

Greater Morning Star Apostolic Ministries
Largo, Maryland

Youth Ministry Training
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Course Title: Learning the Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine

Course Outline:

- I. Course Introduction
- II. Key Terminology Defined
- III. Biblical Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine
- IV. Traditional Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine
- V. Summary

I. Course Introduction

The purpose of this course is to instruct the student to learn the key principles of the Apostolic Doctrine. The Apostolic Doctrine is the foundation of our Christian faith. In this course we will identify key terminology as it pertains to the principles of the Apostolic Doctrine, identify the source of the biblical principles of the Apostolic Doctrine, and lastly identify many of the traditional principles of the Apostolic Doctrine. We are encouraged to continue “steadfastly in the Apostle’s doctrine” according to Acts 2:39. So, let us continue by gaining an understanding of the principles of the Apostolic Doctrine.

II. Key Terminology Defined

- A. **Principles** – The word principle means a “moral rule” , “uprightness” or a “fundamental truth or element.”
- B. **Apostolic** – The term Apostolic is taken directly from the word “apostle”. The word apostle means “one who is sent.”
- C. **Doctrine** – The word doctrine means “what is taught”. Put simply, doctrine is teaching and teaching is essential to understanding one’s belief system. Doctrine is also referred to as “belief, opinion, or dogma”.
- D. **Gospel** – The term gospel means “good news”.
- E. **Repentance** – This is when one turns in the opposite direction he or she was headed (make a 180 degree turn). It is also the act of feeling regret for committing an act or omitting to do something.
- F. **Baptism** – By definition alone, it means to “submerge” or dip into water. Sprinkling does not meet the definition of “submerge”.
- G. **Remission** – This term means “forgiveness, pardon”, or removal of
- H. **Gift** – This is something given without paying for it. It also means to “endow” or “bestow”.
- I. **Ordinance** – “a decree, rule; rite, ceremony”
- J. **Meekness** - “submissive, humble”. It is also known as “power under control”. Meekness is shown when you have the ability and power to handle a situation “your way” but you choose not to exhort your authority.
- K. **Temperance** - Temperance means “self-control” or “moderation”
- L. **Supplication** – asking for or requesting something, to seek favor, “beg humbly”

III. **Biblical Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine**

A. **Principle #1: *The Oneness of God***

The first principle of the Apostolic Doctrine is our belief that there is only one God, and his name is Jesus. Unlike many other Christian denominations, we do not believe that God is triune (or a god consisting of three persons – the trinity). In fact, the word trinity doesn't even exist in the bible. The doctrine of the trinity is man-made, but the Apostles Doctrine is the doctrine of God and is biblical. Jesus is God.

Key Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4 Isaiah 44:6, 8, 24
 Ephesians 4:5-6 I Timothy 6:1, 3-5
 Hebrews 3:1 Phil 2:9-11
 Matt 1:21 St. John 5:43
 St. John 14:26 I Timothy 3:16

B. **Principle #2: *The Gospel***

The gospel of Jesus Christ, which is our belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the second principle of the Apostolic Doctrine.

This principle is the reason why we are Christians today. Had it not been for Jesus Christ, we would not be saved. We serve the true and living God who was manifested, or made known, in the flesh in the form of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the power of God that leads us to salvation.

Key Scriptures: I Corinthians 15:1-4 Romans 6:1-4
 Mark 16:15 Romans 1:16

C. ***Principle #3: The Plan of Salvation***

The plan of salvation as noted in Acts 2:38 is the third principle of the Apostolic Doctrine. This principle clearly identifies the need for repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and being filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost. The promise is to everyone who believes and obeys the truth. We must always remember that one must first believe the gospel and receive it by faith before that individual can get to the place of accepting God's plan of salvation or "the truth". Salvation is in the name of Jesus and speaking in other tongues is the evidence that one has been filled with the Holy Ghost. When one has truly repented, they will receive salvation.

1. Repentance
 - a. – represents the death of our old sinful nature
 - b. – is obtained only because of the goodness of God
 - c. – is preceded by godly sorrowfulness (not just tears or feeling guilty about one’s sinful lifestyle)

2. Baptism in the name of Jesus –
 - a. – represents the burial of the old sinful nature
 - b. – is the way that the blood of Jesus is applied to our life; the blood is what removes the sin
 - c. – one should only be baptized if they are old enough to understand its purpose (baptizing babies has no affect since they don’t know what they are doing.)

