

Orthodoxy Orthopraxy 1

****Bumper Video –**

Greeting

What kind of Church is this?

What is our identity based on? Denomination? Style or preference? Personalities?

Many people will ask “What kind of Church” and they are usually looking for HOW WE WORSHIP instead of WHO WE WORSHIP. That’s kind of strange...

Over the next weeks we are going to be talking about our identity and our purpose as a church... & Your identity and purpose as a Christian.

We are going to concentrate on 2 theological terms over this series...

Orthodoxy means correct belief

Orthopraxy means correct action

Think of it like this... Orthodoxy is what you believe and Orthopraxy is how you live...

How you think vs how you act...

It's not good enough to have an orthodoxy without an orthopraxy

Nor is it good enough to have an orthopraxy without an orthopraxy

Have you ever heard someone say...?

I'm spiritual but not religious... whatever that means...

I take it to mean... I have actions that I live by that are spiritual, Prayer or meditation, morality and maybe generosity... This is my orthopraxy... my spiritual way of living....

But I don't live by a religious set of beliefs. If asked about heaven, hell, God, or the devil... I might not know what I believe or I might not have anything to base that belief on. This is an example of not having orthodoxy... No structure to my belief system.

Or maybe you've heard this...

I'm a christian... i'm methodist, I'm baptist... I'm Pentecostal... but that's news to everyone because although they claim an orthodoxy no one sees an orthopraxy.

They claim an Orthodoxy... A set structured belief... but they might not be actively practicing. Maybe they don't go to church, maybe they have sin in their life they have no plans to get rid of, or maybe they never pray or read the word of God or share faith...

That is an example of claiming an orthodoxy... Correct belief... but not having orthopraxy... Correct action.

We need an Orthodoxy & an Orthopraxy

Our orthopraxy... our actions... come out of us. But where does our orthodoxy come from?

Correct Belief should come from the Word of God and a revelation of Jesus.

When we have a solid Orthodoxy it should transform our Orthopraxy. **Your belief should transform your life.**

Where does our Orthodoxy come from? **Our orthodoxy is the Word of God** and we let it transform our lives.

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the
simple.(NIV)

Psalm 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to
the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light
to the eyes.(NIV)

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether
righteous.(NIV)

Redemption Church we want a correct belief and we want to
live out that belief. We want to know Jesus and then live out
Jesus. We must do both!

Every Orthopraxy needs and Orthodoxy

Acts 2 = Birth of the Church, Holy Spirit outpouring... Crazy
actions followed - The believers in Acts 2 were filled with the
Holy Spirit and rejoiced, they started sharing their faith
actively, they worshipped passionately, and they even started
miraculously speaking in tongues...

This was some crazy Orthopraxy! It led to unbelievers saying this...

Acts 2:12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"(NIV)

Acts 2:13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."(NIV)

So did these new testament believers have correct Orthopraxy? They are being made fun of and criticized... maybe what they are doing isn't right?

How do you know if you have correct Orthopraxy? Consult your Orthodoxy – The Word of God

Watch what happens in Acts 2! Peter stands up and says...

Acts 2:15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!(NIV)

Acts 2:16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:(NIV)

This is That! THIS orthopraxy, THIS action is THAT orthodoxy, THAT solidified belief found in the Word of God.

Every Orthopraxy needs and Orthodoxy

As you come to God you may experience an orthopraxy that is not like your custom... don't freak out and don't just blindly follow... but look at the orthodoxy.

Our orthodoxy is the Word of God and we let it shape our orthopraxy.

We do 3 things every time we gather together. Why do we do this? What's that all about? As Peter would say "THIS is THAT" THIS practice is THAT which is clearly seen in the Word of God.

Worship – We sing, we lift our voices, we shout, we dance, we get excited, we lift hands, we weep, we cry, we bow down, we fall on our faces, we bring offerings... That's our Orthopraxy but it is also our orthodoxy – It is clearly seen in the word of God.

How we worship has nothing to do with our denominational background... it is based on the Word of God.

Word – We look into the Word of God, the Bible. We study what it says. We look deep into the context. We study the language at times to further understand the meaning. We build our lives around what it says. We open our homes to Connect Groups where we look at the Word during the week. We try to memorize and hide the word within our hearts. We try to obey what God's word says.

We don't do this because we think it is a hip trendy thing for a church to do... It is based on the word of God.

Talking to God – We pray to God every time we come together. We offer to pray with anyone who wants prayer. We confess our sins and repent. We pray for the sick and they are healed. We pray for wisdom and understanding. We intercede for our city, our nation, our world. As we pray we feel God with us. Pray is powerful.

We don't do this because we need to kill some time before dismissal... We are trying to Live our what we clearly see in the Word of God.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.(NIV)

It's not enough to point to the Bible and say I believe it, but then not live it. Our orthodoxy forms our orthopraxy. But the way we live should reflect what we believe.

Musician

Jesus in John 5:39 -40 was speaking to men who knew the Word of God better than any of us. These religious leaders didn't just know orthodoxy... they defined it. But look what Jesus says...

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,(NIV)

John 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.(NIV)

Jesus says something very important here... Scripture does not give you eternal life. As important as scripture is... It merely testifies of Christ... It leads you to Christ...

Here are these men who know scripture. They know orthodoxy... but the Lamb of God, the Light of the World, the Messiah, Jehovah God wrapped in flesh is standing right in front of them ... and they refuse Him.

How do you know if you have the correct Orthodoxy? They had orthodoxy... how do you know your orthodoxy is correct? Is it transforming your Life? Is it changing your orthopraxy... how you live? & who you live for?

If you have knowledge of scripture but don't have an encounter with God... you are doing something wrong.

If you came to church today and fulfilled all the commandments of the Pharisees yet you stand in the

presence of Jesus and don't receive him and allow him to change your life... you are doing it wrong.

What kind of Church is this?

This is a church founded on the Word of God. We believe His word is TRUTH.

This is a church founded on the person of Jesus – We believe He is the Word of God come in the flesh.

That's our orthodoxy... But here is some of our orthopraxy...

This is a church where God is still alive... transforming lives... Healing, delivering, setting addicts free...

Forgiving sins, making people new, Washing their sins away and filling them with the Holy Spirit!

This is a Church where God works miracles. He wants to work a miracle today. Will you let Him?

Do you believe it Redemption Church? Will you live out what you believe right now in this altar?

When do you change beliefs...? When your beliefs stops changing you?

We challenge you to look at what you believe. We challenge you to look at how you live.