

The Five-fold Essence of the Church

(4) The Church as the
Hospital of God

Definition of Hospital

- ❑ A Hospital Is Where
- ❑ Sick or Injured People
- ❑ Are Treated or Cared
- ❑ By Professional
Doctors and Nurses
- ❑ For the Purpose of
Healing



What Is a Healthy Person?

- ❑ A Person Has Two Dimensions
 - Physical Dimension
 - Spiritual Dimension
- ❑ (3 John 1:2) Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

What Is a Healthy Person?

- ❑ A Person Has Four Layers
 - Physical/Physiological
 - Intellectual/Emotional
 - Social/Psychological
 - Spiritual/Moral
- ❑ (Luke 2:52) 2 And Jesus kept increasing in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in favor with God and men.

What Is a Sick Person?

- ❑ Physically Hurt or Dead
 - Physiologically Diseased
- ❑ Intellectually Deficient
 - Emotionally Distraught
- ❑ Socially Inept
 - Psychologically Unfit
- ❑ Spiritually Lost or Possessed
 - Morally Confused or Lapsed

What Is a Sick Person?

- ❑ Sickesses Are Often Multilayered
 - (Matt 10:7-8) 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal *the sick*, raise *the dead*, cleanse *the lepers*, cast out **demons**..."
 - ❑ Physically Diseased or Dead
 - ❑ Psychologically and Socially Unfit
 - ❑ Spiritually Possessed or Lost

What Is a Sick Person?

- Deeper Layered Sicknesses Often Surface to the Visible Layer
 - (Matt 9:35-36) 35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** every kind of **disease** and every kind of **sickness**. 36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were **distressed** and **dispirited** like sheep without a shepherd.
- Spiritually Lost
- Psychological Anxiety
- Physical Diseases

What Is a Sick Community?

- Spiritually Lost
 - Faithless in the True God
 - (Jer 3:22) "Return, O faithless sons, I will **heal** your **faithlessness**." "Behold, we come to You; For You are the LORD our God.
 - Apostasy from True Revelation
 - (Hos 14:4) I will **heal** their **apostasy**. I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.

What Is a Sick Community?

- Socially Unjust
 - Lack of Goodness
 - (Mic 6:8) He has told you, O man, what is **good**; And what does the LORD require of you But to do **justice**, to love **kindness**, And to walk **humbly** with your God?
 - Full of Wickedness
 - (Mic 6:11-12) Can I justify **wicked** scales And a bag of **deceptive** weights? 12 For the rich men of *the* city are full of **violence**, Her residents speak **lies**, And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.
 - Unfair Business Practice
 - Disrespecting Life

What Is a Sick Community?

- Not Under Divine Blessing
 - Deut (28:2-6) 2 All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if **you obey the LORD your God**: 3 **Blessed shall you be** in the city, and **blessed shall you be** in the country. 4 **Blessed shall be** the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. 5 **Blessed shall be** your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 **Blessed shall you be** when you come in, and **blessed shall you be** when you go out.

What Is a Sick Community?

- But under the Curse of God
 - (Deut 29:15-19) 15 But it shall come about, if **you do not obey the LORD your God**, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 16 **Cursed shall you be** in the city, and **cursed shall you be** in the country. 17 **Cursed shall be** your basket and your kneading bowl. 18 **Cursed shall be** the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. 19 **Cursed shall you be** when you come in, and **cursed shall you be** when you go out.

The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- Sin Broke the Healthy Divine-Human Relationship: Spiritual Death
 - (Ps 41:4) As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; **Heal** my soul, for I have **sinned** against You."
 - (Gen 3:8) They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the **man** and his wife **hid** themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- ❑ Sin Damaged the Sacred Image of God in Man
 - (Rom 3:23) for all have **sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God
- ❑ Sin Produced Physical Death
 - (Rom 6:23) For the wages of **sin** is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- ❑ Three Kinds of Deaths:
 - Spiritual Death:
 - ❑ Separation of Human Soul from God
 - Physical Death:
 - ❑ Separation of Human Soul from Body
 - Eternal Death:
 - ❑ Separation of Soul and Body from God for Eternity

The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- ❑ Sin Reduced the Ideal Age of Man
 - Before Man Sinned: Infinity
 - ❑ (Gen 2:9) ... the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - Before the Flood: 1000 Years
 - ❑ (Gen 5:5) So all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.
 - ❑ (Gen 5:27) So all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

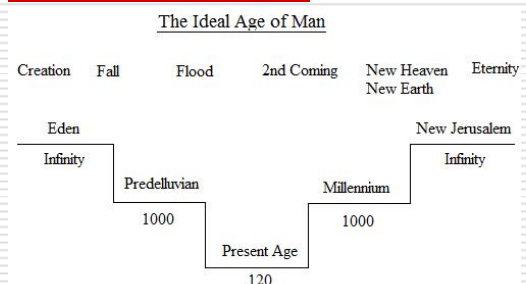
The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- ❑ Sin Reduced the Ideal Age of Man
 - After the Flood: 120 Years
 - ❑ (Gen 6:3) Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be 120 years."
 - ❑ (Psalm 90) 1 A Prayer of Moses ... 10 As for the days of our life, they contain **70 years**, Or if due to strength, **80 years**. Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away.

