

Equipping the Saints  
*for*  
the Work of the Ministry



Trinity Bible Church  
Sunday School  
Summer, 2026

**Equipping the Saints**  
*for*  
**the Work of the Ministry**

*The Doctrine of the Church  
and Its Life*

*Now unto him that is able  
to do exceeding abundantly  
above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power  
that worketh in us,*

*Unto him be glory  
in the church by Christ Jesus  
throughout all ages,  
world without end. Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

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## Introduction

Probably every believer has at one time or another asked himself, “Why am I going to church?” or “What should my church be doing?” Within the Christian community, there are very different answers given to these questions. This is seen in the huge differences in the programs and activities of various churches. These variations occur because of how Christian people understand the purpose and mission of the Church. The course outlined in this booklet will guide us into a study of what the Scriptures teach about this institution founded by our Lord so that we can more clearly understand the purpose and function of the church.

The Church was first mentioned when Christ spoke to Peter: “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Christ was telling Peter that the Church was still in the future, and that it was to be a significant part of the spiritual battle for the souls of men. The details of this institution awaited the revelation of the Holy Spirit through the New Testament writers, especially the Apostle Paul.

The word “church” has two different meanings in Scripture. First of all, it refers to all those who, by faith in Jesus Christ, have been brought into union with Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, forming a Body, over which Christ is the Head. This is sometimes referred to as the universal Church. Secondly, the word is used to identify a group of believers meeting together. This is called the local church. The two uses are related in that the local church must seek to accomplish the purpose and mission of the universal Church in a local setting.

Our memory text, Ephesians 4:11-16, is a key text for understanding the Church’s mandate and the mission of the local church. Here we read that Christ gave certain men, or offices, for the express purpose of “perfecting the saints for the work of the ministry.” They were given to edify the body of Christ, which is the Church. This ministry was conducted by teaching God’s Word. Whatever other activities a local church may engage in, they must not undermine or hinder this primary task.

The first part of our study begins with an examination of the beginning of the Church. This is followed by a study of the purpose of the Church. The Church is charged with baptizing believers and remembering the Lord’s death by the Lord’s Supper. We will study these two ordinances. We will also have a lesson on the responsibility to preach the Word. This will be followed by a lesson on the organization of the churches under the leadership of elders and deacons. Last of all, we will study the important matter of church discipline.

In the second part of our study, we will turn our attention to the work of ministry for which the people are to be prepared. The scope of this study is huge and will be limited to six areas: worship, singing, giving, discipleship, mutual love among the saints and ministering to the weaker brother. You will notice that a common theme in all is ministry to God. Notice that the work of the ministry is not described as working in the local church itself. This is a common misconception. People tend to perceive the work of the ministry in terms of teaching a Sunday School class, singing in a choir or participating in some other program in the church. Actually only a small part of the work of the ministry occurs within the local church congregation. Most should be occurring daily in our homes, our places of work or other places of daily living.

Not included in these studies is a lesson dedicated to the work of evangelism. Omission of a specific lesson on this important duty is due to time considerations and recognition that we have studied this elsewhere in our series. It would seem apparent also that evangelism is included in the fulfillment of our work in the areas included in this study. As we perform all aspects of the work of the ministry, our light will shine before men so that they will glorify our Father in heaven. It is to be expected that this will be by their being led to seek salvation through the Head of the Church and only Savior of the world.

It is our hope that by this study, we will understand more clearly the purpose and function of the church. It is imperative, as bond servants of Jesus Christ, that we know and properly participate in this great institution which He has provided for our growth, so that we can fully engage in the work of the ministry.

