

House Church

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS: The information in this notebook is essential to your success in this course! *READ IT CAREFULLY!*

Course Syllabus

Assignment Schedule

Final Exam

Reports

Assignments that **MUST BE SUBMITTED** to Your Instructor for Grading

The following chart lists all of the assignments that must be graded by your instructor **before you will receive a grade and credit for this course**. The lesson number for the assignment is shown. Look in the ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE of this notebook for details on completing the assignment correctly. **TURN IN YOUR WORK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEDULE.**

Set goals for yourself right now. Each lesson requires approximately five hours of work. If you complete one lesson each week, you will complete the course in three months. This is a reasonable goal for most people. You should try to complete it in no more than four months, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent it.

Fill in the "DATE DUE" column of the chart below with the GOAL DATE you set for yourself to reach each point of the course. For example, if you are going to try to complete one lesson each week, and the first assignment is due in Lesson Six, write in the date which is six weeks from today in the "DATE DUE" column next to the first assignment due below. When you actually complete the assignment, SEND IT TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR and write in the date that you do so. If there are "Yes/No" check boxes, put a check mark in the "Yes" column when you complete and submit that assignment.

YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A GRADE FOR THE COURSE OR BE CREDITED AS COMPLETING THE COURSE UNTIL ALL OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND GRADED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR.

Assignments			
	Date Due	Date Submitted	Grade
Report 1 (Lesson 7)			
Report 2 (Lesson 8)			
Report 3 (Lesson 9)			
Report 4 (Lesson 11)			
Final Exam (Lesson 12)			

THE331 - 2 credits
(THE 531 Graduate - 4 credits)

House Church

Description:

This course will take a look at God's original plan for His Church, a plan which was very simple and easily reproducible. Many believers today are being led to try to recapture the simplicity of this early Church. This is developing into a growing, world wide, house-church movement. This course will take a look at this movement. It will look at what the Scriptures teach about the Church as compared to the many traditions of men which have developed through the centuries. The course will include how to start and conduct a house-church. It will emphasize how to evangelize the world today by a multiplication of simple house-churches. The basic text is *God's Simple Plan for His Church* by Nate Krupp. You will also study other contemporary material on the subject. This course should be taken by anyone who is concerned about the Church, and want to see it from God's perspective, not man's.

This course includes two additional options:

Option #1 - Be part of a functioning house-church and write a 500-word report - 1 additional credit.

Option #2 - Start a house-church and write a 500-word report - 1 additional credit.

Both options are required on the graduate level.

Course Objectives:

Academic:

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

- Know what the New Testament clearly teaches about the Church.
- See the Church from the perspective of the New Testament rather than the traditions of men which have developed through the centuries.
- Have a new understanding of the Church similar to how many are beginning to see it.
- Know a little about the growing, worldwide, house-church movement.
- Quote Acts 14:23, 1 Corinthians 14:26, 16:19, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Colossians 4:15, all of which are important to the subject.

Attitudinal:

As a result of your application of the truths you learn in this course, you may recognize certain changes taking place in your attitudes, adjusting them to the following:

- You will recognize that God has a plan for His Church, a plan which is given in the New Testament.
- You will see how simple God's plan for His Church is, and how complicated man has made the Church.
- You will see that "we are the Church" and everyone can truly be involved in the life of the Church.
- You will see how Jesus is to be in charge of the Church in actuality, not just in theory.
- You will see the Church in a whole new understanding.
- You will begin to question much of what today's Church is doing.
- You will begin to have faith that the world truly can be evangelized very quickly and simply by returning to God's plan.
- You will want to see the Church be what God wants, not what men want.

Behavioral:

If you allow the Holy Spirit to apply the teaching of this course to your life, you will be changed. Some of these changes will be as follows:

- You will no longer be content to "go to church, sit there, and be an audience." You will long to be part of a functioning Body.
- You will no longer be content to see men manipulating God's people. You will long to be part of a Body of believers where Jesus is truly in charge.
- You will no longer be content to see your money go for buildings, rather than the needs of people and the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
- You will do anything to be part of a group of people who want to see the Church be like God wants it.
- You may get involved in planting a simple house-church.
- You will become a fanatic radical!

