



Dear Brother Faull,

Please advise as to the biblical perspective of women performing baptism.

ANSWER:

Though women are forbidden to teach men publicly or have authority over a man I know of no reason they cannot baptize. Women are to be soul winners and if they have taught someone the Gospel and the person is ready to submit to the Lord in Christian Baptism what possible Scripture could be abused to say that they could not baptize them?

My secretary taught a young woman one evening and baptized her while they were still at the church building. No one else was present. She baptized her the same hour of the night. She taught, she baptized the disciple and then she continued to have Bible studies with her teaching her to observe all things. She was not a teacher of man nor did she have authority over a man, and those are the only two things the Bible forbids women to do. Anything else would be opinion.

I mentioned this once in a college class and a non-instrumental student came up to me and rebuked me before all. He said there was no precedent, command, or necessarily inference of a woman baptizing a man in the Scripture. I scratched my head and said "Yes there is."

He said, "Where?"

I told him, "I do not remember exactly where it is, but it is right under the verse that shows a Gentile baptizing someone, and if he could find that, it is in the verse right underneath it." (Sometimes I get too smarty!!)

We ought to stress what God did forbid and not have women teaching and preaching to men or having authority over them, but we must not forbid what God did not forbid. I would to God that all women would share their faith with their friends and neighbors and baptize them into Christ. There may be a lot more people in Heaven if we would not limit the women except in areas where God placed the prohibition.

NO RULES, JUST RELATIONSHIP

Submitted by Jeff Faull

It does not mean we need to "compromise" truth for the sake of "agreement".

What if there was a huge nationwide controversy over traffic laws? What if some special interest groups lobbied congress to make the speed limit 100-mph? Or better yet, to get rid of all traffic rules and laws? No stop signs, no



one-way streets, no right of ways, no designated lanes, no speed limits, no merging process, no school zones, no laws against reckless driving, no parking

restrictions, no established and accepted traffic patterns and no cops...no nothing.

And let's say that this argument caused deep division among the people of the United States. "After all, we are Americans and we have a right to drive as we please. Besides its loving America that matters not all these rules of law. The important thing is that we love America. If we all just love America everything will work itself out."

Does that make sense? Would it be the right thing to do to agree to the changes so that we could all get along? Would you smile and say, "Our relationship is more important to me than some silly stop light or traffic rule?"

That's what some people do spiritually. No rules, just relationship. As long as you say you love Jesus everything's okay...other than that you can customize your own belief system and even the "Jesus thing" might be up for grabs eventually. After all we don't want to seem too narrow-minded, bigoted, sectarian, mean spirited or intolerant.

I Timothy 6:3-5, "3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but

he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."

The Holy Spirit says through Scripture that the Church is to be the pillar and support of the truth. He says we are to contend earnestly for the faith. He says we are to guard what has been entrusted to us. He says we are to watch out for false teaching. He says we are to hold fast the word of life and stand firm. He says we are to reject teaching and teachers that contradict the simple truth of the gospel. He says we are to test everything.

One of the primary purposes of the letters in the New Testament is to correct false teaching...to draw some lines...and keep us on track as Christians. Truth and doctrine matter...more than we know.

It does not mean we need to "force" everyone to "agree with us".

I once heard Don DeWelt say, "I considered writing a book entitled 'Agree with me or go to hell' and then I realized that God had already written a book by that title and He has His copyright."

Further he said, "We say we have the truth but everyone who has the 66 books of the Bible has the truth...the question is what do you do with it?"

If we try to force everyone to agree with us we are like the radical Islam extremists who are pledged to kill the infidels.

It does not mean some false form of "tolerance".

One preacher told of a guy who wanted to solicit monies from the church. He claimed to be a missionary. "What group do you belong to?" "I am a member of the invisible church universal." "Who is the preacher, where do you meet?" "We are a part of the universal priesthood of believers and we meet everywhere!" "What do you call yourself?" The so-called missionary replied; "Ours is the true church; yours is the false church."

That preacher wisely replied: "Here are some invisible donations to help support your invisible church."

Fox News had an article entitled, "Americans: My Faith Isn't the Only Way to Heaven." The opening line said, "*America remains a nation of believers, but a new survey finds most Americans don't feel their religion is the only way to eternal life — even if their faith tradition teaches otherwise.*" *70% of the 35,000 adults surveyed believed that many religions can lead to eternal life.*"

68% percent said there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their own religion. Fewer Christians still hold strongly to Jesus' claim that He is the only way to eternal life.

Many of you read the results of that massive survey on American religion that was released just this week. Listen to some of the quotes I lifted from the coverage of that survey.

"Church shoppers are not so concerned about what a particular church believes and teaches. They are more concerned about the experience they have at the church."

Michael Lindsay, a Rice University sociologist of religion observes, "Religion in America is, indeed, 3,000 miles wide and only three inches deep."

Tom Reese of Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University explains, "Some people are like butterflies that go from flower to flower, going from religion to religion — and frankly they don't get that deep into any of them."

Is this really the basis for true unity? Is there oneness when we say, "Believe whatever you want because there is no one truth for all that we can be sure of?" To the contrary, God makes it clear that there is a foundation for oneness.