3. Being Filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost
 - a. – represents the resurrection or new life
 - b. – this is a gift; not something you work to receive
 - c. – represents God living inside of us to give us the power to say, “No!” to sin
 - d. – is given to those who obey God

Key Scriptures:	Romans 6:1-4	Acts 5:32
	Romans 2:4	Acts 2:38
	II Cor 7:10	Eph 1:13
	Heb 9:22	Luke 24:44-49
	Lev 17:11	Acts 8:12-17
	Acts 1:8	Acts 10:44-48
		Acts 19:1-7

D. Principle #4: Holiness - a Way of Life

God requires us to live holy. We can live holy only because of the Holy Ghost living inside of us and giving us the victory or power over sin and its temptations. When one is living holy, it is made evident, or obvious, by what they think, what they say, and what they do. What’s in the heart of a person will eventually make its way to their head (thoughts) and then to their hands (actions). Others will know how holy someone is by the fruit they bear or how unholy someone is by the works of their flesh. Holiness is the only way to see God, therefore Apostolic believers commonly say, “It’s holiness or hell.” The fruit of the spirit will measure one’s level of holiness because the fruit reflect the life they live.

1. Fruit of the Spirit:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| i. Love | iv.. Longsuffering | vii. Faith |
| ii. Joy | v. Gentleness | viii. Meekness |
| iii. Peace | vi. Goodness | ix. Temperance |

Key Scriptures: Galatians 5:22-25

2. Prayer Life - Prayer is communication with God. Although we can't see him, he sees us and hears us. He is waiting to hear from us and give us answers to life's situations.

Luke 18:1 Psalm 6:9 Proverbs 15:29
Matt 21:22 Acts 6:4 Phil 4:6
James 5:16 Jeremiah 33:3

Include A.C.T.S. in your prayers:

A = Adoration
C = Confession
T = Thanksgiving
S = Supplication

3. Bible Reading – *II Tim 2:15 Acts 17:10-11 Psalm 119:11*

4. Fasting - *Psalm 35:13 Isaiah 58th chapter*

E. Principle #5: The Ministry Gifts and the Gifts of the Spirit

1. The Ministry Gifts - *Ephesians 4:11-12*

The Ministry Gifts is a term used to describe the different types of people God uses to help us grow in our Christian walk. The ministry gifts are also known as the five-fold ministry because the bible speaks of five different offices, or positions, that God has called men and women to operate in for the building up of his kingdom. These God-given gifts, or offices, are:

- a. **Apostles** – Twelve original men who lived during Bible times who were eye-witnesses of Jesus after his resurrection. The original twelve were:
- Simon - (also known as Simon Peter, Cephas, or Peter)
 - Andrew – brother of Peter
 - James – the son of Zebedee and brother of John
 - John
 - Philip
 - Bartholomew
 - Thomas
 - Matthew
 - James – the son of Alphaeus or James the less
 - Judas - also called Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus
 - Simon the Canaanite or Simon the Zealot
 - Judas – known as Judas Iscariot

Other apostles – there were other apostles in Bible days who were also eye-witnesses of Jesus after his resurrection such as Matthias, Barnabus, and the Apostle Paul.

(Acts 1:26 Acts 4:36 I Cor 15:9)

The Apostle – The **A**postle (with a capital “A”) is Jesus Christ. He is the one who was “sent” to save the world from sin.

We do not believe in modern day apostles because one of the key requirements to being an apostle is that one must have been an eyewitness of Jesus after his resurrection. Today, many may be “sent” and establish new churches. They are simply doing apostolic ministry work, but shouldn’t be called an Apostle. The bible lets us know that the “High Priest and Apostle” is Jesus. *(Luke 6:12,13 Hebrews 3:1)*