## Schedule Summer, 2026

### Equipping the saints . . .

June 7	Lesson 1:	What is the Church? Matthew 16:13-20; Acts 2 Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:11-22
June 14	Lesson 2:	What is the Purpose of the Church? Matthew 28:16-20; John 4:23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24-25
June 21	Lesson 3:	Baptism in the Name of the Triune God Matthew 3:13-17; 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41 Romans 6:1-10; Colossians 2:11-14
June 28	Lesson 4:	Proclaiming the Lord's Death Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
July 5	Lesson 5:	What Should the Church be Doing? Acts 2:41-42; 6:1-7; 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8
July 12	Lesson 6:	How is the Church to be Organized? 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4
July 19	Lesson 7:	Discipline in the Church Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 20:28-31 1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3:9-11

### . . . for the work of the ministry.

July 26	Lesson 8:	O Worship the Lord! Exodus 20:1-7; Deuteronomy 12:29-31 Psalm 29; Matthew 15:7-9; John 4:19-24 Revelation 11:16-18
August 2	Lesson 9:	Sing a New Song! Psalm 96; Psalm 100; Colossians 3:16 Revelation 5:9-14; 15:3-4
August 9	Lesson 10:	The Grace of Giving 1 Corinthians 9:1-18; 2 Corinthians 8-9
August 16	Lesson 11:	Servants of Jesus Christ Luke 9:23-27; 12:35-53; 14:25-35
August 23	Lesson 12:	The Marks of a Disciple John 17:20-26; 1 John 3:10-23; 4:7-21
August 30	Lesson 13:	Am I my Brother's Keeper? Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8

## Memory Assignment

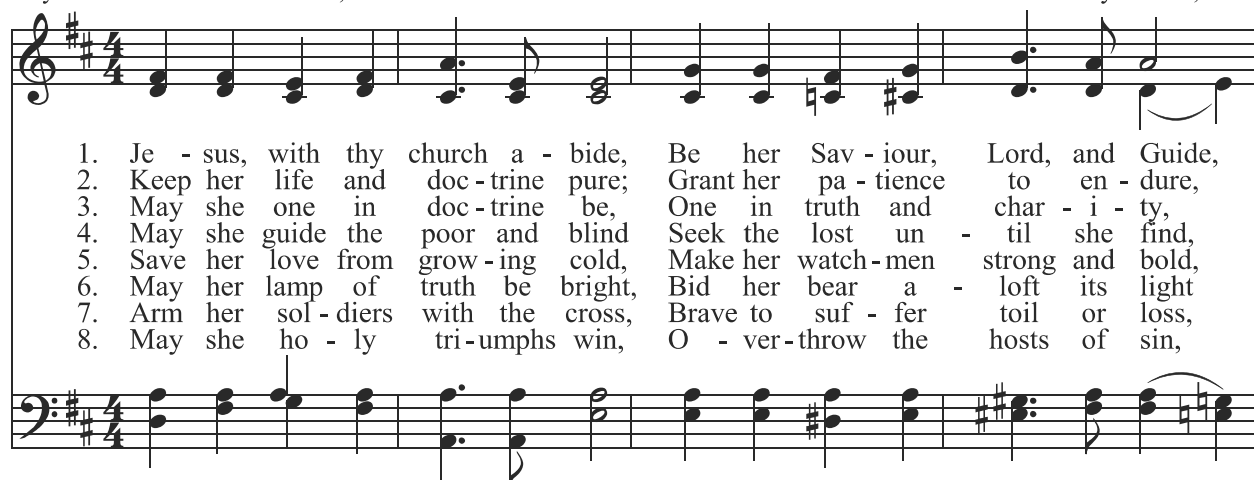
### Ephesians 4:11-16

- 11 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:
- 16 From whom the whole body  
fitly joined together and compacted  
by that which every joint supplieth,  
according to the effectual working  
in the measure of every part,  
maketh increase of the body  
unto the edifying of itself in love.

