

01-25-15

Series: [The Anatomy of a Church](#)

The Anatomy of a Church (46)

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[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 01/18/15)

The Skeletal Structure

Theme: Anatomy is the study of how they fit and function together.

The church is a body, and we should look closely at its anatomy. Everybody has certain features: a **skeleton**, **internal systems**, **muscles**, and **flesh**. A church needs to have the **proper framework** (a skeleton), **internal systems** (certain attitudes), **muscles** (different functions), and **flesh** (the form of the programs). Remove any one of those key features, and the body cannot survive. **Anatomy is the study of how they fit and function together.**

Let's look at the anatomy of a church.

The Anatomy of a Church

1. The Skeletal Structure
2. **The Internal Systems**
3. The Muscles
4. The Head

The proper framework (a skeleton),
The internal systems (certain attitudes),
The muscles (different functions), and
The flesh (the form of the programs).

The question that needs to be answered is the following: **What is the Church?**

The Internal Systems-2

As we have noted, the skeleton of a church consists of nonnegotiable truths on which we cannot afford to yield. Like a skeleton, they are rigid and unbending, the backbone of a biblical ministry.

But like any living body, the church cannot exist as a skeleton alone. A skeleton provides a framework, but it isn't alive. A physical body has organs and fluids that keep it alive and functioning. So a church must have internal systems—certain spiritual attitudes. The life of a church comes from those systems.

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The goal of a pastor and the leaders of a church should be to generate proper spiritual attitudes in the hearts of the people. They can't just say, "You need to do this, and you need to do that." They must generate the spiritual attitudes that will motivate people to proper behavior. A person can do something good outwardly, yet have a bad attitude. However, good outward behavior should come from good attitudes. That's why it's important to emphasize the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))—the internal attitudes.

[Galatians 5:22-23 \(NASB\)](#)

²² **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

²³ **gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

Sometimes young men go into a pastorate and see certain things missing in their church. They see a lack of organization and become tempted to reorganize the church. They'll say, "Let's appoint some elders and reorganize this church!" But do you know what will happen after the reorganizing is finished? They're going to have the same people with the same attitudes in a different structure, and the people are not going to understand the purpose behind the change.

A church should work on the attitudes of its people.

I'm not interested in trying to make sure the people of Living Word behave a certain way by giving their money; coming to church Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights; praying five hours a week; and reading the Bible every day. Those things are not to be approached on a legalistic or superficial basis.

The emphasis of a ministry should be on generating proper spiritual attitudes.

Sometimes that's difficult to do because some people don't want to have right attitudes, and it becomes easy to let them do "good" things with a bad attitude. But doing that will allow the people with bad attitudes to derive satisfaction from legalistic behavior.

OBEDIENCE

[1 Samuel 15:10-23 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰ **Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,**

¹¹ **"I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.**

¹² **Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal."**

¹³ **Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD."**

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed."

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Wait, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak!"

17 Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were *made* the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel,

18 and the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.'

19 "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"

20 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 "But the people took *some* of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.

23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from *being* king."

Obedience stands above all other attitudes. An obedient person does whatever God says to do. He does not compromise. If God says something, that's it—there is nothing to argue about. It's important for us to have God's Word in our hearts and minds so that we know how to be obedient. Obedience is the *sine qua non* (something absolutely indispensable or essential) of all right attitudes. It is the all-pervasive attitude that makes other spiritual virtues possible.

Behavior without an attitude of obedience is meaningless; internal obedience is better than any external act of worship ([1 Samuel 15:22](#)). Furthermore, obedience leads to other right spiritual attitudes.

1 Samuel 15:22 (NASB)

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

There are several other important reasons to live an obedient life: 1) to glorify God, 2) to receive blessings, 3) to be a witness to unbelievers, and 4) to be an example for other Christians. Being obedient also allows us to be filled with the Spirit.