



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

## **The Principle of Submission**

*“How To Establish The Faith  
Applications: (The  
Organization of The Local  
Church )*



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

*THEREFORE, JUST AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST,... EPH 5:24*

*“How To Establish Faith”*

*Matthew 21:25-26*



## **From Heaven**

**Mt. 21:23-27**

**1 John 4:4-6**

**Gal. 1:6-9**

**Col. 2:6-10**

**2 Thess. 2:15**

**Only Two  
Possible  
Sources**

## **From Men**

**Mt. 15:1-9**

**1 Cor. 4:6**

**Gal. 1:10-17**

**Col. 2:8**

**2 Thess. 2:2-4**

# **From Heaven or Men?**



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

## **The Principle of Submission**

*SEEKING PERMISSION FOR ALL WE BELIEVE, TEACH & PRACTICE*

## **God's Silence To Be Respected!**

**We cannot  
know the mind  
of God except  
through  
revelation**

1 Cor 2:10, 11,14

Eph 3:3-5

Isaiah 55:8,9

**Faith  
comes  
by  
hearing**

ROMANS 10:17

**God has  
revealed  
everything He  
wants us to  
know & do –**

2 Pet 1:3;

2 Tim 3:16,17

Jude 3

**WALKING BY FAITH MEANS WALKING BY WHAT GOD HAS SAID**  
**2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9**



# Exclusive & Inclusive

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household,

<sup>22</sup>Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. . . .

7:5 <sup>5</sup>And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.

## Authorized

Incidental

Tools  
Scaffolds  
Help

**Build An Ark of  
Gopher Wood**

**Excluded /  
Unauthorized**

Another door  
Different wood  
Different size  
Additional boats



# Is It Expedient?

EXPEDIENCY HAS TO DO WITH "MEANS AND METHODS " IN WHICH A GIVEN WORK IS ACCOMPLISHED.



Expediency in religion is a means or method of executing a divine command when the way to do it is not specified.



# Is It Expedient?

EXPEDIENCY HAS TO DO WITH  
"MEANS AND METHODS " IN WHICH A  
GIVEN WORK IS ACCOMPLISHED.

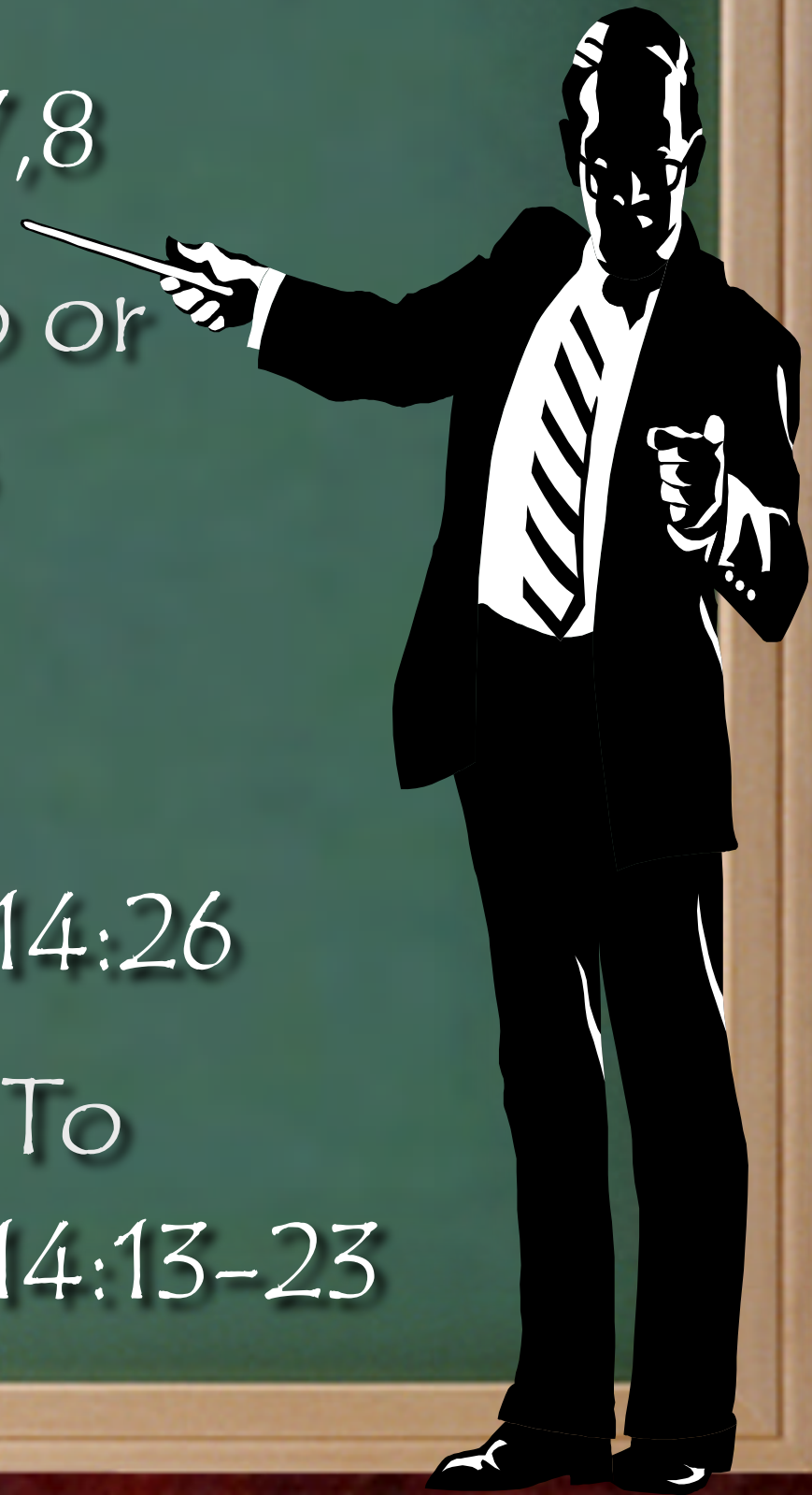


UNAUTHORIZED  
Innovations under the guise  
of expediency, has caused  
Wholesale apostasies in the  
organization, work &  
worship of the church.