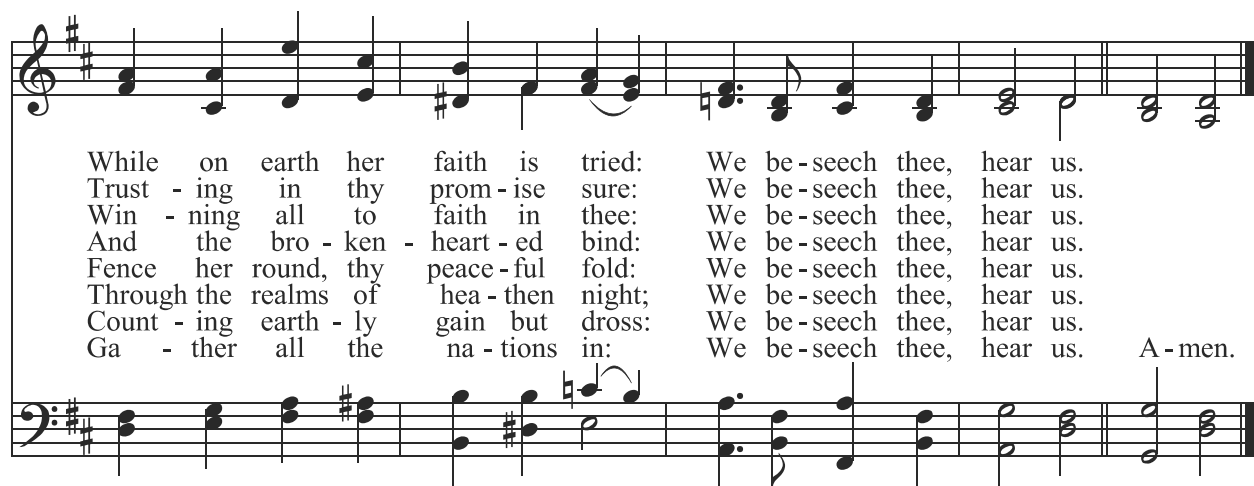
# Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

Thomas Benson Pollock, 1871; alt in  
"Hymns Ancient and Modern", 1875

John Henry Gower, 1891



1. Je - sus, with thy church a - bide, Be her Sav - iour, Lord, and Guide,  
 2. Keep her life and doc - trine pure; Grant her pa - tience to en - dure,  
 3. May she one in doc - trine be, One in truth and char - i - ty,  
 4. May she guide the poor and blind Seek the lost un - til she find,  
 5. Save her love from grow - ing cold, Make her watch - men strong and bold,  
 6. May her lamp of truth be bright, Bid her bear a - loft its light  
 7. Arm her sol - diers with the cross, Brave to suf - fer toil or loss,  
 8. May she ho - ly tri - umphs win, O - ver - throw the hosts of sin,



While on earth her faith is tried: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Trust - ing in thy prom - ise sure: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Win - ning all to faith in thee: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 And the bro - ken - heart - ed bind: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Fence her round, thy peace - ful fold: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Through the realms of hea - then night; We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Count - ing earth - ly gain but dross: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
 Ga - ther all the na - tions in: We be - seech thee, hear us. A - men.

**Lesson 1: What is the Church?**  
**Matthew 16:13-20; Acts 2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:11-22**

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*All who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior are united to Him by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual body with Christ as its Head is the Church of Jesus Christ.*

**Matthew 16:13-20**

1. What did Jesus tell Peter about the Church?

**Acts 2**

2. What happened to the believers who were gathered together on the Day of Pentecost?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Peter tell those who were "cut to the heart" and wanted to know what to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In the final verses of this chapter (40-47), how is the community of believers described?

**Ephesians 1:22-23**

5. What does Paul tell us about the Church in these verses?

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

6. What change has been accomplished for the Gentiles, and how was it done?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is the "one new man"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What terms are used to describe the people of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does Paul tell us about "the building"?

## Lesson 2: What is the Purpose of the Church?

Matthew 28:16-20; John 4:23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24-25

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-12

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The church's purpose is threefold: to evangelize unbelievers, to edify believers, and to worship God. These are accomplished via the ministry of the body of believers who gather and mature under the teaching of gifted leadership.*

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

1. What did the church do when they met Jesus on the mountain?
  
  
  
  
  
2. What command did Jesus give to the church?

### **John 4:23**

3. Why is the Father seeking people?

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

4. What gifts did Christ give to the Church?
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are the leaders in the Church supposed to be doing?
  
  
  
  
  
6. What should be the goal of leaders in the Church?
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is the teaching of doctrine important in the Church?
  
  
  
  
  
8. What should each member of the Body of Christ seek to do within the Church?

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

9. What does this text tell us about the gathering together of God's people?

## Lesson 3: Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41; Romans 6:1-10; Colossians 2:11-14

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-13

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*Baptism is commanded by Christ. It pictures our union with Christ in His death and resurrection.*

### Matthew 3:13-17

1. Why did John object when Jesus came to him for baptism? How did Jesus answer him?
2. What happened at the baptism of Jesus?

