

JULY 11, 2021

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....7 p.m.

Minister, John Keith
(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We of the Cambridge church of Christ
invite you to all our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

Eph. 1:22-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Some frequently asked questions:
 - A. What is the organizational structure of the church of Christ?
 - B. Who make the rules for the church? For the congregation?
 - C. Denominations seem to do things differently than us; why is that so?
2. These answers may help you.

I. ECCLESIASTICISM

- A. Defined: “excessive dedication to external details of church administration and practice” (Nelson’s Christian Dictionary, 259).
- B. Denominations are ruled by their ecclesiastical forms of government.
 1. They claim Christ has all authority but practice a democratic form of government.
 2. This is evidenced by the various synods, presbyteries, councils, general assemblies, and conferences.
- C. Such power to legislate was never given to uninspired man;
 1. no man has authority to
 - a. Change worship
 - b. Baptism
 - c. Plan of salvation
 2. To do this assumes authority which is rightfully Christ’s is treason—Christ’s will is law!
- D. Rejection of the supreme authority of Christ is the outgrowth of modifications to scriptural church organization.
 1. One alteration/modification leads to others until human heads are recognized and man-made groups evolve.
 2. Christ is king and for man to assume such authority dethrones the King of kings and inaugurates human authority.

II. A MONARCHY!

- A. Christ’s Church is a Monarchy—He is the Supreme Head
 1. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; Mt. 17:5).
 2. Mt 28:18—Christ has all authority; therefore, man has none.
- B. Jesus Promised to Send the Apostles the Holy Spirit
 1. Jn. 14:26; Jn. 15:26-27; Mt. 16:19).
 2. For men today, individual or in some conference, to assume the authority of an apostle makes him an imposter.

III. AUTONOMY OF THE CHURCH

- A. The right of each congregation to self-governance; an independent body from other congregations of the church of Christ.
 1. The church at Rome did not rule over church at Jerusalem.
 2. Elders of one congregation had no authority over another congregation.
 3. Each church was independent under the rule of Christ.
 4. No system of church government larger or smaller than the local congregation.

5. All congregations had the same Head, doctrine, but were independent to direct its own work.
- B. The wisdom of God seen in such an arrangement for His churches.
1. If one corrupted, then other churches would be corrupted as well.
 2. If dissension arose in one...
 3. If false teaching entered one ...
 4. The independence of local churches is a protection for each one.
- C. This simple organization failed to satisfy many.
1. Changes were made from God's law to personal preference.
 2. Ecclesiastical lordships and organizations formed a grew and nobody checked the Bible to see if they were following God's plan for the organization of His church.

IV. ELDERS

- A. Authorized and Commanded—Elders, bishops, overseers, pastors in every church
1. Names
 - a. Elders [*presbuteros*] (Acts 20:17)
 - b. Overseers [*episkopos*] (Acts 20:28). (Bishop)
 - c. Shepherds [*poimen*] (Eph. 4:11) (Pastors)
 2. Each congregation to have a plurality of elders—men have reversed this.
- B. Duties of elders imposed by the Lord
1. Take heed to the flock (Acts 20:28).
 2. Support the weak (Acts 20:35).
 3. Holdfast the faithful word ; exhort and to convince the gainsayers (Titus 1:9).
 4. Feed the flock . . . being ensamples to the flock (1 Pet. 5:2-3).
 5. Visit the sick (Jas. 5:14).
 6. Watch on behalf of the souls of the members (Heb. 13:17).
- C. Qualifications (1 Tim 3:2-7; Titus. 1:6-9).
- D. The Congregation's Responsibility Toward the Elders (1 Thes. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:19).

CONCLUSION:

1. Man-made ecclesiastical orders were never a part of God's plan for Christ's church.
2. Much to the dismay of many, the church of Christ is not a democracy; it is very much a monarchy under the Supreme command of the divine Godhead—we do not make the rules; they come from Heaven.
3. Each congregation of the Lord's church is independent of other congregations, but all are subject to Christ and His law acting under the oversight of scripturally qualified men.
4. Are you a member of Christ's church?

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Jerry & Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Angela Herald, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, and Rick Lambert.

SHUT-INS:
Nancy Love

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Mary Smith's grandson), **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Addy Reed, Holly Ross** (Friend of Betsy Cooke), **Mona Stoffer** (Flavil Miller's daughter), **Bob & Marge Watson**, and remember to pray for **one another**.

Welcome! To our visitors, we are thankful for your presences. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Make plans now to attend our *Summer Series* each Wednesday night in July. Our speaker this week is **Ed Melott**, minister for the Lubeck, WV. church of Christ.
- Our sympathy to **Flossie Daniels** at the passing of her niece, Jo Ann McKim this past Monday. Her services were on Friday.
- **Paul Warehime** is in *Genesis* with pneumonia.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Remember to submit any questions or topics you would like addressed from the pulpit.
- ❖ Let John know of any changes to our *Friends and Family* prayer list.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Scriptural Organization of the Church (Titus 1:4-5).

PM: Encouragement For Those Who Wait on the Lord (Isa. 40:28-31).

Bible Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wednesday	Contribution
45	62	53	33	\$2791