# For A Thing To Be Expedient

- It Must Be Lawful – Romans 3:7,8
- It Can NOT Be An Addition To or subtraction from what God has specified – Deut 4:2; 2 Jo 9; Rev 22:18; Num 4:4-6
- It Must Edify – 1 Cor 10:23,33; 14:26
- It Must Not Cause My Brother To Violate His Conscience – Rom 14:13-23



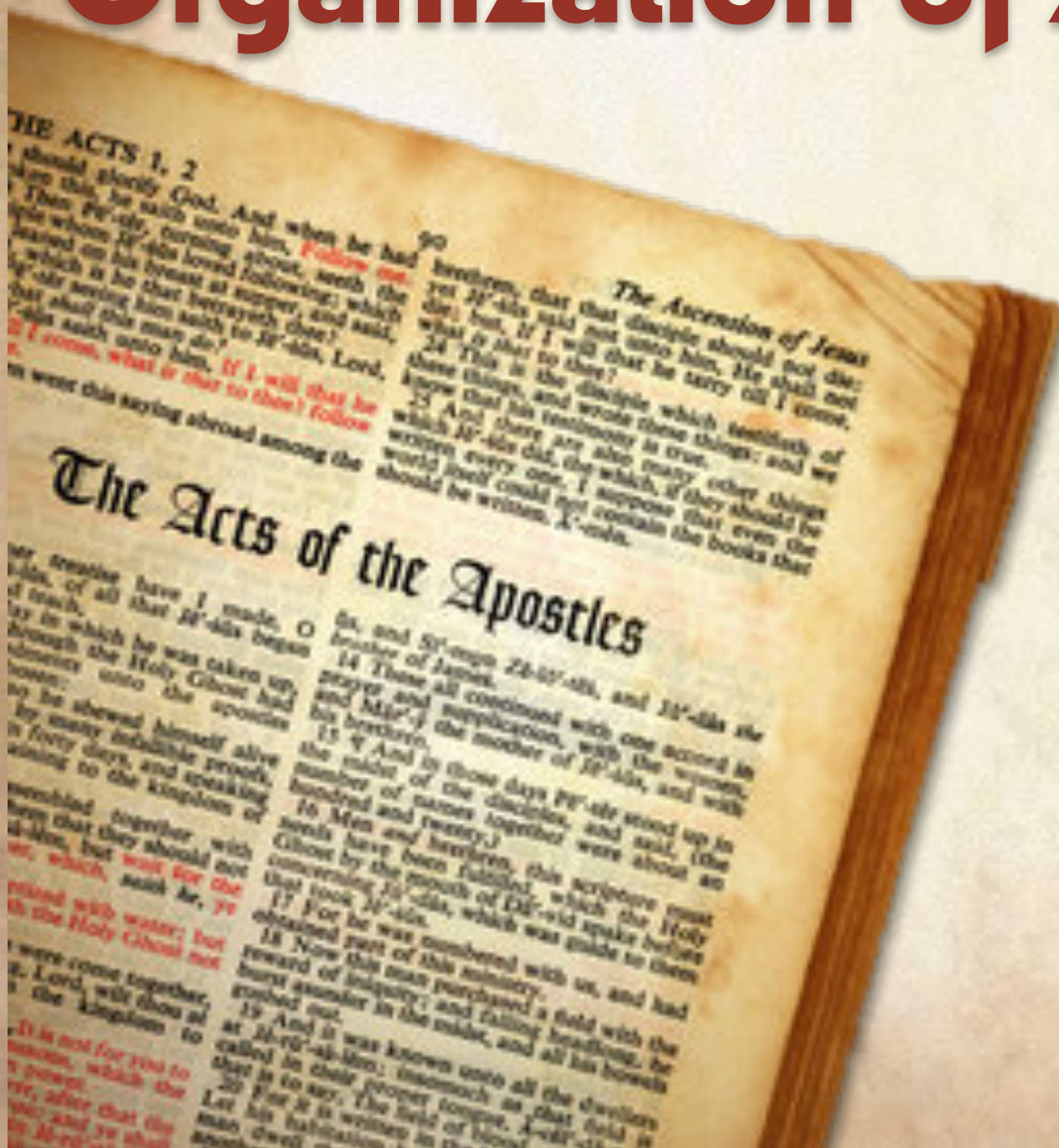


# Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church



- ◆ The New Testament provides the divinely approved pattern.
- ◆ Original apostasy began with changes in organization...
- ◆ Organization reveals purpose...