### Matthew 28:18-20

3. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

### Acts 2:37-41

4. Who was permitted to be baptized?

### Romans 6:1-10

5. Why shall we no longer live in sin?
6. What is the relationship between baptism and death?
7. Why is it important to know that we have died with Christ?

### Colossians 2:11-14

8. How were we circumcised in Christ?
9. What happens in baptism, and how does it happen?

## Lesson 4: Proclaiming the Lord's Death

Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-14

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*Christ commanded us to remember and to proclaim His death until He returns in glory by eating the broken bread and drinking the cup in the Lord's Supper.*

### Matthew 26:17-30

1. What instructions did Jesus give His disciples to prepare for the Passover?
2. What did Jesus say about His betrayal?
3. What did Jesus say about the bread and the cup?
4. When could the disciples anticipate joining with Jesus in another such supper?

### 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

5. Why is Paul not able to praise the Corinthians for their celebration of the Lord's Supper?
6. What did Jesus say about the bread?
7. What did Jesus say about the cup?
8. What is signified by taking the bread and cup?
9. How should we prepare ourselves for partaking of the Lord's Supper?

## Lesson 5: What should the Church be Doing?

Acts 2:41-42; 6:1-7; 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-15

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The church must regulate itself according to the Word of God. Which is to be protected as the central focus and duty of the church.*

### **Acts 2:41-42**

1. What activities did the church in Jerusalem focus on doing?

### **Acts 6:1-7**

2. What priorities did the leadership have when they sought a solution to the problem facing the new Church?
3. How was the problem solved?

### **2 Timothy 3:10-4:8**

4. What had Timothy seen in the ministry of Paul?
5. What warnings did Paul give to Timothy?
6. What did Paul tell Timothy about the Scriptures?
7. What charge did Paul give to Timothy?
8. What warning did Paul give Timothy, and what was Timothy to do about it?
9. What hope, or goal, did Paul have in his ministry?

## Lesson 6: How is the Church to be Organized?

1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The work of the local church is to be led by its officers, the elders (or bishops) and deacons. There are specific qualifications set forth in Scripture for these two offices.*

### 1 Timothy 3:1-13

1. What personal characteristics are to be seen in a bishop (overseer)?
2. What are the requirements for the family life of a bishop, and why are these important?
3. What particular warnings are given to a bishop concerning the devil?
4. What personal characteristics are to be seen in a deacon?
5. What is the promise given to deacons?

### Titus 1:5-9

6. What responsibility did Paul give Titus to fulfill in Crete?
7. What personal characteristics of an elder are found in this passage that are not in Paul's letter to Timothy?
8. What duties are prescribed for the elder (or bishop)?

### 1 Peter 5:1-4

9. How is the elder to shepherd the flock of God, and what should be his goal?

**Lesson 7: Discipline in the Church**  
**Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3:9-11**

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The local church must take sin seriously. If warnings are not heeded, the church must exercise discipline by excluding the sinner from the fellowship of the believers.*

**Matthew 18:15-20**

1. What is a believer to do if another brother sins against him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you treat one who has not heard the Church in such a matter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What promises does Jesus give here?

**Acts 20:28-31**

4. What does Paul tell the Ephesian elders to do, and what warning does he give?

**1 Corinthians 5**

5. What problem in the Corinthian church concerns Paul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What instruction does Paul give concerning this problem, and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What does Paul say about the company a believer keeps?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does Paul say about judging others?

**Titus 3:9-11**

9. What does Paul tell Titus about a divisive man?

## Lesson 8: O Worship the Lord!

Exodus 20:1-7; Deuteronomy 12:29-31; Psalm 29

Matthew 15:7-9; John 4:19-24; Revelation 11:16-18

MEMORY: Ephesians 4:11-16

HYMN: "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The people of God are to worship Him. They must not worship other gods. They must not worship the One True God in the manner of the pagans.*

