

Study Guide

Building Blocks of the Church

Suggestions on how to use this guide

The purpose of this study is to discover what the Bible has to say about the structure of the church. The book, *Building Blocks of the Church*, and this study guide are simply tools to help you discover the Bible's message on the subject. The book and the teachings of men should never be held at the same, or at a higher level than the Scriptures. If there is a conflict between what the book says and what the Bible says, then the Bible has the higher authority.

I would urge you to study all the relevant Scriptures on each subject and allow them to speak to you before reading the book. Some of the Scriptures that apply are listed in the footnotes of the book. Additional scriptures are supplied in the study notes. You may want to use a cross-reference tool to link to additional verses.

Some of the Scripture references included in the Study Guide are curved balls in order to provoke critical thought and discussion. Learn to look at each reference critically and carefully.

At the end of each section you will find a list of additional resources. Read and listen to these for a fuller understanding of the subject.

I would strongly urge the leader(s) to check every Scripture reference and to work through as much of the additional resource material as possible in order to provide informed direction to the discussion. Listening to the MP3s (where available) will provide a lot of additional examples, background and detail that is not included in the book.

Finally, it is my sincere prayer that you will find this study interesting, challenging and a blessing. However, it needs to be more than an academic subject – it needs to be lived and practiced in your church. At the end of each section, each participant needs to ask the question: "How can we apply this in our church?"

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Burbank, CA
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Chapter 1.

Questions for Discussion

1. What do the words “*Sola Scriptura*” mean and where does the term come from?
2. What does the Bible have to say about (a) adding to and (b) subtracting from the Scriptures? (See Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Proverbs 30:6 and Matthew 16:6-13 and Revelation 22:18)
3. Give some examples of how churches (a) add to and (b) subtract from the Scriptures today.
4. Is the New Testament fully applicable to us today? (With particular reference to the life, function and structure of the church)
5. What are some of the problems we face in understanding and applying the Bible as far as the life of the church is concerned?
6. What does “hermeneutic” / “hermeneutics” mean and what is its relevance to us?

7. Discuss some things that the Bible records but does not necessarily approve.

8. What aspects of the Jerusalem church are not applicable to the church today and why?

9. Is there any single church in the New Testament that provides a complete model for our church and that must be copied exactly? Discuss the reasons for and against. (Some possibilities: Jerusalem, Antioch, Corinth, Ephesus, Rome)

10. Name additional examples of each of the five principles by Ramm on pages 16 and 17 of *Building Blocks*)

Additional resources

1. MP3 messages by Anton Bosch: Sola Scriptura. (Series of 4). (Download from www.antonbosch.org/tapes2006)
2. Notes to 1.
3. Articles by Anton Bosch: How to Smell a Rat, Do Not Exceed What is Written, Do Not Subtract.
4. Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Baker Books. Grand Rapids, 1970.