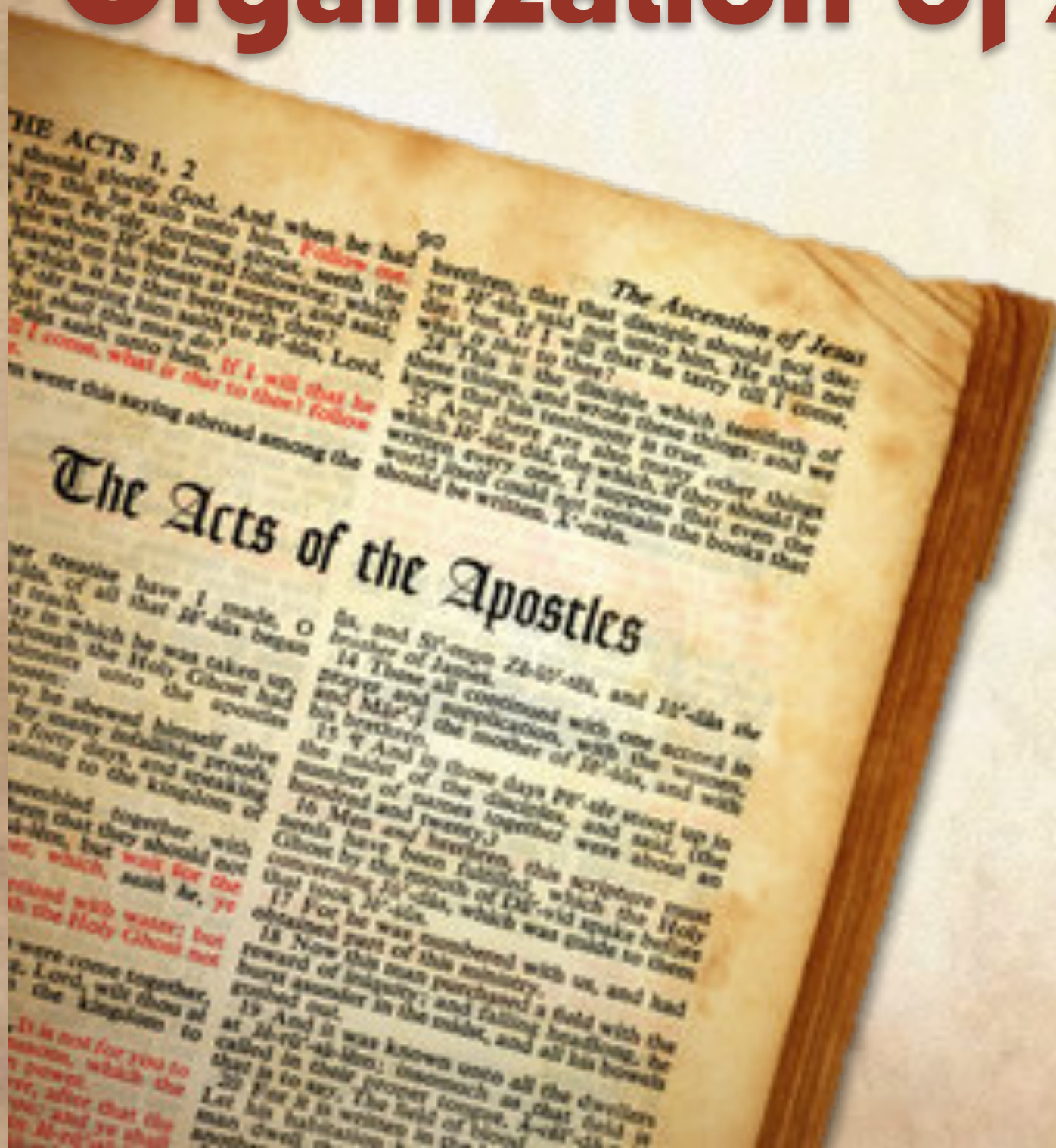
# Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

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Compile all references to the subject including direct statements, approved actions, and necessary implications.



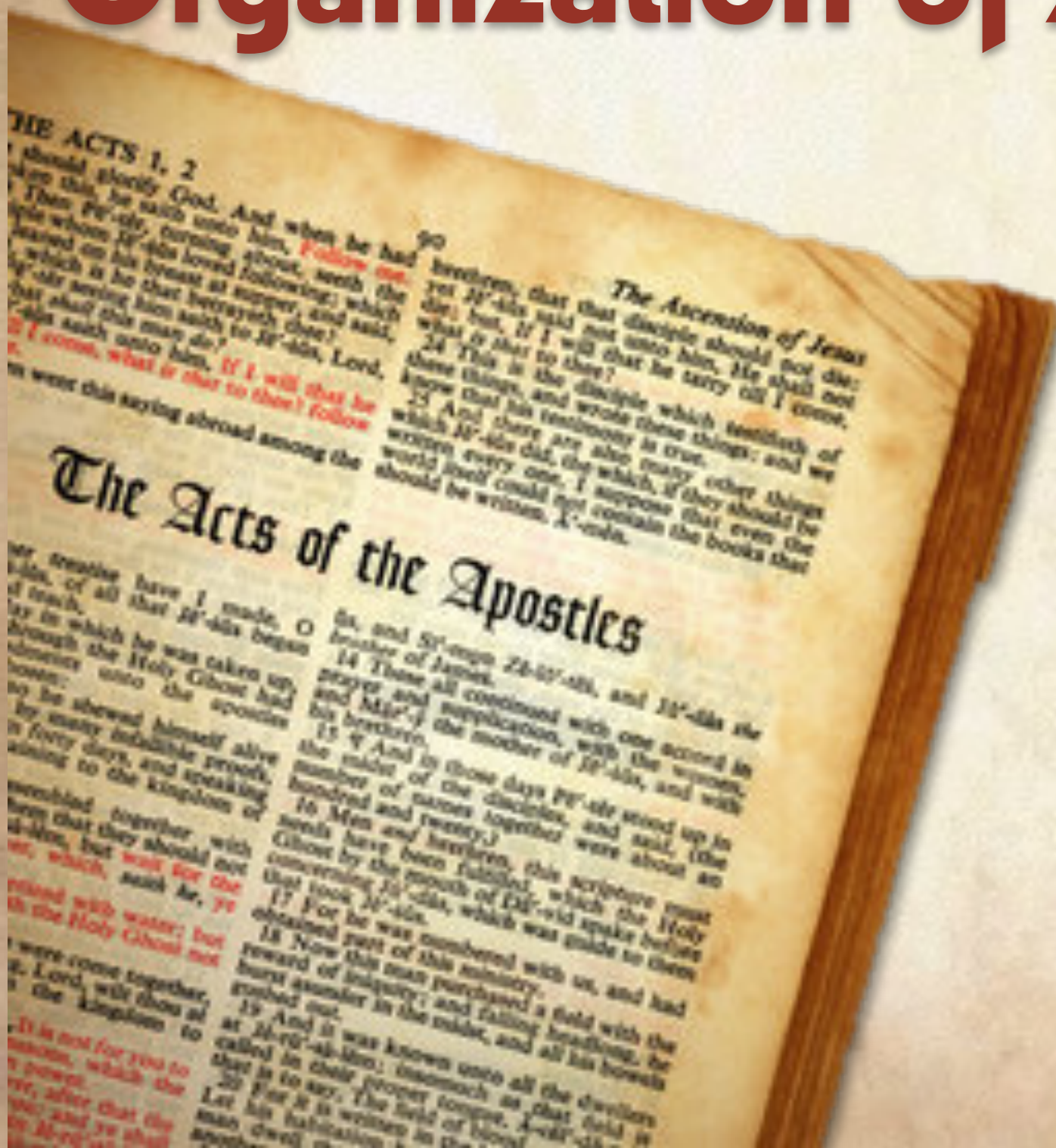


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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church



- ◆ Christ the head
- ◆ Elders (bishops, pastors)
- ◆ Deacons to serve
- ◆ Evangelist, teachers & saints



Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

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# Organization of the Church

CHRIST THE HEAD  
(Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23)

- ◆ Christ is the head of the universal church
- ◆ This is the ONLY organization the universal church has!