Course Texts:

God's Simple Plan for His Church and *New Wine Skins* by Nate Krupp.

Audio CD by Nate Krupp: **God's Simple Plan for His Church**

Collateral Reading - any of the following books, with a total of 500 pages. The books with a * are especially recommended:

A History of the Christian Church: Qualben, Lars P. Thomas Nelson, New York, NY, 1968. Early chapters give good view of how the Church changed from early, Biblical form to later, non Biblical forms.

Archaeological Evidence of Church Life Before Constantine: Snyder, Graydon F. The SeedSowers, P. O. Box 3368, Auburn, ME 04212, 1985. Title gives subject.

Biblical Eldership: Strauch, Alexander. Lewis and Roth Publishers, P. O. Box 569, Littleton, CO 80160, 1988. About an eldership form of government rather than a one-man pastor.

Body Life: Stedman, Ray C. Regal Books, 2300 Knoll Dr., Ventura, CA 93003, 1972. An early writing on the Church functioning as a body, not an audience.

Brethren, Hang Loose: Girard, Robert C. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1972. About one church and their daring commitment of abandonment to the Lordship of Christ.

Building the House Church: Barrett, Lois. Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA, 1986. A basic book on the house church concept.

* *Christian History, Volume 37 - Worship in the Early Church*: P. O. Box 11631, Des Moines, IA 50340-1631. This particular issue of this excellent magazine deals entirely with the life of the Church during the first three centuries after Christ.

* *Church Life Before Constantine*: The SeedSowers, P. O. Box 285, Sargent, GA 30275. Excellent about the early Church.

Church Multiplication Guide: Patterson, George. Church Planting International, P. O. Box 1002, Cucamonga, CA 91730. The planting and multiplication of indigenous churches.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D" • Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
- Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C" • Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
- May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B" • Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
- Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A" • Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
- Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

DAWN 2000: 7 Million Churches to Go: Montgomery, Jim. William Carey Library, P. O. Box 40129, Pasadena, CA 91114. Completing the Great Commission by saturation church planting.

Going to Church in the First Century: Banks, Robert. The SeedSowers, P. O. Box 3368, Auburn, ME 04212, 1980. A look at a gathering of Christians in the First Century.

Going to the Root: Smith, Christian. Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA 15683, 1992. Nine proposals for radical Church renewal.

Home Cell Groups and House Churches: Hadaway, DuBose, and Wright. Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, 1987. Title gives subject.

House to House: Spiritual Insights for the 21st Century Church: Kreider, Larry. Touch Outreach Ministries, P. O. Box 1047, 19888, Houston, TX 77079, 1995.

* **Houses That Change the World:** Simson, Wolfgang. OM Publishing, P. O. Box 1047, Waynesboro, GA 30830. One of the best on the house church paradigm.

* **Jaded:** Kiesling, A.J. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI 49516, 2004. Stories of people who have left the institutional church in search of a deeper walk with God.

Liberating the Laity: Stevens, R. Paul. Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, IL 60515, 1985. Taking seriously “the priesthood of all believers.”

MegaShift: Rutz, James H. Empowerment Press, 102 S. Tehon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 2005. What God is doing to change His Church and this world.

Meetings in His Kingdom: Jesus Personally Leading His Church...in Home, City, and Multi-City Gatherings: Peters, Mike. Kingdom Publishing, P. O. Box 68309, Indianapolis, IN 46268, 1990.

* **New Testament Order:** Hay, Alexander R., New Testament Missionary Union, Audubon, NJ, 1947. A classic on the New Testament church.

* **Nexus:** edited by Zdero, Rad. William Carey Library, Pasadena, CA 91114, 2007. A very complete overview of the worldwide house church movement.

Out of the Comfort Zone - The Church in Transition: Hall, Dudley. MorningStar Publications, P. O. Box 369, Pineville, NC 28134, 1991. About today’s changing Church.

