

The Organization Of The Church

Ephesians 4:11-16

Introduction: What we are going to be studying in the next few weeks is important to all of us here at Tuckerman. One of the first things we must do is understand a few basics.

1. The Father and Jesus are on the same page.
 - a. God speaks today through His son (*Heb. 1:1-2*).
 - b. *“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (Jn. 4:34).*
 - c. *“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him” (Jn. 8:29).*
2. The apostles and New Testament authors were also on the same page.
 - a. Apostles sent forth as administrators (*Matt. 28:19-20*).
 - b. *“Commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37).*

Thus, what we find in the New Testament is the will of God delivered by Jesus and administrated by His apostles. Example is 1 Corinthians 11:23:

God → Jesus → Paul → Corinthians

So all can be on the same page.

Having this before us, we need to take a look at the divine institution known as the church. Particularly are we interested today in **The Organization Of The Church**.

I. The Head Of The Body, The Church.

- A. Christ is the head (*Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18*).
- B. Members constitute the body (*Rom. 12:4-5*).
- C. Christ, as head, bears the same relationship to the church as man’s head does to his physical body.

Christ & Church

Head

Thinks

Governs

Controls

Acts on desires

Man & Body

Head

Thinks

Governs

Controls

Acts on desires

If connection between head and body is lost, result is sickness, paralysis, or death.

II. Earthly Organization—The Local Church.

- A. Early church had elders.
 - 1. Jerusalem (*Acts 15:2-6*).
 - 2. Philippi (*Phil 1:1*).
 - 3. Thessalonica (*1 Thess. 5:12*).
 - 4. Ephesus (*Acts 20:17*).
 - 5. General (*Acts 11:30; 14:23*).
- B. Early church had deacons.
 - 1. Jerusalem (*Acts 6:1-6*).
 - 2. Philippi (*Phil. 1:1*).
- C. God's desire is for:
 - 1. Every CITY to have them (*Titus 1:5*).
 - 2. Every CHURCH to have them (*Acts 14:23*).
 - 3. Bible knows nothing of elders over more than one congregation. This is a divine limitation (*1 Peter 5:2*).
 - a. God has said nothing about any organization smaller than or larger than a local church.
 - b. Each church in the New Testament was an independent functioning unit.
 - c. There is no indication anywhere of a collection of elders gathered together from different locations operating in any capacity.