- b. **Prophets** - the word means one who announces or pours forth the declarations of God. "an interpreter." (Smith's Bible Dictionary) It also means to predict or foretell. The bible tells us how to know if a prophecy is true or false. *(Deut 18:20-22)*.
Modern day saints may have the gift of prophecy as noted in the Gifts of the Spirit study below, but we do not call them Prophets because God used them in former times. *(Hebrews 1:1)*
- c. **Evangelists** – The role of the evangelist is to witness to souls that they might be saved. While everyone who is saved is required to be a witness, the evangelist has the special ministry gift of drawing souls to Christ. Evangelists can be male or female since God calls whomever he wants to use.
(Acts 21:8 II Tim 4:5)
- d. **Pastors** - The role of the pastor is to give account for your soul (tell the Lord about your Christian walk and faithfulness) and to feed you the word of God. *(Jer 3:15 Heb 13:17)*
- e. **Teachers** – The role of the teacher is to uphold sound doctrine and encourage God’s people to become rooted in his word so they can grow in grace. It should be noted that the Holy Ghost is the best teacher.
(Prov 9:9 Matt 5:19 II Timothy 2:2 St. John 14:26)

2. The Gifts of the Spirit - *1 Cor 12:4-11, 28-31 Romans 12:4-8*

The gifts of the spirit are special God-given abilities that help God's people grow and encourage them to trust God. The purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit are not to cause people to become "stuck up" or conceited because they are gifted, but rather to encourage God's people. Remember, God and God alone gets the glory when the gifts are utilized. The gift-giver, Jesus, is greater than those who he has gifted. After all, a minister, by definition, is a servant.

- i. Word of Wisdom
- ii. Word of Knowledge
- iii. Faith
- iv. Gifts of Healing
- v. Working of miracles
- vi. Prophecy
- vii. Discerning of spirits
- viii. Divers kinds of tongues
- ix. Interpretation of tongues

Other Gifts of the Spirit - *(Less commonly recognized)*

- x. Exhortation (the gift of stimulating the believer's faith)
- xi. Giving (the gift of being generous)
- xii. Governments (the gift of ruling or leading)
- xiii. Helps (the gift of mercy)

F. Principle #6: Christian Ordinances

1. Communion – (The Lord's Supper)
(Matt 26:26-29 1 Cor 10:16 1 Cor 11:23-32)
Communion is a ceremony where we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross so that we could be saved. It involves eating a small morsel of bread (unleavened – not made with yeast) and a small portion of wine (the fruit of the grapevine). The bread represents the broken body of Jesus and the wine represents the blood that he shed.
2. Feet Washing – *(St. John 13:2-17)*
Feet Washing is a practice that we sometimes do in conjunction with communion service. It is a sign of humility. Jesus instituted this ceremony to show his humility. If we are to be like Jesus, we too should have no problem washing the feet of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

IV. Traditional Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine

There are a variety of principles practiced by Apostolic believers that should be categorized as Traditional Principles. These principles are often times subject to much debate and controversy. The best way to deal with Traditional Principles is to follow the “house rules”. In other words, you should obey and follow whatever rules are being taught at your local church by your **own** Pastor. Just as your parents have “house rules”, so does the local church.

Traditional rules are often times misunderstood, and usually disliked. Remember, you don't have to like everything you are obedient to. However, you will be blessed through your obedience. Obedience is an individual choice and you will have to decide for yourself whether or not you will submit or not.

Heb 13:17

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

The following is a list of some, but not all inclusive, of various Traditional Principles that you may encounter or observe over the years.

Note: **

You should reference the materials you received in New Member's Class to refresh your memory regarding our Pastor's stand on each of these principles:

Issues Pertaining to Women: **

- *Wearing pants*
- *Length of skirts and splits*
- *Wearing jewelry (earrings, wedding rings, etc.)*
- *Wearing open-toed shoes*
- *Wearing head-coverings (hats or chapel caps)*
- *Makeup*
- *Hair cutting*

Issues Pertaining to Men: **

- *Wearing earrings*
- *Wearing tight pants*

Issues Affecting Women and Men: **

- *Colors of clothing*
- *Going to movies*
- *Having televisions in the home*
- *Playing sports*

V. Summary

Hopefully you have learned the key principles of the Apostolic Doctrine, which is the foundation of our Christian faith. In this course we have identified key terminology as it pertains to the principles of the Apostolic Doctrine, identified the source of the biblical principles of the Apostolic Doctrine, and lastly we have identified many of the traditional principles of the Apostolic Doctrine. You are strongly encouraged to continue “steadfastly in the Apostle’s doctrine” according to Acts 2:39 so that you will be well-versed, rooted, and grounded in the truth. Prayerfully, we will all experience deeper depths and higher heights in our pursuit of excellence toward understanding the principles or fundamental truths of the Apostolic Doctrine.