

Congregation Beth El of Manhattan • Membership Classes

6 Classes, Semi-Weekly, For One Quarter (3 months) • CLASS #3 • Page 1

Ecclesiology (The Doctrine of Messiah's Community/Congregation)

The "Church" Fallacy. Yeshua did NOT use the word "church". Germanic word, *kirche*, rendered in older English "kirk" and in modern English as "church." Yeshua used one of a variety of *Hebrew* or *Aramaic* words to describe His "congregation:" which means, a group of people assembled (hence: "assemblies of God") from out of the world entire, to form His kingdom & "Bride."

קהל קהילה *kahal, kehilla* (congregation/community)

עדה *ay-dah* (testimony, congregation, community)

בית-בנות / בנותיה *bayt-knesset* vs. *k'ness-see-yah*

ekklesia called out - Matthew 16:9

catholic = gk. universal, not a denominational designation

Holy Spirit indwells individuals (ICor 6:19 as per Ezek 36:24ff, Jer 31:31ff) and Congregations I Cor 3:19)

Assembly is place for God's spirit to "manifest for common good" as per I Cor. 12:7, **14:23-25**.

Congregations have personalities: Revelation 2-3

Congregation's Have Callings: [Jewish] Acts 9:31, Gal. 1:22, 1Ths. 2:14

[non-J] Titus 1:5-12 [Crete], Rev. 2-3, differing callings

The Congregation Has Rules:

Diff for unbeliever than believer: I Cor 5:9-13 - unbel's can be as morally reprobate as will.

Some rules for Believers:

Not sexually disorderly - I Cor 5:13b (ref: I Cor 5:1ff) ESP. **1 COR 6:9ff - !!!!!!!!!!!**

Not persistent cause of division - Rom. 16:17, Titus 3:10

Not disrespectful of leadership - **Titus 2:15**,* 1Tim. 5:17, II Pet 2:10-14

The Necessity for Leadership

Ministry of leadership is mentioned [Rom. 12:8b] and ratified. [Hebrews 13:17]

Elders: Acts 11:29, 14:23, Titus 1:5 Model from Torah: **עֲלֵמֵי** Numbers 11:16 ff - Yitro.

Layers of Leadership

Acts 6:1ff - Ministry of Word & Prayer vs. practical needs of assembly.

I Tim 5:17 - elders who rule well, especially those who labor in teaching (diff. kinds of elds)

Phil. 1:1, 1Tim. 3:8-13 - deacons - "*shamashim*" *reservation*

Qualifications

2Tim. 2:2 - "Faithful" "able to teach others also": faithful = ? "able to teach"?

Must be tested first: then allowed to serve [I Tim. 3:10] [Getz. Gene *Measure of a Man*]

notice qual. of deac. wives! [I Tim 3:11]

Goal of [Local] Congregation

John 13:34-35 shall know - by love one for another [especially house of faith -Gal. 6:10]

Eph. 4:11-13 - arena to manifest the differing gifts God gave individuals, grow in Him

Mal 3:16, Ps. 16:3, [Exod. 19:6 + 1Pet. 2:5]an eternity focused community.

How Achieved?

Hebrews 10:25 regular meeting together

Acts 2:46ff - a spiritually regenerated, loving and holy [Acts 5- Anan&Sapph] community

Acts 12:5 - corp prayer resp to crises