### Exodus 20:1-7

1. What principles of worship are taught in the Ten Commandments?

### Deuteronomy 12:29-31

2. What did the LORD God say about the manner in which Israel was to worship Him?

### Psalm 29

3. What are we to give to the LORD?
4. How are we to worship the LORD?
5. What did the psalmist say about the LORD?

### Matthew 15:7-9

6. Why did Jesus call the Pharisees hypocrites?

### John 4:19-24

7. What was the Samaritan woman's concern about worship?
8. What did Jesus say about worship?

### Revelation 11:16-18

9. How did the 24 elders worship God?

## Lesson 9: Sing a New Song!

Psalm 96; Psalm 100; Colossians 3:16; Revelation 5:9-14; 15:3-4

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The people of God are commanded to sing. They are to joyfully proclaim the truths of God to God Himself, to the faithful and to the nations.*

### Psalm 96

1. Why should we sing?
2. What did the psalmist say about the LORD?
3. What should we give to the LORD?
4. What should we say among the nations?

### Psalm 100

5. How does the LORD want us to enter His presence?
6. What truths about God should we sing?

### Colossians 3:16

7. What did Paul tell the Colossians about singing?

### Revelation 5:9-14

8. What is the new song?

### Revelation 15:3-4

9. What is the Song of Moses?

**Lesson 10: The Grace of Giving**  
**1 Corinthians 9:1-18; 2 Corinthians 8-9**

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*Our God calls us to give cheerfully and generously. We must support those who give their lives for the work of the ministry and provide for the saints in need.*

**1 Corinthians 9:1-18**

1. What principle about giving did Paul get from the Law of Moses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did the Lord command about support for preachers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Paul seek for himself as a preacher of the Gospel?

**2 Corinthians 8**

4. What evidence of the grace of God was shown by the churches of Macedonia?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What task was Titus given?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What example of grace did Christ leave us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What principles did Paul give concerning their giving?

**2 Corinthians 9**

8. Why did Paul send the brethren to Corinth in advance of his arrival?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is the effect of Christian giving?

## Lesson 11: Servants of Jesus Christ

Luke 9:23-27; 12:35-53; 14:25-35

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*Jesus calls us to be His disciples. Therefore, we must forsake all other attractions and, in total devotion to Him, become His faithful bondservants. We serve the Lord Christ.*

### Luke 9:23-27

1. What is required of those who would come after Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What alternatives must we choose between?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What happens to those who are ashamed of Christ and His words?

### Luke 12:35-53

4. How should a servant wait for his master?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is a "blessed servant", and why are they blessed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What are the differences between "faithful and wise" stewards, and ones who are not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. When the ruler returns, how does he deal with the different kinds of servants?

### Luke 14:25-35

8. What is required in order to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why does Jesus speak of one building a tower and of a king going to war?

## Lesson 12: The Marks of a Disciple

John 17:20-26; 1 John 3:10-23; 4:7-21

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The distinguishing mark of believers is that they love one another. The work of the ministry is characterized by unity and love among the disciples of Jesus Christ.*

### **John 17:20-26**

1. What does Jesus pray about the unity of His people?
2. Why does Jesus declare the Name of the Father to us?

### **1 John 3:10-23**

3. How are the children of God and the children of the devil distinguished?
4. Why does John speak about murder here?
5. How are we to show our love for one another?

### **1 John 4:7-21**

6. Why should believers love one another?
7. How was the love of God manifested?
8. What is the result of having God's love perfected in us?
9. Who is a liar?

## Lesson 13: Am I my Brother's Keeper?

Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8

**MEMORY:** Ephesians 4:11-16

**HYMN:** "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

*The people of God must avoid doing those things which are not sinful in themselves, but might cause one for whom Christ died to stumble, to be offended, or to be weakened.*

### Romans 14:14-23

1. Of what had Paul been convinced by the Lord Jesus?
2. In this passage, what does Paul say that we should not do?
3. In what things are we to serve Christ, and what will result from this service?
4. What should be the standards by which we judge our own behavior?

### 1 Corinthians 8

5. What contrasts does Paul make between knowledge and love?
6. What contrasts does Paul make between idols and the One True God?
7. What knowledge do some not have concerning food offered to idols, and what is the effect of this lack of knowledge?
8. What bad effect can true Christian liberty have?
9. What final resolution does Paul affirm?