

THE CHURCH: ORGANIZATION AND WORSHIP

Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. After identifying the church in the New Testament in its universal and local sense, we want to establish in what sense is the church organized: in its universal sense? and in its local sense?
2. “How is the church organized?” is another question to pursue.
3. In this lesson we also want to examine how the church engages in worship to please God.

I. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

A. “Organization” defined- *Webster’s Dictionary*:

1. “An organizing or being organized.”
2. “Organic structure; manner of being organized.”
3. “An organism” – “or anything resembling a living thing”
4. “Any unified or consolidated group of elements; systematized whole; especially a body of persons organized for some specific purpose as a club, union or society (partnership).”
5. “All the functionaries, committees, etc. of a political party.

B. The “MISSION” of the church: *salvation of souls*

1. What God desires (I Tim. 2:1-7).
2. Why Jesus came to earth (Luke 19:10).
3. Individual members engaged (I Tim. 4:16, 2 Tim. 2:2, Acts 8:4, Acts

11:19-21, 24)

C. The church in its universal sense resembles a living thing.

1. Its organization resembles a body – one body (Eph. 4:4)
 - a. it has one head: Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)
 - b. it has many members: individuals saved in Christ (I Cor. 12:13-14, Eph. 5:23)
2. Its organization is manifesting “relationship.”
 - a. Headship-authority (Col. 1:18)
 - b. submission (Eph. 5:24)

D. The church is organized to “function” on the local level

1. Appointed Shepherds: Elders (I Pet 5:1-4)
 - a. Selected spiritual overseers according to a Divine standard (I Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Acts 20:17, 28)
2. Appointed ministering servants: Deacons (Phil. 1:1)
 - a. Selected according to a Divine standard (I Tim. 3:8-13).
3. Apostles functioning with appointed ministering servants in the local church in Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7).

THE CHURCH: ORGANIZATION AND WORSHIP
PAGE 2

- E. The local church functions “collectively” in four areas:
1. Evangelism (sending, supporting evangelists) (Phil. 1:5, 4:15-16, 2 Cor. 11:7-8)
 2. Edification – building up one another in the faith (Eph. 4:15-16, Heb. 10:24-25)
 3. Limited benevolence (autonomous oversight in providing the funds, and the messengers sent with the funds).
 - a. the church helps in time of the current need of fellow Christians – the saints (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35, I Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:13-14)
 - b. the church appoints the ones to accompany the funds to their destination (I Cor. 16:3-4, Rom. 16:25-26).
 - c. An individual in the church has a responsibility in benevolence that the church does not have (I Tim. 5:16).
 4. Disciplining of sinning members who have broken fellowship with God – functioning in love for the salvation of souls (Matt. 18: 15-20, I Cor. 5:1-5, 2 Thess. 3:6, 14, 2 Cor. 2:6-8)

II. WHAT IS NOT THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

- A. Not a country club
- B. Not a social organization
- C. Not a bank
- D. Not a day care center
- E. Not a political action group
- F. Not a recreational facility

III. THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH IN ITS LOCAL SENSE

- A. Singing (Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19, I Cor. 14:15, Heb. 2:12)
 1. vocal music authorized
 2. many kinds of music: organ, piano, guitar, flute, etc. – Singing is the kind of music specified
 3. God does not give a general command: “Make Music to honor Me.” Just like He did not command Moses, “Build an ark of wood.” He specified “gopherwood” (Gen 6:14).
- B. Praying (Acts 12:5,12)
- C. Partaking of the Lord’s supper – “ proclaim the Lord’s death till He come” (I Cor. 11:18, 20, 26).
- D. Preaching (Acts 20:7)
- E. Giving as prospered (I Cor. 16:2, 2 Cor. 8:1)

DISCUSSION:

1. The church is organized in the local sense, not in the universal sense. (True) (False)

THE CHURCH: ORGANIZATION AND WORSHIP

PAGE 3

2. The mission of the church is to do what Jesus did while He was on earth. (True) (False)

3. The Bishops of the church function:
 - a. in the local church.
 - b. in the universal church.
 - c. In both the local and universal church.

4. What is the difference between the function of “elders” and “deacons”?

5. How does the organization in the local church function effectively while honoring
 - a. Christ’s headship:

 - b. Christ’s mission:

6. In what areas of work does the local church function?

7. Is there a distinction between the responsibility of the individual and the church?

8. Since God does not specifically condemn mechanical instruments of music, the church can worship God with instrumental music. (True) (False)

9. Since singing and praying can be done individually, we can partake of the Lord’s supper individually at home. (True) (False)

10. How has the New Testament changed “giving” from “giving” in the Old Testament?