

Mid-Week Devotion

Read:

F-1.02 of the PC(USA) Book of Order

F-1.0203 Christ Gives the Church its Life

Christ gives to the church its faith and life, its unity and discipline. Scripture teaches us of Christ's will for the church, which is to be obeyed. In the worship and service of God and the government of the church, matters are to be ordered according to the Word by reason and sound judgment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

F-1.0204 Christ is the Church's Hope

In affirming with the earliest Christians Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.

Reflect:

If we as a church acknowledges Christ as the Lord and head of the church, the next step is to understand the impact that named value has on the daily life of the church.

Here, the Book of Order names several ways the

authority of Jesus impacts the church's life and mission.

First, is the acknowledgement the orderly and deliberate process of decision making is as important as the results. Jesus didn't go about ministry haphazardly, but instead lived with direct purpose and planning. Working through issues with dedication and design helps give the structure necessary to make a meaningful impact on the world.

Second, the church and its local expressions in community doesn't exist outside of Christ's will for it. The primary question churches should be asking is "What is Jesus' will for this situation? and then should spend several days or weeks or months in prayerful discernment in order to orderly step down the path towards God's vision for what could be.

Respond:

- How does this section describe the purpose of the church?
- What would a church which lived into these principles look and sound like? What about an individual?
- Do you think anything is missing from this description of the church's mission?

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

Each line of the puzzle has one word hidden in a list of random letters. The blank space is a missing letter that belongs to that word. Fill in the missing letter.



1.	U	M	H	R	B	R		A	D	J	S	P	O
2.	Z	F	P	E	W	O		L	D	Q	Y	X	V
3.	J	I	H	E	B	D		S	E	R	T	S	W
4.	M	R	C	Y	H	A		T	O	N	E	R	X
5.	B	L	S	A	R	M		U	N	G	R	Y	G
6.	M	W	O	R	S	H		P	T	R	Z	X	J
7.	R	Z	C	T	E	M		T	E	D	Q	R	Q
8.	T	K	A	N	G	E		S	P	Y	I	Y	X

desert
tempted

hungry
stone

bread
worship

world
angels

Jumble



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

SOTNE

1 9

BERAD

13 2

CTIY

11 14 5

TPMELE

7 3

AGNELS

6 10

WOPSHIR

15 12 8 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

OF

11 12 13 14 15 1

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.

R P J L D S T E M P T E D B K
 P Q G R H P W E G H J S V W J
 V Y O N N H V X W D E A W F E
 M L Y R N R F E E N S T S D W
 V O A G E X B O W X U A D B O
 S B U S K S B O E D S N Y T R
 O P D N I I B I U E O C M A S
 F I L S T S N C W V V L O Z H
 I A M E L A Z G K I D B M L I
 B Q S E N A I D D L I W U R P
 L R G T D D R N E O L P W F N
 H N E L I O O E S N M E D S X
 A C R A W N B R E V G S L F C
 J O F U D Y G E R T E M P L E
 W H H U N G R Y T S T O N E S

WORD
 TEMPTED
 WORLD
 DEVIL

WORSHIP
 ANGELS
 KINGDOMS
 FASTING

LORD
 HUNGRY
 BREAD
 SATAN

MOUNTAIN
 STONES
 DESERT
 TEMPLE

BOW
 SERVE
 SPLENDOR
 JESUS