The Root of Sickness Is Sin

- ❑ God Is Restoring the Ideal Age of Man
 - After the 2nd Coming of Christ: 1000 Years ?
 - ❑ (Isa 65:20) No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives but a few days*, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of 100, And the one who does not reach the age of 100 Will be thought accursed.
 - After the Creation of the New Heaven and New Earth: Infinity
 - ❑ (Rev 22:2-3) 2 ... On either side of the river was the **tree of life**, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 There will no longer be any curse ...

The Root of Sickness Is Sin



Some "Sicknesses" Are due to Personal Sins

- ❑ The Seven Deadly Sins:
 - Pride=> Faithlessness & Apostasy
 - Covetousness=>Anxiety & Fear
 - Lust=>Immorality & Relational Abuse
 - Anger=> Irrational Behaviors
 - Gluttony=> Drunkenness; Obesity
 - Envy=> Theft & Robbery; Class Warfare
 - Sloth=>Poverty

Not All Sicknesses Are due to Personal Sins

- ❑ Some Are due to the Sins of Adam, and the Divine Curse of the World
 - The Usual Lifespan of the Present Age Is around 70-80 Years
 - Medicine May Only Help to Reach the Ideal Age of 120 Years
 - Nature Does Not Obey Man, and Has Disasters
 - ❑ (Gen 3:17) Then to Adam He said, "... **Cursed is the ground** because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

Not All Sicknesses Are due to Personal Sins

- ❑ Some Are due to the Sins of Others
 - Current Examples:
 - ❑ Death or Injury due to Drunken Drivers
 - ❑ Sickness due to Environmental Pollution or Genetic Engineering of Food
 - When the Whole Community Is Judged, Individual Righteousness Cannot Prevent Suffering
 - ❑ (Ezek 14: 13-14) "Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast, 14 *even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves,*" declares the Lord GOD.

Not All Sicknesses Are due to Personal Sins

- ❑ Some Are due to Divine Sovereignty
 - (Job 1:8) The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."
 - (Job 1: 9) Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ..."
 - (Job 1:12) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power ..."
 - (Job 2:7) Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

God Desires to Heal His People

- ❑ God Wants to Heal Individually & Spiritually
 - (Jer 33:6) 'Behold, I will bring to it **health and healing**, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of **peace and truth**.
- ❑ God Wants to Heal Collectively and Visibly
 - (2 Chr 7:14) and My people who are called by My name **humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will **hear** from heaven, will **forgive** their sin and will **heal their land**.

Jesus Is the Great Healer

- ❑ Jesus' Redemption Pacified the Wrath of God on the Sins of Man, and Opened the Door to Healing
 - (1 pet 2:24) and He Himself **bore our sins** in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed**.
 - This Quotation of Isa 53:4 in the Epistles Means That the Healing is Primarily Spiritual, Meaning "Forgiveness"

Jesus Is the Great Healer

- The Same Quotation of Isa 53: 4 Was Used Once in the Gospels Related to Physical Healing
 - (Mat 8: 14-17) 14 When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. 16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."
 - Since the Gospel Is Narrative, Physical Healing Is a Possible, but only Historical and Secondary Meaning

Jesus Came to Heal Sinners

- Only Humble Acceptance of His Grace Lead to Healing
 - (Matt 9: 11-13) 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and **sinners**?" 12 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick." 13 "But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus Came to Heal Sinners

- Jesus Came to Give Us Rest
 - (Matt 1: 28) "**Come to Me**, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The Church as the Hospital of God

- The Church Is Not a Trophy Club of Saints, but a Hospital of Sinners
- The Church That Elevates Christ and the Word of God Draws People to Christ
- He Will Heal Them
 - Spiritually/Morally
 - Psychologically/Socially
 - Intellectually/Emotionally
 - Physically, if It is God's Will

The Church as the Hospital of God

- It Is a Mistake to Draw People to Church by Emphasizing Physical Healing, as Well as Promises of Prosperity and Success
- It Will Draw People to Focus on the Earthly Things, Not Things of Heaven
- The Primary Work of the Church Is for Spiritual Healing

The Church as the Hospital of God

- God Does Do Miracles
- All Believers Have the Equal Right of Coming to the Throne of God . There Is No Need of Special Human Healer
- God Does Miracles to Save People and to Comfort according to His Will
- Spiritual Healing Often Extends to the Visible Layers, Individually and Corporately