



Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

**The
Principle of
Submission**

*“Serving God By Faith”
The NT Pattern
For Evangelism*

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

WALKING BY FAITH

- ◆ Only Two Possible Sources For All We Believe, Teach & Practice - Heaven? or Men? - Mat 21:25-26
- ◆ God's SILENCE MUST Be Respected - (Faith comes by what God says, not by what He hasn't said) - Rom 10:17
- ◆ Walking by faith means walking by what God has said - 2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9



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WALKING BY FAITH

ATTITUDES
REGARDING
THE NEED
FOR
SCRIPTURAL
AUTHORITY

- ◆ “We do many things for which we have no authority.” – Col 3:17; 2 John 9
- ◆ “Details do not matter.” – Heb 8:5; Lev 10:1,2; Num. 20:11;
- ◆ “We have to change with the times.” – Jude 3,4; Gal 1:6-9
- ◆ “If it is not directly forbidden then it must be o.k.” – Lev. 10:1,2; Num. 20:11; Prov 30:6; Rev 22:18,19
- ◆ We Must Have A “Thus saith the Lord?” – Jer 6:16; Col 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Cor 5:7

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WALKING BY FAITH

THE COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF THE NT SCRIPTURES

- ◆ Understandable – Eph 3:3-5
- ◆ Sufficiently Instructs –
2 Tim 3:16,17
- ◆ Cannot Be Transgressed –
2 Jn 9
- ◆ The totality of information revealed regarding any act of righteousness forms the pattern for that act – 2 Tim 1:13; 3:16,17; 2 Pet 1:3;



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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

♦ WORSHIP OF A LOCAL CHURCH

- * The Lord's Supper
- * Giving To The Lord's Work
- * Teaching the scriptures
- * Praying together
- * Music



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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**



- ◆ We ARE NOT free to involve the church in whatever work we deem suitable!
- ◆ There is a distinction to be made between the church "universal" and the church "local."
- ◆ The work of the local church can be gleaned in some respects from what is revealed about it's organization and worship.

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**



- ♦ **Self-Edification**, i.e. to build up and strengthen itself (Acts 20:28, 32; Col 2:6, 7).
- ♦ **Evangelism** - Preach the gospel to the lost (Mat 28:18-20).
- ♦ **Benevolence** – Providing the needs of destitute Christians (Acts 6:1-4)

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- ◆ The Lord equipped local churches to do the work that He has given them - Eph 4:11-16
- ◆ If more organization is needed to carry out a work than is found in the NT – then it should be obvious that such a work is NOT a work of the church – (*whether establishing other institutions or reorganizing the local church*)

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

EVANGELISM – AN URGENT NEED



- ♦ **The universal need** – Rom 3:9,10,23; Ep 2:1-3,12
- ♦ **The ONLY hope for a lost world is the gospel** – Rom 1:16,17; Acts 10:6,22,32; 11:14; Rom 10:14-17
- ♦ **Thus the great commission** – Mat 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

EVANGELISM – AN URGENT NEED

Mat 28:18-20

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)
¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Mark 16:15,16

Mark 16:15–16 (NKJV)
¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Luke 24:47

Luke 24:47 (NKJV)
⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)
⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

EVANGELISM – AN URGENT NEED

- ♦ **The church at Jerusalem** – (Sent Barnabas out as far as Antioch) - Acts 11:19-23
- ♦ **The church at Antioch** – (Sent Barnabas & Saul) - Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-27
- ♦ **The churches of Macedonia** – (Helped supply Paul's necessities) - 2 Cor. 11:8,9
- ♦ **The church at Philippi** – (At one time was alone in helping Paul – sent aide to him “time & again”) - Phil 1:3-5; 4:14-18
- ♦ **The church at Thessalonica** - (Went everywhere preaching the word of the Lord)– 1 Thes 1:8

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

CHURCH IS SUFFICIENT — 1 TIM. 3:15

The Local Church Direct Support of Evangelist

1 Cor. 9:14; 2 Cor. 11:8; 12:13

- ✦ **Support a gospel preacher locally** - 1 Cor. 9:14; 2 Cor. 11:8; 12:13
- ✦ **Support a gospel preacher in another area** - Phil. 1:3-5; 4:15
- ✦ **Support a gospel preacher with other churches** - 2 Cor. 11:8,9



No other
institution
No violation of
LC autonomy

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

CHURCH IS SUFFICIENT — 1 TIM. 3:15

**The Local Church Supporting
A Missionary Society?**

No Scripture!!!!!!

No Divine authority
for supporting gospel
preachers through
another organization!

Local
church

M.S.

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\$

An Unauthorized
institution decides
WHO, WHAT,
WHERE & AMOUNT



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What Is “World Bible School?” [WBS]

an organization that employs methods, hires personnel and solicits contributions from churches for doing its work. It is not a local church, the Lord's organization, but an organization formed by a man (Jimmie Lovell) for doing what local churches are to do.

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

“SPONSORING CHURCH” ARRANGEMENT?

1. A church sponsors a foreign work, with its elders overseeing the evangelist(s) and the congregation(s) in a particular area
2. A church sponsors a work beyond its own ability to finance (e.g., TV, radio), and asks other churches to financially support its efforts
3. A church sponsors an evangelist, with other churches channeling their support of said evangelist through the auspices and control of the sponsoring church

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

“SPONSORING CHURCH” ARRANGEMENT?

Examples –

1. The Highland church in Abilene, Texas, sponsoring church for the Herald of Truth radio & TV program
2. The "One Nation Under God" sponsored by Sycamore church in Cookeville, TN,
3. The Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN), sponsored by a church in Southaven, MS,

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THE N.T. PATTERN FOR THE **Work of A Local Church**

“SPONSORING CHURCH” ARRANGEMENT?

- ◆ No Divine Authority!
- ◆ Violation of local church autonomy!
 - 1 Pet 5:2; Acts 20:28; He 13:7,17
- ◆ Too much authority given to elders -
1 Pet 5:2; Acts 20:28
- ◆ Not concurrent cooperation but
collective cooperation - cf. 2Co
8:13-14
- ◆ Seeks to activate the universal church
- ◆ Leads to denominationalism



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ACTS 12:25-13:5 (NKJV)

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark. ¹ Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.



ACTS 12:25-13:5 (NKJV)

² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit,



ACTS 12:25-13:5 (NKJV)

they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant.

