

What is praise chapel? What are their beliefs? What is their church history?

Praise Chapel, founded by Michael Neville, is a nondenominational Christian church which originated in Los Angeles, California. They have over 200 churches in the U.S. and thousands worldwide.

Praise Chapel is a church planting movement which claims to follow Christ's command to: go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mk 16:15).

Critics of Praise Chapel claims that the church is: financially irresponsible, carnal and fails to implement church discipline when necessary.

Their logo is an eternal flame which some believe accurately describes their fiendish, unchristianlike behavior in the community.

Responsible stewardship is important (Luke 12:42). It is a church's duty to spend money (Rom. 16:23) and serve (Luke 12:42) wisely. All will give an account to God (1 Pe 4:5).

Church discipline is meant to restore a sinning brother. When a church fails to implement discipline as given in Matthew chapter 18 verses 15-20¹, disciples may become confused about right and wrong (Is 5:20). The church should be morally pure.

The description of an elder which the apostle Paul wrote about in Titus chapter 1 verses 5-9 is not for church leadership alone—it is for all Christians. Paul said that the believer is to be: blameless and above reproach (1:6a, 7a), of one wife and faithful to her; a family man (1:6b), not overbearing or quick-tempered (1:7b), not a heavy drinker, violent, or greedy (1:7c), hospitable and must love what is good (1:8a), self-controlled, upright, and holy (1:8b), able to use doctrine to encourage the sincere and reject the insincere (1:9).²

Eternal flame cultists are anarchists who promote chaos in society. They believe order can come out of chaos³.

While Praise Chapel may not intentionally promote radical views (2 Thess. 2:7, 8); they seemingly have departed from the authoritative teaching of God's word (1 Cor. 2:4, 13, 2 Cor. 4:2). Their reputation is not stellar in the community. Where there is disharmony, it would not appear that they have worked to clean house. Any church can of course go astray; but, when they do they must actively work to root out problems in their midst. The apostle Peter wrote: For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God (1 Pe 4:17A).

A church should be known as an *uncommon* community—filled with believers who love (1 Jn 3:14) and seek to edify (Rom. 14:19) one another.

¹ The procedure (18:15–17): 1. If your brother sins against you, go to him in private, and attempt to reconcile the matter (18:15), 2. If this fails, take someone with you (18:16), 3. If this fails, bring the matter before the church (18:17a), 4. If this fails, dismiss the unrepentant brother (18:17b). The promise (18:18–20): The authority of heaven itself will support this kind of church decision. Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Mt 18:15–20). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Tt 1:6–9). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

³ Similar to the Luciferian elites who are influential throughout the world.