

## Peter Arbon - The Ecclesia

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About the Ecclesia. We had some wonderful studies today about the New Testament and the Old Testament. But sometimes we should think about our Ecclesia. I would like to start reading Hebrews 10:25, and let us not neglect our meeting together as some people do, but encourage one another.

Especially now that the day of his return draweth nigh.

Very hang on.

Very important to remember those that Scripture, especially the first part, and let us not neglect our meeting together.

We should learn each other.

So I give you a new commandment. Love each other just as I have loved you. Brothers and sisters, we must be careful not to dislike or hate someone. If someone says I love God but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar. For if we don't love people, we can see, how can we love God whom we cannot see?

We as Bible students, it is very important that we use our Bible for our guide. If you read in the New Testament, Acts 7:11, the Bereans. But the people of Berea were more open minded than those of Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the scriptures day by day.

If Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. So when we hear meanings and things, we should search the Scriptures and make sure it's the truth. The truth of God's word. We can learn about the truth. What is born again, what is the truth?

Who is God? Who is Jesus? The truth about who Jesus Christ really is. All the answer are in the Bible. If someone asks what God is like, use the Bible to answer that question.

For God is a Spirit. So those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth, and that is in John, chapter 4, verse 24. John 15:26.

Move.

Just give us a second. My computer's playing it. But I will send you an advocate. The Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

In the Ecclesia we have deacons and we have elders. So I would like to give a brief talk about elders, elders and deacons for a moment. If you look in the new creation, Volume 6, Chapter 6, Pastor Russell gives us the guidelines of elders and deacons and some rules about discipline and what to do.

Elders and deacons are selected by consecrated people in the ecclesiastical by the show of hands. You can't nominate yourself as an elder or a deacon. It's up to the Ecclesia by prayer and the show of hands. An elder as Paul and Barnabas In Acts 14:23, Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church with prayer, fasting, they turn the elders over to the care of the Lord in whom they

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have put their trust.

The qualification of an elder. This is a trustworthy. I'm reading from First Timothy 3, verses 1 to 6. This is a trustworthy saying. If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honourable position.

So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self control, live and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home. He must be able to teach.

He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome and have not love for money.

He must manage his own family well, having children, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

A church leader must not be a new believer. He might become proud and the devil would cause him to fall. Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap. We must love our elders. We must pray for them.

We must support them. We must not criticize them.

Pastor Russell said the Chief shepherd put these people in those positions. We don't have no right to ring them up and tell them how to try and run the Ecclesia. That's God's Holy Spirit that does that. Then we have the qualifications of deacons. 1st Timothy 3:8 13.

In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. They must be committed to the mystery of faith now revealed. They must live with a clear conscience before they are appointed as deacons. Let them closely be examined if they pass the test.

Let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self control and be faithful in everything they do. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and he must manage his children and household well. Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will increase confidence in their own faith in Jesus Christ.

So if you're somewhere in the country and having a meeting and there's no elder available, a deacon can step in and help. I would like to finish on a very important subject and I'm going to read from the Book of Jude, chapter 1, verses 10 to 16 to give you the thought of what I'm talking about. But these people scoff at things they do not understand like living animals. They do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction. What sorrow awaits them?

For they follow in the footsteps of Cain who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money, and like Korah, they perish in their rebellion. When these people eat with you in fellowship meals accommodating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can be shipwrecked here. They're like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves.

They are like clouds blowing over land without giving rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubtfully dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. They like wild waves of the sea churning up foam of the shameful deeds. Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after

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Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, listen, the Lord's coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world.

He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These people are grumblers and complainers living to satisfy their own desires. They brag loudly about themselves and they flatter others what they want. It's very important that we listen to the next few verses, because this is what I was reading. Those few verses to lead up to a call to persevere.

I'm going to read from Jude, chapter one, verses 17 to 23. But you, my dear friends, remember what the apostle our Lord Jesus Christ predicted. They told you that in last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. These people. These people, the ones who are creating a division among amongst you.

They follow their own natural instincts because they do not have God's spirit in them. But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith. Prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit and wait on the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring eternal life. In this way you will keep yourself safe in God's love, and you must show mercy to those who have faith in wavering rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment.

Show mercy to others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

We must be aware of people who try and overtake, who want to be an elder, who want to change our doctrine, who want to put their own teachings across, and we should be aware of them. We must not think of our own ecclesia as the true one. There's ecclesiastes all over the world. I'm quite sure they do things different than what we do.

We must accept them as brothers and sisters and love them. A brother told me one day, if you get two brothers together, they won't agree 100%, and we are called to our Lord Jesus Christ in second Timothy 1:9, who saved us and called us a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gives us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. Matthew 24:14 for many are called, but few are chosen.

First Corinthians 1:9. The last verse is, God is faithful by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I would like to read a few verses from Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22 to 26. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives. Love, joy, peace, kindness and faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

There is no law against these things.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nulled the passions of desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucify them there. Since we are living in the Spirit by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceit or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

When we have our elections in the Ecclesia and people are voting in as elders and deacons and you don't get voted in, don't worry. Because if God wants you to be an elder or deacon, when you've learned a bit more about the truth, he'll make that way come true. I would like to thank you for this opportunity today to speak. I'm sorry, I'm a bit nervous because it's the first time I've done it and may God bless you all, keep you safe, give blessing to your families. I love you, God loves you

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and Jesus loves you.

Thank you, Brother Adam.