

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

Book 2

Belonging to a Family of Families

Big Picture

God has made us individuals who naturally yearn for belonging and purpose, which will only be truly fulfilled as we embrace God's call to make the family of families, the local church, central to our lives.

Becoming a Disciple

1. The gospel message
2. Baptism
3. Rooted, built up, established
4. Renewing our minds
5. Disciplined lifestyle – Living out the principles

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1. The Centerpiece of Christ's Plan – The Church
(Ephesians 2:18 – 3:11)

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Paul's Twofold Job-Description:

- Apostle to the Gentiles
- Unfold the administration of the mystery

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2. The Church as a Family of Families (1 Timothy 3:14-16)

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Paul's Strategy in Unfolding the Administration:

- Visits and letters to the churches
- Instruct on conduct in the church, the pillar and ground of the truth
- Titus left in Crete “to set in order the things that are lacking” (Titus 1:5)

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3. Living Within a Believing Family (Ephesians 5:22-6:9)

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Paul's Instruction in the Household Texts:

- Husbands/Wives; Parents/Children; Slaves/Masters
- Ordered families lead to ordered churches

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4. Living Within a Family of Families (Titus 2:1-15)

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Paul's Instruction in the Community Household Texts:

- Older men/Younger men; Older women/Younger women; Slaves/Masters
- Ordered church = healthy, harmonious community life
- Ordered church = Progress of the gospel

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5. Setting Life Priorities (Ephesians 5:15-21)

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Once we understand Christ's overall mission and gain a sense of His basic plan – including His household instructions for our families and our churches – we are in a position to begin setting our life priorities. In a general sense, we all have the same priorities, and we need to arrange them before we can plan our lives in any specific way. If we are going to be true disciples of Christ, we must adapt our lives to His mission, His plan, and His guidelines for our lives, our families, and our churches.

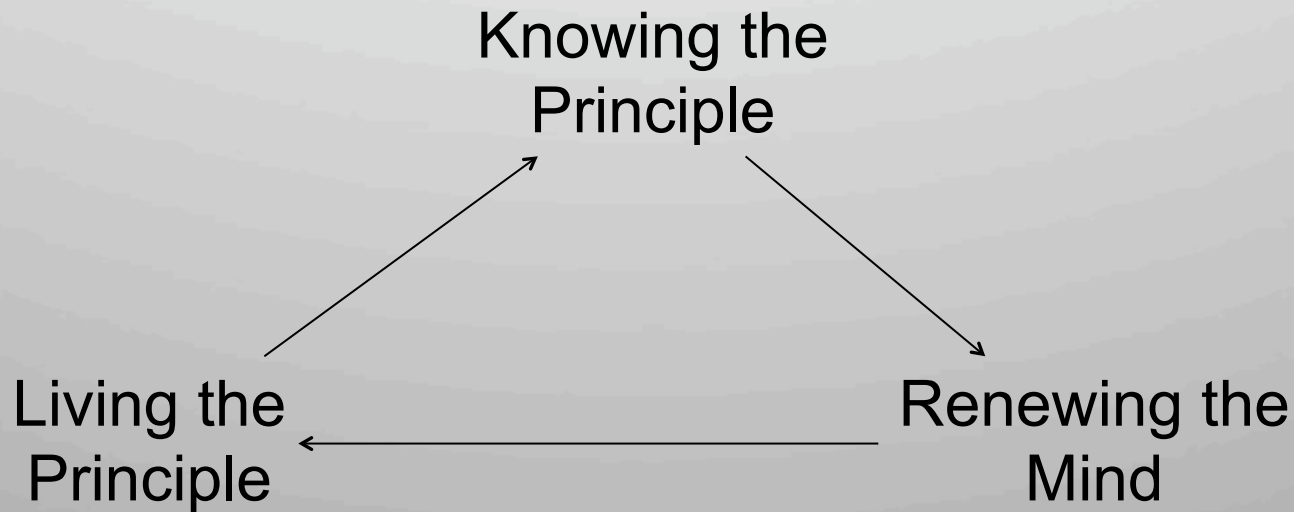
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5. Setting Life Priorities (Ephesians 5:15-21)

- Walk wisely, making the most of our time
- Understand the will of the Lord
- Be filled with the Spirit

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4. Planning a vacation.

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2. What if the plant is in another state?
3. STW on Saturday with plans on Friday night.
4. Planning a vacation.
5. Job offer in another state.