

Chapter 3

What Does the Bible Say?

The third chapter, entitled, **What Do the Scriptures Say?**, provides a theological foundation for the reader. This ministry project has considered the theological and biblical foundations that proceed from the research question. The foundational truths, which may have been missed by those in flawed systems, are examined. There are a wealth of topics in this chapter which interconnect and will provide spiritual support and insights for anyone who reads it.

Chapter Three covers the following topics:

The Mar Factors

The Inaccuracy of Legalism

Description of the Hierarchical/Authoritarian Model

Origin of the Hierarchical/Authoritarian Model

Critique of the Hierarchical/Authoritarian Model

Leadership from a New Testament Perspective

The Journey Towards Restoration

Chapter Three addresses some specific areas of Christian belief and understanding that have been distorted in abused people--these misshapen beliefs need to be discerned and set straight so that their spiritual life might be revitalized.

Distortions in understanding the Christian faith center primarily on these aspects--understanding, discernment, and experience:

- 1. Not understanding salvation and sanctification by grace**
- 2. Not understanding sound hermeneutical principles to interpret God's Word**
- 3. Not understanding how to discern whether certain teachings are biblical truth or not**
- 4. Not differentiating a flawed leadership model from a legitimate biblical leadership model**

5. Not experiencing authentic Christian community

6. Not experiencing appropriate treatment by leaders of God's people

People who have come from abusive churches must wrestle with the theological inaccuracy of legalism.

The ideals of both a valid Old Testament view as well as understanding New Testament beliefs and practices provides a better foundation for a healthy model of Christian leadership. The biblical and theological foundations emphasized in this chapter ought to establish this study and provide a better grasp of related issues.

Excerpt of Chapter 3

What Does the Bible Say?

Many problems in congregations arise because of unbiblical theological beliefs and leadership malpractices that result from these beliefs. It is necessary for Christians to re-examine specific biblical and theological principles and discern healthy church leadership practices that flow from these principles and to consider what may contribute to abusive situations. This chapter will consider the biblical and theological foundations that proceed from the research question. It will explore the major factors affecting Christians; the inaccuracy of legalism, the hierarchical/authoritarian model of leadership, the origins of the hierarchical/authoritarian model of leadership, a critique of this model, leadership from a New Testament perspective, and the journey towards restoration.