

PRINCIPLE OF CHURCH LIFE – INTRODUCTION

Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Oftentimes people have had a genuine experience with the Lord and have a true desire to serve the Lord but they don’t always know how to walk as a believer. In addition, people who come to the Lord are also to be added to a local church but they have no idea how to conduct themselves in the house of God (I Tim. 3:15). Too often leaders assume that people will be able to find their way once they have prayed the sinners’ prayer and begin gathering with other believers. As a result, many people do not succeed in their walk as a Christian.

The people in the Early Church gave themselves to the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42). They were willing to gather and be taught (Acts 19:10). In many churches there is no strategy for discipleship where new believers can be given the basic tools to live successful lives as followers of Jesus.

Principles of Church Life was created to help meet this need. The book was designed as a teaching tool that can be used by pastors and church leaders to lay basic biblical foundations in the lives of believers and to help orientate those that are new to the church to what it means to be a Christian both in their daily life and in their relationship to the local church. This manual does not attempt to teach the whole counsel of God, but it is meant to assist people in gaining the basic tools that they need to establish a strong foundation and live a successful Christian life.

Bill Scheidler