

BIBLE

"And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils (Mark 3:13-15). And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."

Mark 3:20-21

- ➔ F. **The Bible is the final authority.** No church is a New Testament church that does not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
- G. **Soul winning is essential.** You cannot have a New Testament church and not be a soul-winning church.

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." Revelation 1:20

A golden candlestick is another word for a church.

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works." Revelation 2:5a

The first works Jesus told the New Testament church to do was to go soul winning. Jesus was telling this church that if they did not get back to soul winning, He was going to remove their right to be called a church. That is the church's first and foremost responsibility. The church is not a social club. It is a soul-winning station. The New Testament church was hated by Jerusalem and was persecuted because they were soul winning. There is no such thing as a New Testament church that is not a soul-winning church. You may call it a church, but it is not a church. Jesus does not recognize any church as a church unless it is a soul-winning church.

TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: This would be an excellent place to ask the children what they do to make the Bible the most important book in their lives. They should give it a special place in their lives by reading it and thinking about it daily.

Also, ask the children about their own soul-winning responsibility. Try to get them to realize that they, too, are responsible for telling others about Jesus. They can learn the Roman's Road plan of salvation and share it with a friend.

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Mark 3:20-21

- H. **Salvation is by grace through faith only.**
- I. **Biblical separation:** No organization that is not Biblically separated is a church. Our founding fathers were separated people. They were a persecuted, hated, and fanatical people. There are three areas in which we are to separate ourselves.

In the Old Testament, they could not plant two different seeds together in the same mound; they could not plow with an ox and a donkey in the same yoke; and they could not have two different materials in the same garment. These things symbolize several areas of separation.

1. **The Bible:** The seed is the Word of God. We are not to yoke up with any denomination, church meeting, fellowship, or endeavor that is wrong on the Bible. We are not to yoke up with people who do not believe the Bible is verbally inspired.
2. **Salvation:** A robe is the symbol of salvation. We are not to yoke up with people who are wrong on salvation. We are not to yoke up in any kind of meeting with people who are wrong on salvation. [Teacher, remind the students that this not yoking with unbelievers extends into our personal lives: we are not to enter into friendships, not to date, not to marry, and not to go into partnership in business with the unsaved.]
3. **The preacher:** An ox is a symbol of a true preacher. The false preacher is symbolized by a donkey. We are so afraid of not being accepted. New Testament Christianity never has been accepted. A big battle in fundamentalism in the next few years is mainly going to be the compromiser attacking the separatist. When one starts that battle, he moves outside the circumference of fundamentalism.

There are some wonderful Christian people who belong to churches that are not New Testament churches, but this issue is a big one. We must teach our young people the importance of belonging to a true New Testament church.

BIBLE (cont.)

Acts 20:28 says, "*Take heed therefore unto yourselves . . . to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*" Jesus loved the New Testament church enough to purchase it with His own blood; therefore we ought to love it enough to belong to one that is a true New Testament church. God has formed the New Testament church as His unit of operation. It is His company; His squad; His platoon; His unit of battle; His unit of action; His base of fellowship. God organized it and wants His people to come out from among the false churches or any church that unites with the false churches.

TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Lead the children to thank God for having a New Testament church to which they can belong. Many, many people around the world have never even heard of a New Testament church let alone have the opportunity to belong to one. Teach the children what a privilege and holy obligation they have!