

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Intro:

Some have asked the question as to why the church of Christ does not have an earthly headquarters. Since most religious groups have some particular group of men or board of administrators that they look to for guidance and rulings on faith and practice, many think it only natural that the church of Christ would also have the same. But what is the scriptural pattern for church organization? Where does each local congregation get its authority, rule of faith, decisions on what it can and cannot do? Let us notice the biblical pattern for authority and government.

I. God the father is the supreme head.

- A. I Cor 11:3 - God is head of Christ.
- B. I Cor 15: 24-27 - In the end all will be turned back to God.
- C. Jn 17:17 - God's word is truth. Emphasis is on God.
- D. Lk 22:42 - God's will is to be done in all things.

II. Christ has been given all authority by God the father.

- A. Matt 28:18 - All authority given to Christ. (Jn 5:27)
- B. Matt 17:5 - God commanded men to hear Christ.
- C. Col 1:18 - Christ is the head of the body.
- D. Eph 1:22 - Christ is the head of the church.

Christ is the head of the church. He alone makes the rules and he alone has the authority to delegate authority to others. He is the head, king, lord, and master and is solely responsible for the church's legislative, executive, and judicial systems. The church is not a democracy. Christ alone is head! There are no councils, headquarters or earthly rulers who make rules.

III. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to bring "All Truth" to the apostles.

- A. Jn 14:26 - Holy Spirit would be sent.
- B. Jn 16:13 - Holy Spirit would be sent to guide apostles.

IV. The Apostle's writings and words were inspired by God.

- A. I Cor 14:37 - Paul was inspired.
- B. Gal 1:6-12 - Paul's words were directly from God.
- C. Eph 3:1-5 - The apostle's words and writings were inspired.
- D. II Tim 3:16-17 - All scripture comes from God.

V. The Apostle's words, the Bible, is our rule of faith and authority.

- A. II Thes 2:14-15 - Apostle's writings were to guide the church.
- B. Gal 1:6 - Apostle's writings were to be followed.