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## Organization of the Church

CHRIST THE HEAD  
(Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23)

Speaks through  
the apostles in the  
New Testament

Elders

Elders

Elders

Elders





*Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

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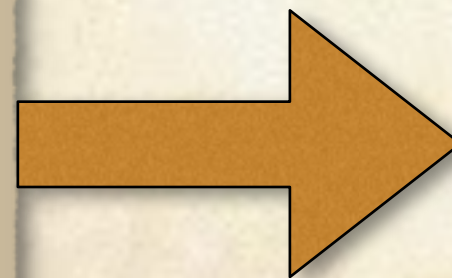
# Organization of the Church

**CHRIST THE HEAD**  
(Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23)

Ephesians 2:20  
Laid the Foundation

Ephes. 4:11 (NKJV)

And He Himself gave some to  
be apostles, some prophets, some  
evangelists, and some pastors and  
teachers,



***apostles,  
prophets,  
evangelists,  
pastors,  
teachers***



# Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

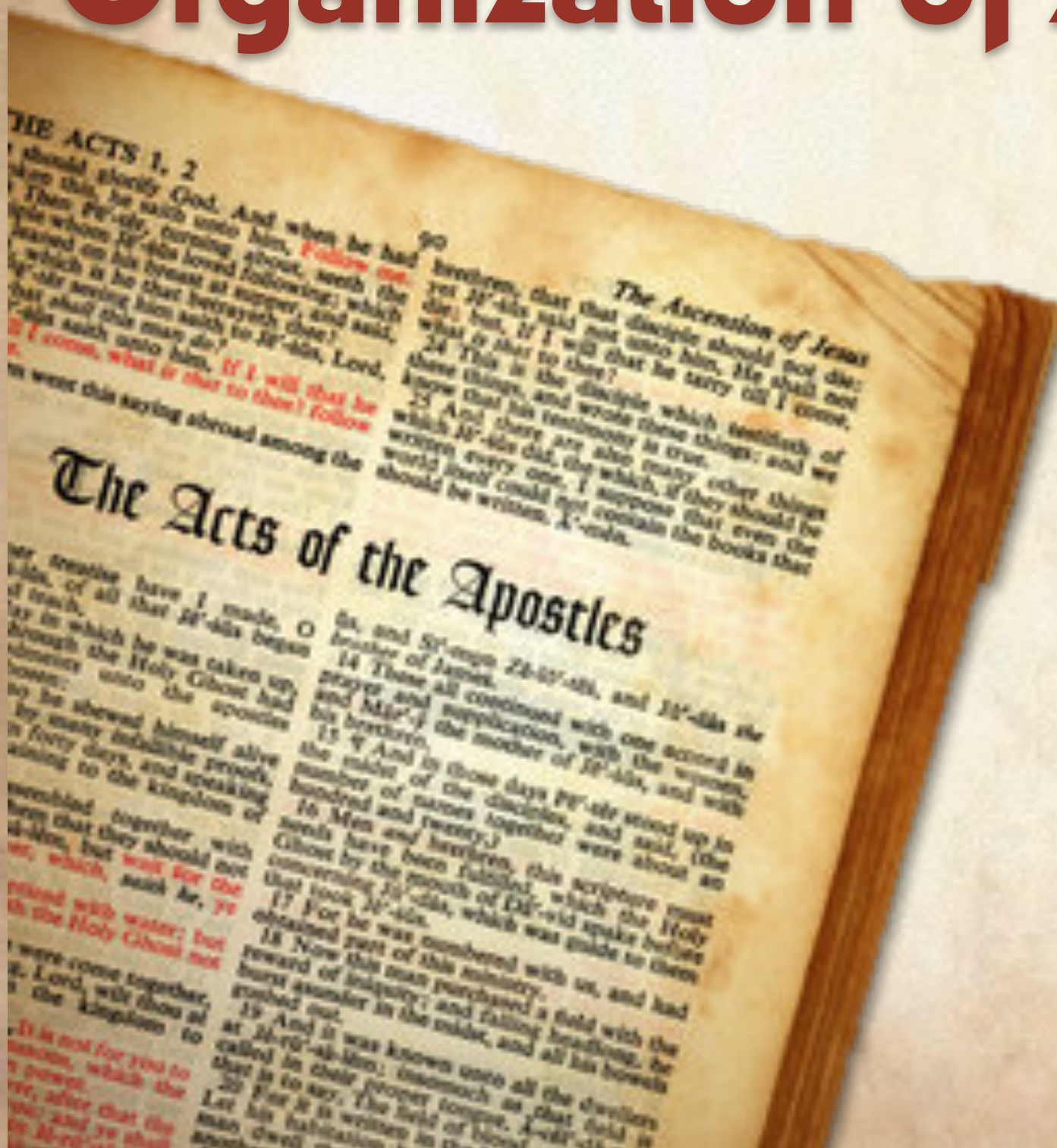
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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

Philippians 1:1  
(NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy,  
bondservants of  
Jesus Christ, To all  
the saints in Christ  
Jesus who are in  
Philippi, with the  
bishops and deacons:





# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

## **Organization of A Local Church**

**The terms elder, bishop & pastor**

*Descriptive  
terms  
emphasizing  
a different  
aspect of the  
work and  
function  
pertaining to  
the same  
office.*

**1 PETER 5:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>The elders (*presbuteros*), who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Shepherd (*poimen*), the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, (*episkopos*),



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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

## The terms elder, bishop & pastor

*Descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.*

- **Bishop** – [*episkopos (n); episkopeo (v)*] – Denotes the overseeing function – not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)
- **Pastor, shepherd** – [*poimen (n); poimaino (v)*] – Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God over which they have been appointed. – Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2
- **Elder** - [*presbuteros (n)*] denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences. Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1



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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

### **Acts 14:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

After Paul & Barnabas had converted many in Lystra, they retraced their travels through Asia Minor appointing elders in every church.

They then returned to Antioch bringing their first evangelistic journey to a close [46-48 AD].  
(Acts 14:21-26)



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### **Acts 14:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

“The use of the plural here implies what was true at Philippi (Phil. 1:1) and Ephesus (Acts 20:17, 28) that each church (one in each city) “had its college of elders” (Hackett) as in Jerusalem (21:18).”

Robertson, A. (1933). Word Pictures in the New Testament. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Organization of A Local Church**

### **Acts 14:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

It is implied here that there were elders in each church; that is, that in each church there was more than one. . . . Titus 1:5, "I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldest ordain elders in every city." Acts 20:17, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." It could not mean, therefore, that they appointed a single minister or pastor to each church, but they committed the whole affairs of the church to a bench of elders.

*(Barnes New Testament Notes on Acts 14:23)*



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### **Titus 1:5 (NKJV)**

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you

The absence of elders was considered by Paul as that which was “lacking.”

Paul perceived the appointment of elders as something necessary for a local church to function and mature as it should.

Those who met the qualifications  
— (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)



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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

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Acts 20:28  
(NKJV)

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.  
*(cf. Acts 20:17)*

### ♦ **The elders in each local church were equal in authority**

- 📌 See every passage where the elders are mentioned - Acts 11:27-30; 14:23; 20:28; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5; 4:14; 5:17; 1 Pet 5:1-3; Heb 13:17
- 📌 The elders had authority (*rule, oversight, responsibility*) only in the local church that appointed them - Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-3
- 📌 Their authority did not extend beyond the flock among them!



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

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## THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

## Deacons To Serve

♦ **See Philì 1:1; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tìim 3:8-13**



- Deacon - (**VINES**) <G1249> διάκονος, diakonos - (Eng., "deacon"), primarily denotes a "servant," whether as doing servile work, or as an attendant rendering free service, . . .
- Not overseers - they are special servants.
- The need to note a distinction between the office of a deacon, (1 Tim 3:8-14), and the term used in its common, generic sense - (Rom 16:1; 13:4; 1 Cor 3:5; etc.)



# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

## **Organization of A Local Church**

Evangelist, teachers, saints



### ♦ **Evangelist - See Eph 4:11; Philì 1:1**

- (VINES) <G2099> εὐαγγελιστής, euangelistēs - lit., "a messenger of good" (eu, "well," angelos, "a messenger"), denotes a "preacher of the Gospel," Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11, which makes clear the distinctiveness of the function in the churches; 2 Tim. 4:5. Cp. euangelizō, "to proclaim glad tidings," and euangelion, "good news, gospel." Missionaries are "evangelists," as being essentially preachers of the Gospel.



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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

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Evangelist, teachers, saints



### ♦ **Teachers - See Eph 4:11; Philì 1:1**

⌚ (VINES) <G1320> - διδάσκαλος, didaskalos - a teacher (from didaskō, "to teach"), cp. didaskalia, "teaching, doctrine, instruction," is translated "doctors," with reference to the teachers of the Jewish religion, Luke 2:46. . ."

⌚ (THAYER) 6. of those who in the religious assemblies of Christians undertake the work of teaching, with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit: 1 Cor 12:28f; Ep 4:11; Acts. 13:1, cf. James 3:1.



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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

## **Organization of A Local Church**

Evangelist, teachers, saints

♦ **Saints** - See Phil 1:1; Acts 9:13,32; 26:10; Rom 1:7; 12:13; 15:25,26; 1 Cor. 1:2; 14:33; Eph 1:1 . . .

📌 (**VINES**) <G40> ἅγιος, hagios - . . . used of believers, it designates all such and is not applied merely to persons of exceptional holiness, or to those who, having died, were characterized by exceptional acts of "saintliness." See especially 2 Thess. 1:10, where "His saints" are also described as "them that believed," i.e., the whole number of the redeemed.





# The Church - Growth & Apostasy<sup>26</sup>

## *Warnings & Problems*

Departures from God's order & way  
should have come at no surprise



### ◆ **Changes In Organization**

- 150 AD One elder exalted above the others (elder/bishop still one office)
- 200 AD One Bishop per church overseeing the eldership (elder/bishop two offices)
- 250 AD One diocesan Bishop overseeing other Bishops of other churches.
- 300 AD One Metropolitan Bishop overseeing other diocesan Bishops (Creeds replace Bible)
- 381 AD One Patriarch overseeing Metropolitans (Man replaces Creeds)



