



TAMPA BAY

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CORE CONVICTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (ICC)

1

WE ARE A BIBLE CHURCH, NOT SIMPLY A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17, 2 PETER 3:15-16, COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, THE WORD “SCRIPTURE” IN THIS PASSAGE REFERS TO ONLY THE OLD TESTAMENT. NOW, THROUGH THE INSPIRATION OF THE SPIRIT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT APPLIES TO THE NEW TESTAMENT AS WELL. WE BELIEVE THE OLD TESTAMENT APPLIES TO OUR LIVES – AS MUCH AS THE NEW TESTAMENT – EXCEPT FOR THE MOSAIC LAW AND ANY TEACHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT SUPERSEDES THE OLD TESTAMENT.

“BE SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS, AND SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT”

2

GENESIS 2:19, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:23

IN APPLYING SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES TO BUILD THE VISIBLE CHURCH, WE BELIEVE WE MUST OBEY GOD'S WORD, BUT WHERE THE BIBLE DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PRACTICE OR NAME, WE ARE FREE TO USE OUR GOD-GIVEN CREATIVITY. WE ARE FREE TO PRACTICE OR NAME SOMETHING IF IT DOES NOT CONTRADICT THE SCRIPTURES.

3

DISCIPLING IS A COMMAND OF GOD AND NOT OPTIONAL

MATTHEW 28:19-20, COLOSSIANS 1:28-29, JOHN 15:15, 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-3

THE DYNAMIC IN THIS RELATIONSHIP BEGINS AS A TEACHER/STUDENT RELATIONSHIP AND THEN MATURES TO A MORE PEER/PEER RELATIONSHIP. DISCIPLING IS TEACHING OBEDIENCE TO SCRIPTURE AS EVIDENT IN THE “ONE ANOTHER” PASSAGES: “LOVE ONE ANOTHER,” “INSTRUCT ONE ANOTHER,” “CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER,” “PRAY FOR EACH OTHER,” ETC.

4

A CENTRAL LEADERSHIP WITH A CENTRAL LEADER

NUMBERS 27:12-23, EXODUS 18:12-26, JUDGES 21:25, 1 CORINTHIANS 4:15-17, TITUS 1:5, ACTS 15:19-24, ACTS 21:24

THROUGHOUT GOD’S WORD, WHEN HIS PEOPLE WERE UNIFIED, THERE WAS A STRONG CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AND A GODLY CENTRAL LEADER. EXAMPLES INCLUDE MOSES, JOSHUA, DAVID, AND OF COURSE JESUS AND THE APOSTLES. LOCAL CONGREGATIONS HAD AN OVERSEEING EVANGELIST WHO UNIFIED THE DISCIPLES “EVERYWHERE IN EVERY CHURCH.” IN THE FIRST CENTURY, CONGREGATIONS WERE A COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT – NOT AUTONOMOUS, NOT SELF-GOVERNING.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, JESUS IS THE LEADER OF “THE MOVEMENT!” WHEN HE ASCENDED TO HEAVEN, PETER TOOK ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY AS “THE APOSTLE TO THE JEWS.” AFTER PAUL BECAME “THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES,” THE LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONED TO JESUS’ OLDEST HALF-BROTHER JAMES. AT THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL, JAMES GAVE HIS SINGULAR AUTHORITATIVE “JUDGMENT,” WHICH WAS THEN BOUND ON ALL THE CHURCHES.

5

THE DREAM OF THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE NATIONS IN THIS GENERATION

MATTHEW 28:19-20, ACTS 1:8, COLOSSIANS 1:6 & 23, 1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

IF DISCIPLES EVANGELIZED THE WORLD IN THE FIRST CENTURY, WE CAN CERTAINLY DO IT AGAIN IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY! WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS THROUGH EVERY DISCIPLE MAKING DISCIPLES, AND EVERY DISCIPLE HAVING DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS.