

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Part 2

I. IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CHURCH

- A. Deemphasis in charismatic renewal (proper structure and leadership)
- B. Rebellion against "leadership of man"
- C. Churches are God's permanent order for this age
- D. Local church becoming emphasis of the Spirit
- E. 1980s time of church growth
- F. Must be ready to serve the people

II. WHAT IS AUTONOMOUS LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. Self-governing
- B. Self-supporting
- C. Self-propagating

III. PURPOSES OF LOCAL CHURCH

- A. Organization
- B. Establish order

IV. DIVINE GOVERNMENT

- A. Is. 9:6-7 - "The government shall be upon his shoulder...of the increase of his government and peace thee shall be no end."
- B. I Cor. 12:28 - ...helps, governments, etc
- C. II Pe. 2:10 - ...despise governments, presumptuous are they...

V. GOD'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH KINGDOM IN EARTH

- A. Extend his rule in the earth
- B. To serve as priests and kings
- C. To judge the world

VI. GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS THEOCRACY

- A. Rule of God
- B. "We want a king"

VII. OTHER FORMS OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

- A. Papal (Episcopal) - authority invested in the church heads
- B. Presbyterian - authority resides on local level in elders who rule as representatives of the people--have district, state, and national ruling bodies
- C. Congregational - democratic system. Ruled by people, popular vote

VIII. WHAT IS THEOCRACY? HOW DOES IT WORK?

- A. Through delegated authority
- B. Christ is head of family, but father is delegated authority
- C. Christ is head of church, but father ministry is delegated authority

D. I Cor. 4:15 - "...for though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."

E. Children do not make decisions in the home

F. Immature saints do not make decisions in work of God

IX. NEED FOR OVERSIGHT MINISTRY

A. Heb. 13:17 - "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.*"

B. Elders

1. Acts 20:28-29

2. I Tim. 5:17 - elders that rule

C. Old Testament

1. Tabernacle

2. Watchmen

a. Is. 62:6-7

b. Ez. 3:16-19

c. Ez. 33:1-6

3. Shepherds

a. Jer. 23:3-4

b. Jer. 12:10

4. Prophets

D. New Testament

1. Five-fold ministry - Eph. 4:8-11

2. Elders

a. Acts 14:23 - Paul ordains elders in every church

b. Acts 20:11, 28-29 - calls for elders of the church

3. Plural oversight

a. Acts 1:14 - Peter standing up with the eleven

b. Acts 2:42 - Continued steadfastly in apostles doctrine

c. Acts 4:35 - Laid them at apostles feet

d. Acts 15:2 - The apostles and elders

e. Acts 15:4 - The apostles and elders

f. Acts 15:22 - The apostles and elders

g. Acts 15:23 - Apostles, elders, and brethren

h. Acts 16:4 - Apostles and elders at Jerusalem

X. FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENT

A. Must be qualified elders

B. Leadership sets house in order and establishes its direction

C. Must be unity and fellowship

D. Must be strong corporate prayer and worship

E. Must be active gifts and ministries among the people