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## Organizational Changes

588 – “Papa” John the Faster



**Step #6**  
**POPE –**  
**Boniface III**  
**606 AD**

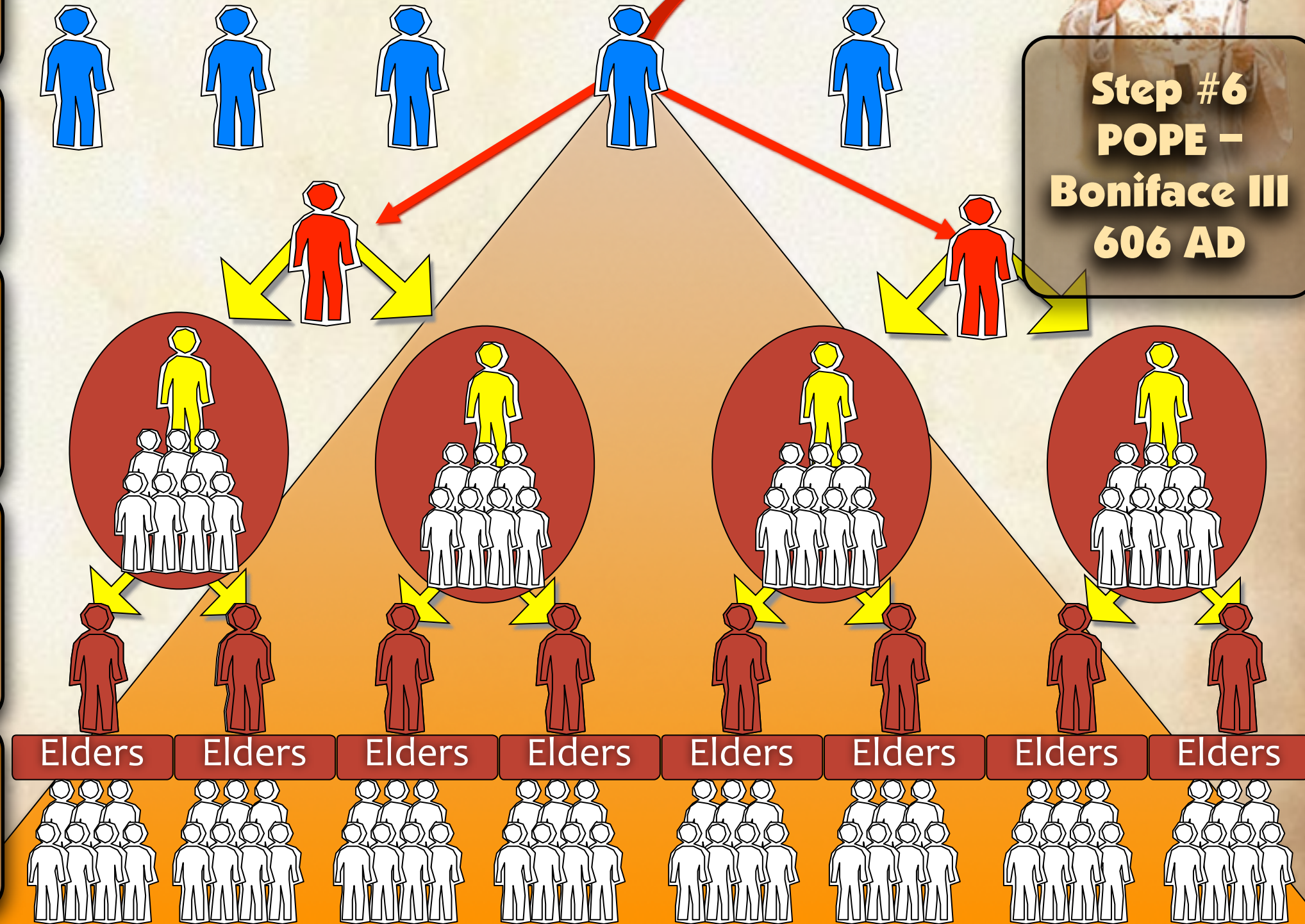
**Step #5**  
**Arch Bishops**

**Step #4**  
**Diocesan Bishop**

**Step #3**  
**Metropolitan**  
**Bishops**

**Step #2**  
**Elder – Bishop**  
**distinction**

**Step #1**  
**Presiding elder**





# Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

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*'Unscriptural' forms of organization ...*



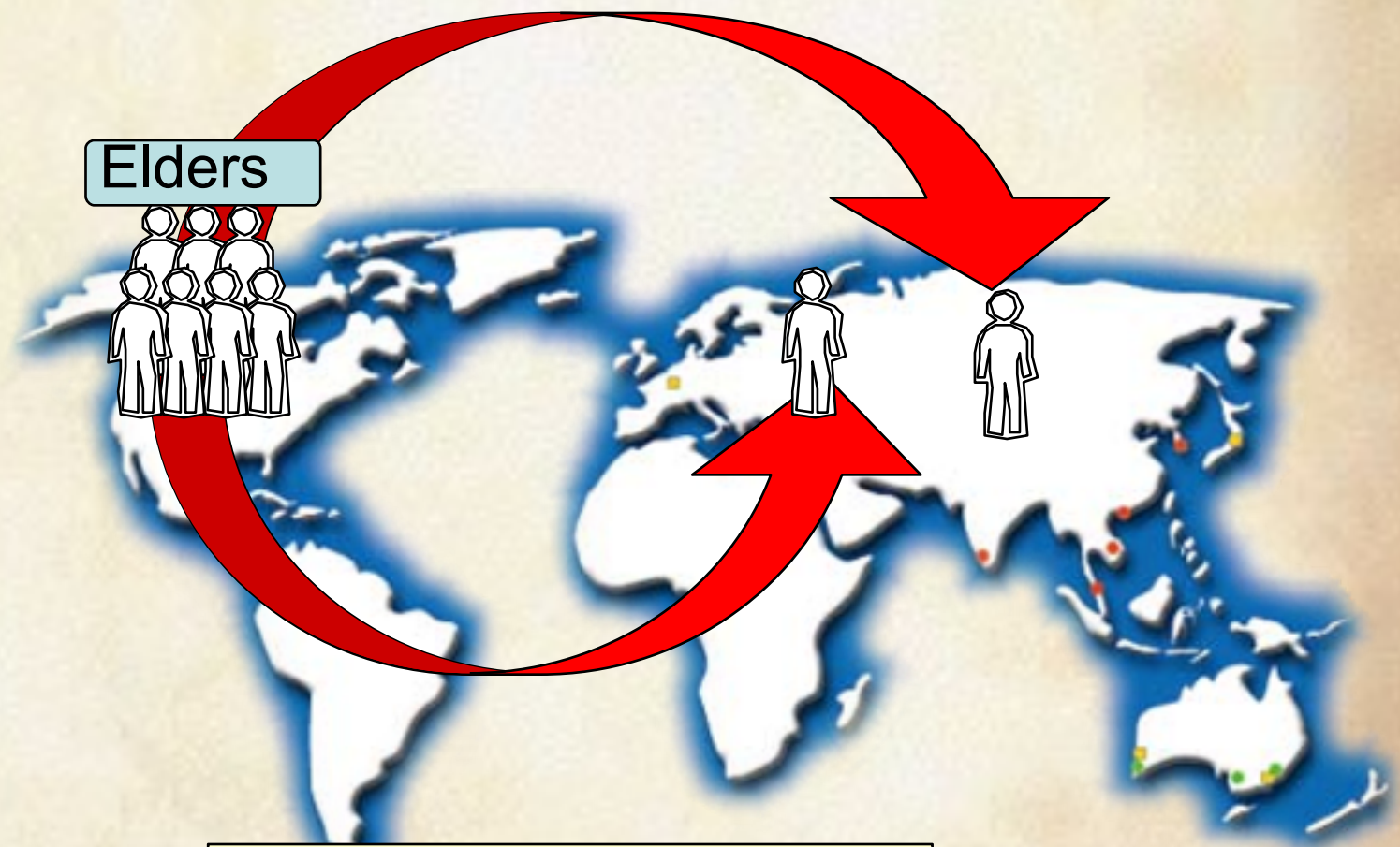


# *Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?*

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*'Unscriptural' forms of organization ...*

