

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 7: “Red Flags for a Church” (know portion)

“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”—**1 Timothy 3:14–16**

I. Red flag churches—_____

1. Teaching the _____

- “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”—**Galatians 1:6–9**

2. _____ preaching

- “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”—**1 Corinthians 2:1–5**

3. Poor understanding of _____

- “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”—**Hebrews 13:17**

4. Unqualified _____

5. _____
- “¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”—**1 Corinthians 3:10–15**

II. Yellow flag churches — _____

1. _____ **theology**
 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”—**Hebrews 5:12–14**
2. **Weak** _____ **(understanding of the church)**
3. **Not practicing** _____ **rightly**
4. _____
5. **Unexplained/unexplainable** _____
 - “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”—**Colossians 2:8**
6. **Inaccessible** _____
 - “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock”—**1 Peter 5:1–3**

III. Green flag churches — _____

1. Clear gospel

i. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."—**Romans 10:17**

2. _____ Preaching

3. Careful with _____

4. Plurality of _____

5. Reasonable _____ for members

6. Ordinary means of _____

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 7: “Red Flags for a Church” (do portion)

1. Why is it important not to remain at a “red-flag” church, even to try and change it?
2. How can you know if a church is teaching the wrong gospel?
3. Man-centered preaching is not always easy to notice. What might tip you off that a sermon is man-centered?
4. How might a poor understanding of membership in a church coincide with unqualified leadership?
5. What are some signs of unhealthy pragmatism?
6. What are some signs of a “yellow-flag” church?
7. How do you know when it is a good idea to stay and try to help a “yellow-flag” church and when it is a good idea to leave?
8. What are some signs of a “green-flag” church? Which signs do you think would be most evident in the first visit or first couple of visits? What makes these signs evident?
9. Why is it so important to find a “green-flag” church? How much effort do you think you should spend trying to find a church like this for you and your family?