Paul’s Idea of Community: Banks, Robert. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1979. House churches as seen in the New Testament.

Prepared for His Glory: Rumble, Dale. Destiny Image, Shippensburg, PA 17257, 1986. The end-time restoration of the Church.

Restoration in the Church: Virgo, Terry. Kingsway Publications, Eastbourne, E. Sussex, England, 1985. About the present day house church movement in England.

* **Rethinking the Wineskin: The Practice of the New Testament Church:** Viola, Frank. Present Testimony Ministry, 1405 Valley Place, Brandon, FL 33510. Title Gives subject.

* **Revolution:** Barna, George. Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL, 2005. About the trend of many believers to leave the institutional church and just meet in their homes.

1700 Years is Long Enough: Rutz, James H. The Seed-Sowers, P. O. Box 3368, Auburn, ME 04212, 1991. The need to get back to the simplicity of the early Church.

Sixteen Tests of an Authentic New Testament Church: Fellowship Bible Church, 886 S. 86th St., Tacoma, WA 98444. Title gives subject.

The Believers’ Church: Durnbaugh, Donald F. Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA 15683, 1968. Church life as practiced by the Mennonites and other groups seeking to recover the New Testament norm.

The Church and the Work: Nee, Watchman. Christian Fellowship Publishers, Richmond, VA 23235, 1982. A three volume series given as messages by Watchman Nee in China in the 1930’s. Includes an unedited, more complete presentation of The Normal Christian Church Life.

* **The Church Comes Home:** Banks, Robert & Julia. Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA 01961, 1998. Very good on house church concept.

* **The Church in the House - A Return to Simplicity:** Fitts, Robert. Preparing the Way Publishers, Salem, OR 97306, 2001. Very Practical.

The Church in the New Testament: Conner, Kevin J. Bible Temple Publishing, 7545 Glisan, Portland, OR 97213, 1989. extensive look at the church in the New Testament.

The Church Triumphant: Krupp, Nate. Destiny Image, Shippensburg, PA 17257, 1988. Now available from PTWP, 2121 Barnes Avenue SE, Salem, OR 97306. The end-time church characterized by revival, restoration, unity, world evangelization, and persecution.

The Church Without Walls: Goslin, Thomas S. Hope Publishing House, P. O. Box 60008, Pasadena, CA 91106, 1984. About a network of house churches in Madrid, Spain.

The Diakonate: Rumble, Dale. Torbay Publishing Ltd., 29 Milber Industrial Estate, Newton Abbot, Devon, England, TQ12 4SG. About home churches and servant leaders.

The Early Christians: Arnold, Eberhard. Plough Publishing House, Rifton, NY 1970. About the early Church from the extra-Biblical writings of the early Christians.

* ***The Global House Church Movement:*** Zdero, Rad. Wm. Carey Library, P. O. Box 40129, Pasadena, CA 91114, 2004. An excellent overview of today's house church movement.

The House Church: Birkery, Del. Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA 15683, 1988. A good overview on the subject of house churches.

The King and His Kingdom: Whyte, Peter. Successful Christian Living, P. O. Box 1613, Cape Town, 8000, Republic of South Africa. A comparison of the radical Kingdom that Jesus is establishing with today's church.

The New Reformation: Ogden, Greg. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 1990. A call to equip the entire church for ministry.

* ***The Normal Christian Church Life:*** Nee, Watchman. Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, CA 92801, 1980. A classic on the New Testament church.

The Open Church: Rutz, James H. Open Church Ministries, P. O. Box 38519, Colorado Springs, CO 80937, 1992. How to change your church to be more like the early Church.

* ***The Pilgrim Church:*** Broadbent, E. H. Pickering & Inglis, Ltd., London, England, 1931. The remnant throughout Church history which has never been part of the organized church.

The Problem of Wine Skins: Snyder, Howard. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL 60515, 1975. A call for new wine skins.