- ◆ Direct –
- ◆ Does not relinquish oversight of work –
- ◆ Does not infringe upon the autonomy of the local church –
- ◆ Scriptural –
- ◆ It works –



Scriptural pattern  
Phili 4:15-18

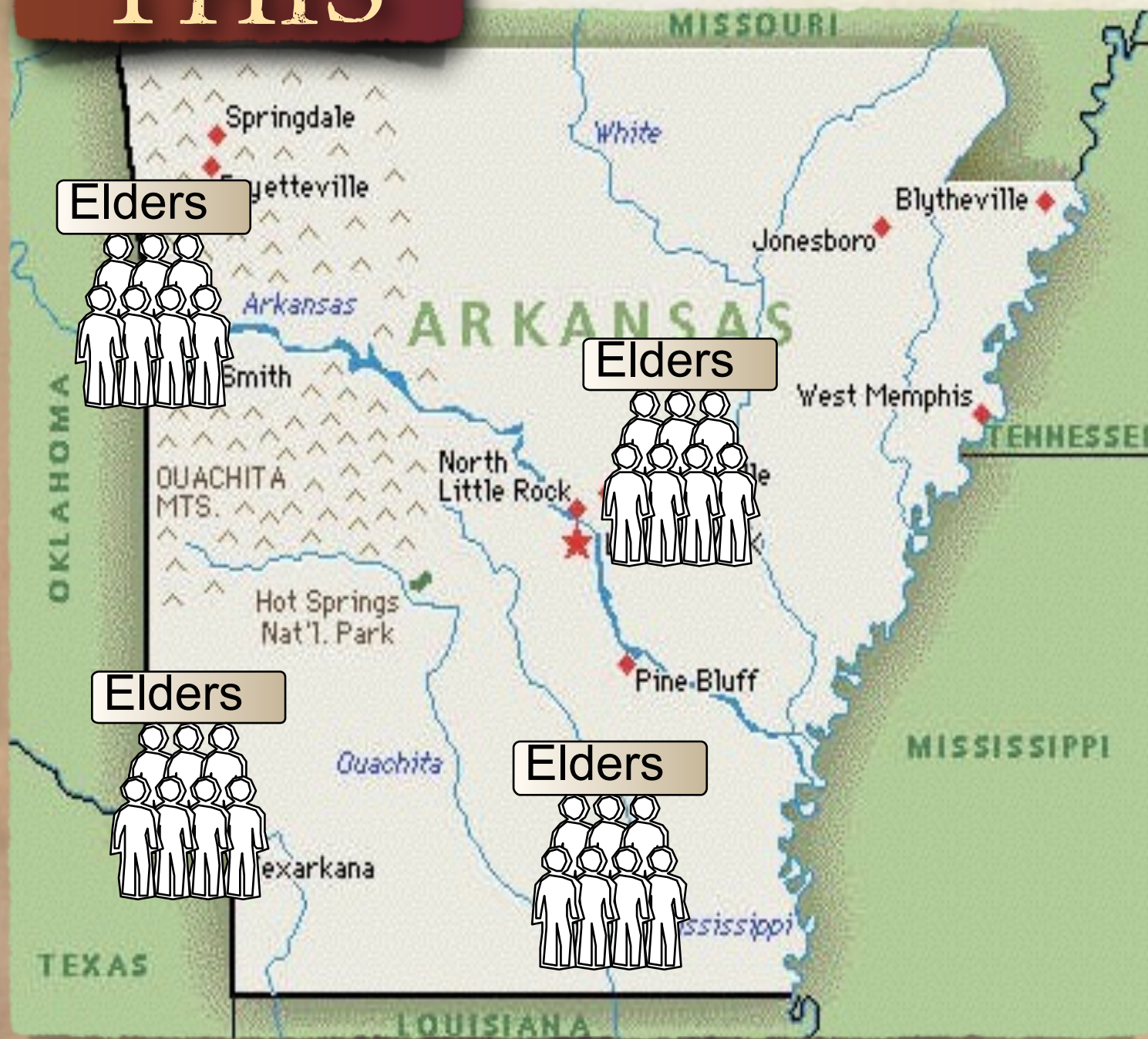


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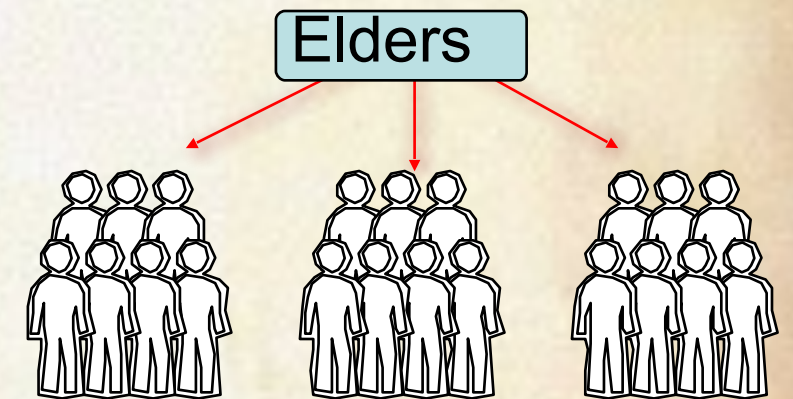
*'Unscriptural' forms of organization ...*

