

The Absolute Principles For the Work of the Church

1. The eternal purpose of God.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers – Rm 8.29.

2. Jesus is our only point of reference.

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! – Mt 17.5.

3. The apostolic word is the only source of information for life and for the functioning of the church.

Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone – Ef 2.20

4. Jesus' command is that we make disciples.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age – Mt 28.19-20.

5. The only preaching that forms disciples is the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom.

Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him – Lc 8.1

6. God's strategy to fulfill his purpose is the ministry of the saints.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work – Ef 4.15-16.

7. All recognition of ministry should be through the fruit of that person's ministry.

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? – Mt 7.16.

8. The pastors and leaders must be and do everything that God wants their disciples to be and do.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach – At 1.1.

9. Simplicity should be maintained in all the teachings and structures.

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ – 2 Co 11.3.

10. Ministry is most effectively accomplished in small groups, families groups and in the community.

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house – 1 Co 16.19.

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ – At 5.42.