

The Fixed Pattern Perspective Of Christianity

Exodus 25:40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

“A recent survey of high school students in Churches of Christ shows that most of our youth do not read their Bibles much. Topping the list of reasons: it’s “irrelevant,” “boring,” “unable to keep my attention,” and “simply not helpful.”

“How does all this relate to a supposed decline in biblical literacy? We are experiencing a response to patternism” (Jeff Childers, Douglas Foster, Jack Reese, *The Crux Of The Matter*, p. 160)

“Patternism tends to discard large chunks of Scripture as mostly irrelevant, shelving anything that won’t fit into the predetermined grid or fulfill the aim of directly building an institutional pattern.” (Jeff Childers, Douglas Foster, Jack Reese, *The Crux Of The Matter*, p. 181)

“Patternism is typically narrow in its choice of texts.” (ibid, p. 181)

I. Apostolically Given Authoritative Revelation From God

John 16:12-14 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Ephesians 3:3-5 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Thessalonians 4:2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

2 Peter 3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

II. Holding The Apostolic Traditions Taught In The Scriptures

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle

1 Corinthians 11:1-2 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

III. The Same Thing Taught Everywhere In Every Church

"The assumption that every church should look and act alike does not fit the Bible's testimony.... Yet it's important to notice that, taken as a whole, their instructions are not aimed at making churches uniform." (ibid, p. 165)

"Flowing out of the essential unity of the one God is the unity of one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, on baptism (Ephesians 4:4-6). Yet when Paul recites these hallmarks of the one Christian faith, he does not use them to propel a vision of uniformity. Instead, these items form the platform from which he helps his readers appreciate the diversity of the body, as each member receives distinct gifts from Christ and finds distinct roles within the church (Ephesians 4:7-13). The church exists in a state of unity with diversity." (ibid, p. 166)

Ephesians 4:11-15 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.