**THIS**

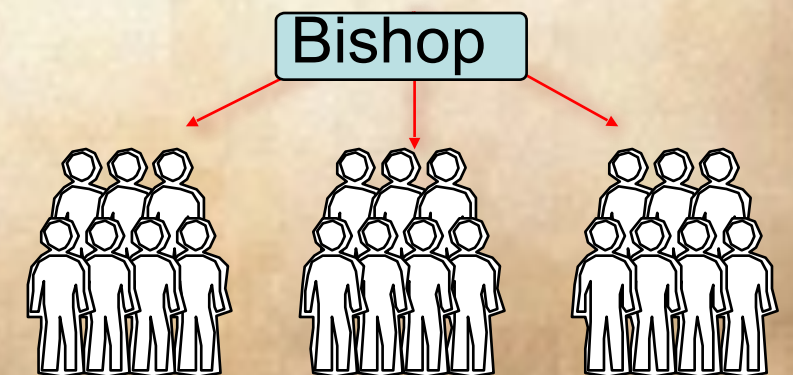


**NOT THIS**

Bishops over a plurality of congregation's



A Bishop over a plurality of congregation's



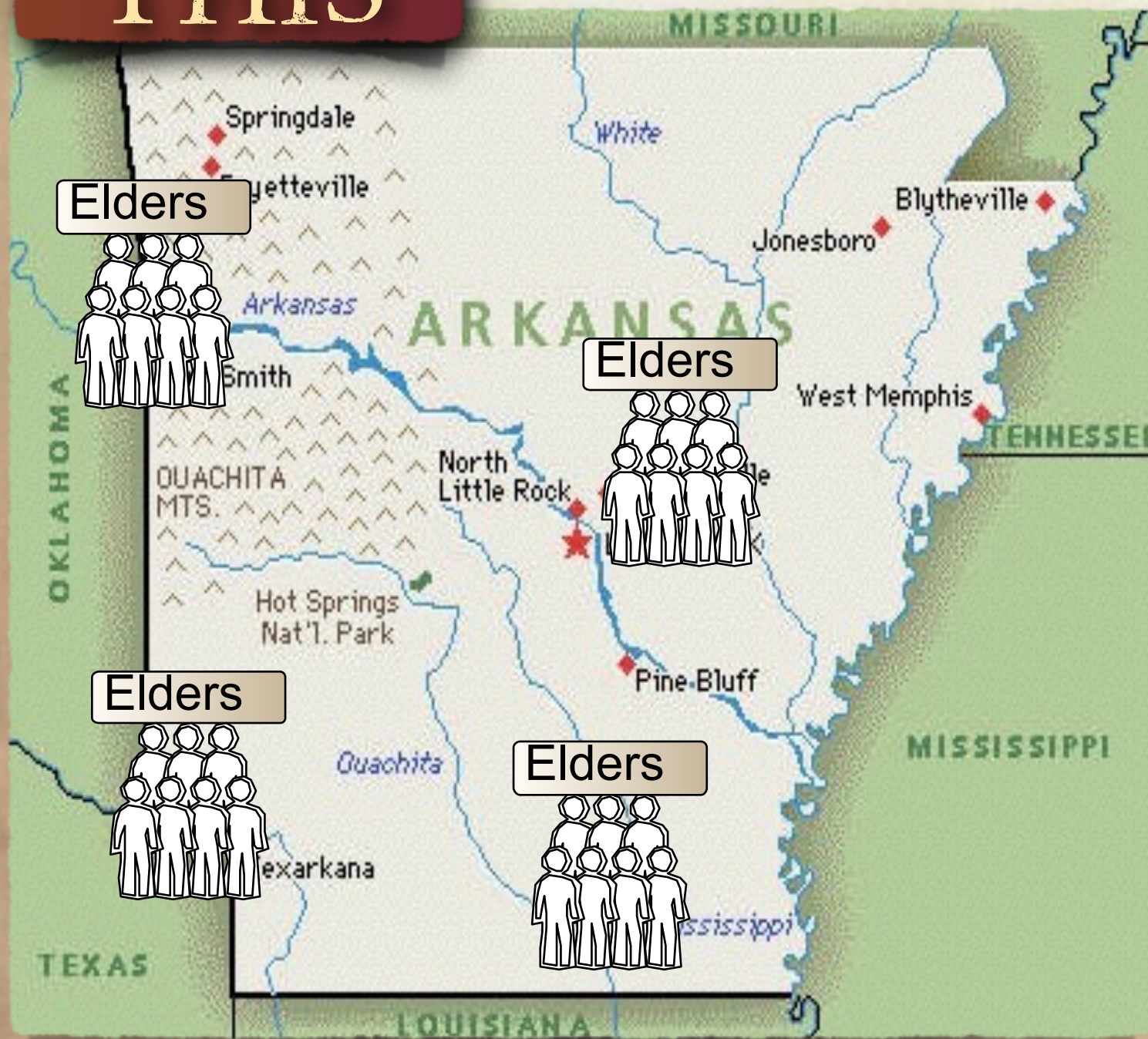


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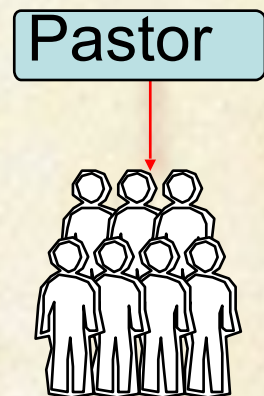
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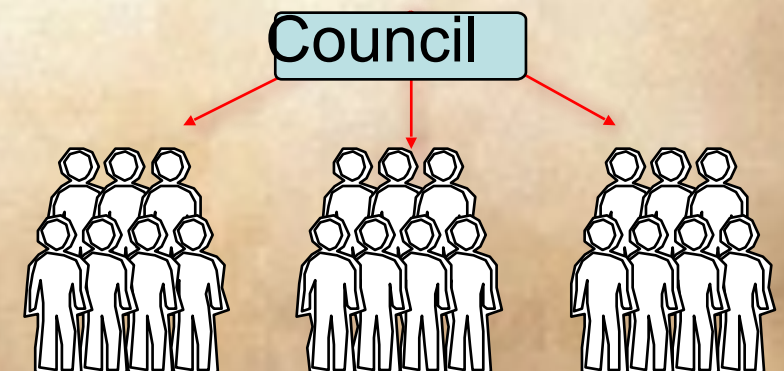


**NOT THIS**

A single man over a single congregation



A group over a plurality of congregation's





# THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

A failure to respect the divine  
pattern of church organization:

- ✦ Reflects our attitude toward the Lord & His pattern.
- ✦ Fails to respect its divine purpose
- ✦ Opens the door for widespread apostasy.







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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE

# Organization of A Local Church

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