIZE _____ AND MINIMIZE _____.**

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Eph. 4:11, 12

OUR STRUCTURE

The people are the “ _____ ”

The pastor is the “ _____ ”

Currently there are _____ different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____

(Jesus’ favorite description of the Church)

John10:1-30, Matt.26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____.

“Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’” John 21:16

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- “POIMEN”: _____
- “PRESBUTEROS”: _____
- “EPISCOPOS”: _____

“The elders who are among you I exhort ... Shepherd the flock of God ...” 1 Pet: 5:1, 2

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” Acts 20:28

OUR AFFILIATION

When Oak Hill Baptist Church began, the church voted to cooperate with three groups:

The Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

A group of Southern Baptist churches that fellowship and work together to reach the people of the Cumberland Plateau.

The Southern Baptist Convention of Tennessee

Southern Baptist churches that fellowship and work together with the goal of evangelizing our state.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)

45,000 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions.

WHAT IS THE SOUTHER BAPTIST CONVENTION?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America and the world. One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC (45,000 churches and 15 million members – more than most other denominations combined.
- It is the most diverse association of churches. SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S. One out of every three blacks in the U.S. is a Southern Baptist. In Cumberland County our association includes English and Hispanic Southern Baptist Churches.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups.
- The SBC baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the U.S. and begins nearly 5 new churches a day.

Why not just be an independent church?

We are an independent church! Every Southern Baptist Church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy as there is in most denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- Every church chooses its own pastor.
- Every church owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every church determines its own programs.

What are the advantages of affiliating with the Southern Baptist convention?

1. It allows u to **identify with other Christians** around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, SBC has no man-made “creed.” The bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to **participate in the largest missionary organization in the world.** Through the SBC “Cooperative Program” we help support over 7,500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

What do “Baptists” believe?

(See the “Statement of Faith”)

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “**attenders**” and “**members**” can be summed up in one word:

At Oak Hill Baptist Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.” Eph. 5:25

A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. “You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

THE OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH statement, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...by acting in love toward other members**
- ...by refusing to gossip**
- ...by following the leaders**

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Romans 14:19

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus ...” Romans 15:5

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.” 1 Peter 1:22

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Eph. 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:17

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...by praying for its growth**
- ...by inviting the unchurched to attend**
- ...by warmly welcoming those who visit**

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.” 1 Thess. 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” Rom 15:7

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- ...by discovering my gifts and talents**
- ...by being equipped to serve by my pastors**
- ...by developing a servant's heart**

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Eph.4:11, 12

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Eph. 2:4

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...by attending faithfully**
- ...by living a godly life**
- ...by giving regularly**

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Heb. 10:23

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Phil. 1:27

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” 1 Cor. 16:2

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.” Lev.27:30

Membership Application

Oak Hill Baptist Church

Four Requirements

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for salvation?

Yes

When? _____

Where? _____

I have committed my life to Jesus Christ in this class

2. Have you been baptized by immersion (under water) after you committed your life to Christ?

Yes

When? _____

Where? _____

I want to be baptized at Oak Hill Baptist.

3. Have you completed the New Member's Class

Yes

Date

4. Will you commit to do your best to abide by the Oak Hill Baptist Membership Commitment?

Yes, I do!

Please sign your Name and Date

Welcome to your Family!