The Sufficiency of the Scriptures: Geftakys, George. Torch and Testimony Publications, P. O. Box 3596, Fullerton, CA 92631, 1986. Especially good on not having a Statement of Faith and not incorporating.

The Team Concept: Stabbert, Bruce. Hegg Brothers Printing, 2933 N. Stevens, Tacoma, WA 98407, 1982. About a leadership team of elders rather than a one-man pastor.

* ***The Torch of the Testimony:*** Kennedy, John W. Available from The SeedSowers, P. O. Box 3368, Auburn, ME 04212. Gives three streams of Church history: Catholic, Protestant, and "the persecuted remnant."

* ***The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person:*** Jones, E. Stanley. Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 1972. Now available through Life Changes, P. O. Box 98088, Raleigh, NC 27624. How the church should impact all of society.

* ***The Way Church Ought To Be:*** Lund, Robert A. Outside the Box Press, P. O. Box 151, Albany, OR 97321, 2001, 464 pages. Very radical and quite thorough.

* ***Who is Your Covering? A Fresh Look at Leadership, Authority and Accountability:*** Viola, Frank. Present Testimony Ministry, 1405 Valley Place, Brandon, FL 33510. How leadership, authority, and accountability functioned in the early church. It takes dead aim at the abuses of authority that mark many modern churches and sheds fresh light on how to secure Christ's Headship on His Body today.

Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up: Bercot, David W. Scroll Publishing Company, P. O. Box 6175, Tyler, TX 75711, 1989. A comparison of today's Christianity with the radical Christianity of the early Church.

* ***WOMAN: God's Plan, Not Man's Tradition:*** Krupp, Joanne. Preparing the Way Publishers, 2121 Barnes Avenue SE, Salem, OR 97306. Excellent on God's plan for women.

Women Elders: ... Sinners or Servants?: Kroeger, Richard & Catherine. Christians for Biblical Equality, 380 Lafayette Freeway # 122, St. Paul, MN 55107. About the possibility of women elders as seen in the New Testament.

Course Requirements:

1. Classrooms students must faithfully attend classes. Distance students must meet all other requirements.
2. Thoroughly study the texts and all Scriptures mentioned in the texts.
3. Listen to the audio CD by Nate Krupp.
4. Memorize the assigned Scripture passages.
5. Write a report on the collateral reading.
6. Earn a passing grade on the Final Exam.

THE331 House Church

Assignment Schedule

Important: ask the Holy Spirit to speak the truth of God to you each time you do a lesson assignment.

Lesson 1

1. Read the introductory pages of *God's Simple Plan*. Carefully study Chapters 1-3. Look up and carefully study all of the Scripture portions mentioned in the text.
2. Listen to the CD by Nate Krupp: **God's Simple Plan for His Church**.
3. Begin to decide what 500 pages of collateral reading you are going to do.
4. Find someone who is involved with a house church.
5. Begin to memorize Acts 14:23, 1 Corinthians 14:26, 16:19, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Colossians 4:15, all of which you should be able to quote by the end of the course.

Lesson 2

1. Carefully study Chapters 4-8 of the text including all of the Scripture portions mentioned therein.
2. Read *New Wine Skins*.
3. Begin to work on your collateral reading and continue to work on your Scripture memory.

Lesson 3

1. Carefully study Chapters 9-11 of the text including all of the Scripture portions mentioned therein
2. Continue to work on your collateral reading and Scripture memory.

Lesson 4

1. Carefully study Chapters 12-13 of the text including all of the Scripture portions mentioned therein
2. Continue to work on your collateral reading and Scripture memory.

Lesson 5

1. Carefully study Chapters 14-17 of the text including all of the Scripture portions mentioned therein
2. Continue to work on your collateral reading and Scripture memory.

Lesson 6

1. Carefully study Chapters 18-21 and the Appendices of the text including all of the Scripture portions mentioned therein
2. Continue to work on your collateral reading and Scripture memory.

Lesson 7

1. Write a 1,000 word paper on the new things you have learned from studying the text.
2. Finish your Scripture memory work.