

We are hosting a day of teaching on the various meetings of the assembly on Saturday, February 24th, Lord willing.

We are expecting our brethren, Jim Jarvis, Frank Sona and Larry Steers to be with us for the day. The meetings start at 10:00 am.

We plan to have a Bible Reading in the morning, and then four Ministry sessions in the afternoon, with lunch being served.

The meetings will all be held in the hall, 6 Beech St., in Brampton. The schedule for the day is listed below and an outline for the Bible Reading follows.

All are warmly invited.

The meetings will be recorded and will be available on our YouTube channel, BramptonGospelHall, sometime after the weekend. For further information, please call 905-874-4072.

10:00 - 10:30 Opening & Prayer

10:30 - 12:00 Bible Reading, led by Frank Sona, as per outline provided.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Two 45-minute Ministry Sessions

3:00 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 5:00 Two 45-minute Ministry Sessions

Bible Reading Outline –

THE NEW TESTAMENT ASSEMBLY

I Cor. 3:6-17; 5:4-13; 11:2-16; 14:16, 23-28

The calling out and gathering of a people to the Lord Jesus and his authority and name is how a New Testament assembly is **established and commences**. It is in the framework of the **apostles' doctrine** that the New Testament assembly **exists and continues**. What is said from the very beginning and stated in Acts 2:42 is that "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine". Israel had failed as God's earthly witness and so God has been calling out a heavenly people as a new witness bearer (Acts 1:8; I Cor 14:25) to be seen and a testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus.

1) **OWNERSHIP**- "Ye are God's husbandry/building..." **God's WITNESS in the world by His possession**-collectively is the local assembly gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. I Cor 10:32

The word "Assembly/Church" = **Ekklesia** (over 100xs) which is a called-out company

The characteristics and distinction of the assembly:

- Who are we assembling to- The Lord in the Midst Matt 18:20
- Who are the Participants/Members- a holy company distinct from the world and all are other gatherings I Cor 1:9
- What is the Purpose- give glory to God. A testimony here and now FOR God and TO men.

I Cor 3:6-17 two metaphors of the New Testament assembly - **Garden and Temple**

Husbandry/Tilled Field- 3:6-9 No garden nor building just suddenly appears! There is work, purpose, planting or construction, and ultimately fruit and productivity for the owner. Ground must be dug up and cultivated, seed must be sown, and plants must be maintained. So, with the local church.

- The Planting vs 6-8 there is a specific way and it is linked with life. 1:17; 2:1
- The Workers are in agreement and **fellowship**- with each other and “of God” in materials, activity, and purpose. vs 6-9.
- The One Authority vs 8-10. God is the owner “Ye are **God’s** tilled field”, God is the designer and Planner, God is the One that commissions and rewards

Building/TEMPLE- vs 10-17 **Holiness and His Dwelling**. There are at least 10 temples in our New Testament. In relation to the church, both universally and locally the church is the temple of God. Ephesians 2:21,22 refers to the universal church from Pentecost to the rapture. Here in 1 Corinthians 3 obviously it is a local reference as no harm or judgment can come to the universal church (Matthew 16:18). But locally the assembly can be defiled, corrupted, destroyed, and even judged by God.

- The “**Special Presence**” of God”- God is omnipresent, meaning He is everywhere. So what is meant in this phrase? How can God say in Num 14:42 that God “will **not** be among them”? Or in Matt 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, **there am I** in the midst of them”? The tabernacle is a beautiful picture of His presence. Ex 40 shows the cloud indicating the specific presence of God descending to be among His people. His special presence with its authority for carrying out collectively what no other gathering can do is sanctioned by His presence and Word.
- The One foundation laid initially in the gospel locally - 1:17; 2:1 Universally the building/Temple has a distinctly different foundation of the apostles and NT prophets, (Eph 2:20) Jesus Christ is the Foundation.
- I Cor 3:16,17 Necessity for care with how and what is built into this temple.
- Every assembly thus has a definite moment of beginning or planting, and can have a definite moment when it ceases (Rev 2:5)

So, we see from these passages-

The **working** of the Spirit of God: the gospel preached: conviction and conversion.

