

**What is the Direction of the churches in
the Athens Area?**

(Rebuilding the Foundation of Fellowship)

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- God has clearly shown us *the only foundation that will last.* (Eph 2:20)

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **Ephesians 2:20** - having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- This foundation consists of delivered words.
(Jn 17:14, 17, 20)

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **John 17:14** - "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **John 17:17** - "Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your word is truth.

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **John 17:20** - " I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- Look at how God equipped the church!
(Eph 4:11-12)

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- When local churches function as they ought then future generations are prepared! *This begins in the home.*
- Bible and church history shows us that God's people often fail in teaching *the next generation.* (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- **2 Timothy 4:3-4** - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- I pray you have been personally blessed to have built such a foundation.
- Consistently *the first step away* from this foundation is a compromised fellowship. When a group is moving in a direction it can be hard to resist.

Each person in each generation must choose the foundation they will build.

- The desire to put human relationships above God is powerful.

Why do churches change?

- What kind of leadership exists in local churches?
- There is a great responsibility placed upon elders and upon parents!
- When churches function as they ought then future generations will be prepared!

Why do churches change?

- God's people often *fail in teaching the next generation.* (1 Tim 4:1; Judges 2:10)

Why do churches change?

- 1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Why do churches change?

- Judges 2:10 - When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Why do churches change?

- I pray you have been personally blessed to have built such a foundation.
- Consistently *the first step away* from this foundation is *a compromised fellowship*.
When a group is moving in a direction *it can be hard to resist*.

Why do churches change?

- The desire to put human relationships above God is powerful. **(Gal 1:10)**

Why do churches change?

- Galatians 1:10 - For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Fellowship and Water Baptism

- Why have differences on the subject of water baptism historically *demanded a separation of fellowship?*
- Jesus placed baptism as *a foundational doctrine* for all Christians. **(Eph 4:4-6)**

Fellowship and Water Baptism

- **Ephesians 4:4-5** - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Fellowship and Water Baptism

- Paul indicated that *all Christians* were brought into fellowship with Christ and His blood *at the point of baptism*. (**Rom 6:3; Gal 3:26-27**)

Fellowship and Water Baptism

- Romans 6:3 - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?