



**Right Definitions for the Right Results, Part 1
(Redefining Church: Confusing Principles with Practice)**

Date: June 8, 2022

Statement: If you have the wrong definitions, you will have the wrong results. This study is to clarify what a principle is in comparison to a practice.

- In this study, a principle is a mandate dictated by a biblical rule of law. A practice is a method that is optionally chosen to help accomplish a goal.

Sermon Series Described:

1. Redefining **Church**: (How they confused principle and practice)
2. Redefining **Cash** and **Debt** (Why Christians struggle with both)
3. Redefining **Worship** (Broadening our definitions of worship)
4. Redefining **Family** (How to re-negotiate your family relationships)

Properly Defining Church: Ephesians 4:11-15

Big Thought: Christians, sometimes like the Pharisees, confuse principle with practice.

I. The Principles We Are Commanded to Follow

1. To Equip

- Ephesians 4:11–16 (NIV): 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 **to equip his people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up

2. To Inform and Mature

- 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the **knowledge** of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

3. To Stabilize

- 14 Then **we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth** by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and **craftiness** of people in their **deceitful scheming**.

4. To Inspire Integrity

- 15 Instead, **speaking the truth** in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

5. To Create Unity

- 16 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.

Closing Definitions About Church That Are Being Challenged Now

1. Church is mainly an **in the building experience**
2. Church is mainly an **in-person experience**
3. Church Worship is a band, choir, and **church event**

Q/A Time

How do churches develop bad definitions?

- A. **Confusing theology (We bend God to fit our cultural preference)**
- B. **Controlling culture (We use our preferences to control others)**

A culture is a way of life of a group of people—the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, **generally without thinking about them**, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

Source: Culture and Organizations by Gertt Hofstede, Gert Jann Hofstede and Michael Minkov (Page 23)

Our Cultural Dream:

II. The Simple Way We Describe Our Church's Job Description

1. Evangelize (Reach people)
2. Educate (Teach people)
4. Elevate (Grow people)
5. Embrace (Serve people)



Questions to Consider

1. Name one thing in your life that you defined incorrectly?
2. Name one event that changed your definitions?

Next Time: Redefining Cash and Debt (Why Christians Struggle with Both)

Read Ahead: Proverbs 22:7

“The **rich** rule over the **poor**, and the **borrower** is slave to the lender”.