The **attraction** to the Son of God: the calling and separation to the Lord

The **governance** of the Word of God: It’s control, regulation, authority on the company, particularly in the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42).

2) FELLOWSHIP- The **WITHIN and WITHOUT**- I Thess 4:12; I Tim 3:7; I Cor 5:4-13; “**Within**” is everything that is **within** the sphere of the assembly fellowship. **Without** is all that is **outside** that sphere. A person is received from being in the sphere of “without” to being brought “within”. The reverse is true also when excommunicated or “put away” from the assembly. I Co 5:5,13. Clearly then, this fellowship is not only on the basis of being saved or a member of the body of Christ, but predicated on being received TO (Acts 9:26-28; Romans 16:1,2).

A **Distinction** by:

- **Formation**- the “within” is formed by the Holy Spirit, and is one complete body I Cor 10: 17; 14:23
- **Identification**-The “without” encompasses lost and saved, “Unbeliever OR Unlearned”. They are seen to NOT be part of the whole church I Cor 14:23
- **Unity/oneness**- the human body illustrates the local Church as a body I Cor 12:18-26
- **Boundaries**- Two permanent spheres which exist. The assembly fellowship and all else apart from that fellowship w/o mixture. I Cor 5:5; I Tim 1:20
- **Protection**- All without is judged by God and within by us I Cor 5:12,13
- **Preservation**- clarity as to our calling and the company’s purpose, light vs darkness it is a fellowship of life and light.

The actions of “**Reception to**” and “**Putting away from**” the assembly indicate that the NT assembly is distinct and permanent from all other gatherings and companies. The NT assembly is not a matter of **degree** but of **kind**.

A **Display** of: I Cor 14:16, 23- 25 The “**Seat or place of the Unlearned**” is in the sphere of “without” but

- Expresses the within and without **visually** at the breaking of bread and **actually** in other gatherings of the assembly, i.e. prayer, teaching meetings.
- Functions when the assembly is gathered together.
- Has both spiritual and physical characteristics (Greek word topos).
- Distinguishes between observers and participants.
- Exists for the purpose of those without to both be convicted of and “learn”.

A **Discipline** in: Purity, testimony, as well as restoration of erring ones is seen by this action.

- Maintaining the honor of the Lord.
- Keeping the testimony clear and clean in obedience to His word.
- That others may fear.
- Restoration of the erring or sinning one.
- Occurs for various reasons - doctrinal, relational, moral and in various degrees; individually addressing ones in private (Matt 18:15), public rebuke, putting away II Thes 3:6; I Tim 1:20; 5:20.

3) HEADSHIP- I Cor 11:2-16 **Worship** through the recognition of order in all mankind under God’s Man. Headship is one of the most beautiful truths of scripture and in the NT assembly displays that truth in all our gatherings.

- Honor and dignity is given to God’s Man, the Lord Jesus, and linked with His incarnation- I Cor 11:2,3.
- Both men AND women are needed to display headship in assembly I Cor 11:11.
- When **not** carried out brings dishonor and shame to both men and women I Cor 11:4-6, 13.
- **Component** order seen: Requires **both men and women** to be gathered in assembly I Cor 11:11.
- **Complementary** order seen: Headship displayed in assembly links **creatorial** order (the long hair of the woman ‘given” by God to her distinctly) and **congregational** order.
- Visibly acknowledges submission to divine order and Christ as Head.
- When displayed collectively is a visible teaching component of the assembly collectively - I Cor 11:10,14.
- Headship along with baptism and the Lord’s Supper require physical, tangible items.
- Headship stands in relation to **all mankind of all times**. It is a truth that takes us back to Genesis and creation and into the millennial kingdom.