

How Are We Governed?

There are four types of Church Government:

- 1) Episcopal – (Greek Episcopos – bishop or overseer)

A bishop or overseer is the one in authority over a diocese or region and ultimately is the one responsible to hire the minister or pastor and any additional staff, manages budgets, etc. establishes church policy (Example – Catholic Church, Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church, Methodist Church)

- 2) Presbyterian – (Greek presbuteros – vestry or council)

Council of men and women usually numbering twelve by majority vote of the congregation establishes church policy, hires pastors, staff, etc. (Presbyterian Churches, some independent churches)

- 3) Congregational

The congregation directly determines church policy, hires the pastor, etc. showed up about the time that American was born probably out of a desire to have a democratic form of Church government. Democracy is not what makes Christianity work, it's Christianity that makes democracy work. Periodically vote on the pastor's contract, etc. (Baptist, AOG, etc.)

- 4) Independent

The pastor or senior pastor is the final authority in the local church

The Bible clearly gives us the model of Church leadership:

- 1) Abram and his group that sojourned looking for the promised land, the Lord led primarily through Abram

- 2) Moses and Children of Israel – God spoke to Moses and gave direction and then it was disseminated among the ranks. Later he set up the organizational pyramid so that communication and delegated authority could be passed through the ranks.

- 3) God always deals with one head. Authority is always invested in one single individual.

- 4) In Jesus ministry, there was only one head that received direction. There was never a committee selected in order to determine direction from the Lord.

- 5) The model for the local church being the Body of Christ still only has one head.

- a) Yes, there have been individuals that have abused this authority but you don't change the form of government because of this.

- b) If you get a bad haircut, you don't quit getting haircuts, you just go to another barber.

A man answers to the one who calls him.

Galatians 1:1 KJV

(1) Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Galatians 1:1 AMP

(1) PAUL, AN apostle--[special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead--

Galatians 1:1 NLT

(1) This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ Himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

(Example of a pastor that gets turned on to the Word of God but the pastoral search committee that hired him governs what he can teach and preach.)

The pastor has the right to exercise authority in corporate matters only NEVER into the personal lives of those in the local church.

How do you know if a man is called?

- 1) You will be able to distinguish the anointing and by the Holy Ghost within you.
- 2) Take a look at the fruit of the ministry – are people getting Born Again, lives changed, etc.
- 3) Jesus did not give us permission to judge the hearts of men but He did give us the right to judge the fruit of a man's efforts, or fruits of the ministry.

Who am I and the Church accountable to?

- 1) You must be under authority in order to have authority according to the Gospels.
- 2) As a local church, we have a responsibility to locate where we fit in the larger Body of Christ just like we do as individuals.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 KJV

(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.

(16) Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

New Members Class #3

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- a) The flavor of our ministry is produced by those that have fathered us in the faith and this determines the company that we are to be a part of in the larger Body of Christ.
- b) Submission to a higher authority must always be voluntary. If it is forced, it will always produce either bondage and servitude or rebellion.
- c) I am accountable to the congregation to walk in the light that I preach and in the management decisions that I make for the church.
- d) This does not mean that I am soliciting opinions but I do have a responsibility to communicate to the congregation what is happening in the church.

Explanation of monetary decision making process

- 1) We have five full-time employees (including myself) and one part-time employee.
- 2) Salaries for church employees are set by the Senior Pastor and will be based on similar responsibilities and salaries paid in the secular arena for a comparable position.
- 3) My salary as the Senior Pastor is set by a compensation committee as part of our corporate board for Faith Bible Church.
- 4) All of the decisions that are made for the Senior Pastor's compensation shall be in line with the IRS guidelines that they establish based on many factors.
 - a) The enemy is endeavoring to keep the ministers as economically challenged as he can because the principle is that the disciple will never rise above the teacher.
 - b) The church will never grow above the blessing of God that is operative on the leader of the flock.