



Women's Ministry in the Local Church Book Study

Chapter 3: The Motive

THE SERMON – FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE CHURCH

“The only reliable motive for encouraging women’s ministry in the local church is an insatiable longing to see the display of God’s glory in the local church.”

What are some other motives for serving in the local church? A way to get to know other people, love for other people, a desire to use your gifts to honor Christ.

Why won’t these motives be enough? These are not necessarily bad in and of themselves, but they will fail if they are the ultimate motive, because the local church is made up of sinners and redeemed sinners who will break our hearts. They will hurt us and disappoint us, and we will hurt and disappoint others.

We need to:

- 1 *reorient ourselves by the Word of God*
- 2 *embrace God’s attitude and vision for the local church*

Why a “radical-reorientation”? – Romans 12: 2 says “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

What is it about culture in America that fights against a biblical understanding of the local church? Answer – “Rugged Individualism”

This leads to a culture of self and a negative attitude towards any kind of accountability.

ECCLESIOLOGY 101

Ecclesiology means: *what the Bible teaches about the church*

What happens when we don’t have a strong ecclesiology?

1. We won’t see the church as God sees her
2. The ugliness of the life of the church in a fallen world will blind us to the glorious beauty that is the assembly of God.

In talking about the need to be captivated by the beauty and significance of the church as our motive to serve, Duncan explains that a Biblical Ecclesiology will remind us that:

1. We have the privilege of following our savior in loving those who “hurt us” and are “not altogether lovely in and of themselves”.
2. Reminds us that it is God’s design to make us holy and we are invited to serve Him
3. We are invited to serve Him by contributing to the preparation of His bride for the wedding.

First Timothy 3:14-16

Paul’s letter is written to Timothy, pastor of the church at Ephesus, where Paul wrote to the church at large concerning the doctrine of Christ and His church. Now, he is writing to Timothy, pastor of the church at Ephesus, concerning how we are to do church. In this passage we see the reason for the letter.

Three truths from this passage that give the foundation for a strong doctrine of the church and that have radical implications for the ministry of women in the church:

1. *The Bible* - *is to have a controlling influence in our lives and in our ministry in our local church*

2. *The Church* - Three qualities of the church:
 - a. *The church is called **the household of God**, the family He has chosen for Himself - Grk. Word Oikos – can mean either house or household. See I Timothy 3: 4, 5 and 12*

 - b. *The **church** is the assembly **of the living God** who is present with them. – Exodus 6: 7; Jeremiah 31: 33; II Corinthians 6: 16 – see the corporate identity! Not “me”, but “we”.*

 - c. *The **“Pillar and Buttress of truth”**. The church is the vehicle of evangelism and discipleship and the defender of the faith. – Matthew 28: 18-19. Explain what Duncan means when he says, “discipleship is to take place in the local church because that is where you baptize.”*

3. *Christ* is the mystery of godliness: - Paul is being countercultural “Great is Artemis”
 - a. *He is the One whose ministry will make His people godly.*

 - b. *He will make His church godly.*

What kind of godliness is being talked about here? - *“active godliness whereby we minister and serve one another.”*

Paul asserts that Christ is:

- 1 *the source of godliness*

- 2 *the revelation of godliness*

- 3 *the example of godliness*

Think of “fullness” language of Ephesians – (1: 23; 3: 19; 4: 10) Christ is all in all
 His purpose: *is to give us a vision of the Master*

His design: *is to stoke our love for Christ*

Six grand phrases picture our glorious Lord:

1 *He was "manifested in the flesh"*

2 *He was "vindicated by the Spirit"*

3 *He was "seen by angels"*

4 *He was "proclaimed among the nations"*

5 *He was "believed on in the world"*

6 *He was "taken up in glory"*

A biblical women's ministry will teach women:

1 *how to love the church*

2 *how to respond when the local church does not love women or women's ministry*

3 *how to defend Christ's Kingdom through prayer and service*

4 *how to live out biblical womanhood with love, wisdom and grace*