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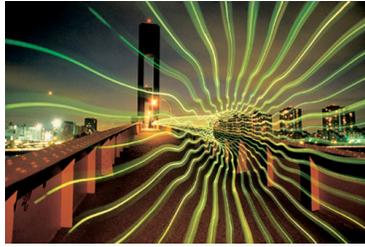
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The Modern Thinkers Creed



“Creed”

- by Steve Turner

We believe in Marx, Freud and Darwin
We believe everything is OK as long as you don't hurt anyone to the best of your definition of hurt, and to the best of your knowledge.

We believe in sex before, during, and after marriage.
We believe in the therapy of sin.
We believe that adultery is fun.
We believe that sodomy's OK.
We believe that taboos are taboo.

We believe that everything's getting better despite evidence to the contrary.
The evidence must be investigated and you can prove anything with evidence.

We believe there's something in horoscopes UFO's and bent spoons.
Jesus was a good man just like Buddha, Mohammed, and ourselves.
He was a good moral teacher though we think His good morals were bad.

We believe that all religions are basically the same-at least the ones that we read were.
They all believe in love and goodness.
They only differ on matters of creation, sin, heaven, hell, God, and salvation.

We believe that after death comes the Nothing Because when you ask the dead what happens they say nothing.
If death is not the end, if the dead have lied, then its compulsory heaven for all excepting perhaps Hitler, Stalin, and Genghis Khan

We believe in Masters and Johnson
What's selected is average.
What's average is normal.
What's normal is good.

We believe in total disarmament.
We believe there are direct links between warfare and bloodshed.
Americans should beat their guns into tractors.
And the Russians would be sure to follow.

We believe that man is essentially good.
It's only his behavior that lets him down.
This is the fault of society.
Society is the fault of conditions.

Conditions are the fault of society.
We believe that each man must find the truth that is right for him.
Reality will adapt accordingly.
The universe will readjust. History will alter.
We believe that there is no absolute truth excepting the truth that there is no absolute truth.

We believe in the rejection of creeds, And the flowering of individual thought.

If chance be the Father of all flesh, disaster is his rainbow in the sky and when you hear:
State of Emergency! Sniper Kills Ten! Troops on Rampage! Whites go Looting! Bomb Blasts School!

It is but the sound of man worshipping his maker.

John Waddey in “The Church Here And Now”

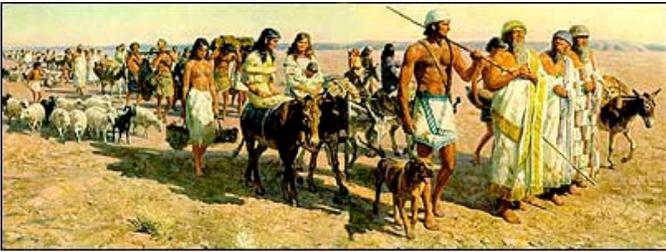
We readily concede that God's providential care is of such a nature that we cannot prove that each event is God's special working. We prove some Bible doctrines by citing book, chapter, and verse, but providential blessings are judged by human experience in the light of Scripture teaching. Yet only those whose hearts and souls are cold and bound up in the graveclothes of lifeless legalism would doubt that God still actively provides for His children. And after they have shaken their heads, doubting, after they have denied the obvious, the Scripture will still proclaim, “The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working” (**James 5:16**).

Robert Hall said, “The prayer of faith is the only power in the universe to which the great Jehovah yields.”

As you go forth serving Christ always remember these lines:

“There is an eye that never sleeps,
Beneath the shades of night.
There is an ear that never shuts,
When sink the beams of light.
There is an arm that never tires,
When human strength gives way.
There is a love that never fails,
When earthly love decays.
But there's a power which man can wield,
When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,
That list'ning ear to gain.
That power is prayer, which soars on high,
Through Jesus, to the throne,
And moves the hand which moves the world,
To bring salvation down.

--Author Unknown



Dear Brother Faull,

At the end of **Genesis 11:31**, Terah set out to go to Canaan, so he moved his family from Ur to Haran and settled there. Then in **Genesis 12**, God tells Abram to "go to the land I will show you."

We usually teach that God told Abram to leave Ur and go to Canaan, but Terah had already taken his family and set out for Canaan in **Chapter 11**.

Did Terah get the call to go to Canaan before Abram did...or was the call to Abram that's mentioned in **Chapter 12** retroactive?!!!

ANSWER:

Chapter 11 is a history of generations and tells us that Terah went with Abraham. The call was to Abraham in Ur and he took his father with him. One is a history and the other is a founding truth of the rest of the Bible.

Abraham was told to leave his father's house, and his kindred. He did not perfectly obey. He took Terah ("delay") with him and it delayed the promised. He took Lot with him and that made him fight battles later he would not have had to fight.

Incomplete obedience results in problems for us. It delays the promises of God. Because he took him it delayed the promise and not only so he dwelt in Haran ("fruitless", "barren", or "parched") for several years longer.

However, when he buried his old man he left Haran (fruitlessville) and moved on to Hebron ("fellowship") near Bethel ("House of God") near Shechem and Moreh; (place of instruction and place of strength).

All this really happened but it is a parable. When you go to Canaan (where you "bow the knee") there is "fellowship", "strength", "instruction" and the "house of God".

So God did not call Terah. He called Abram from Ur ("fire") of the Chaldees ("destruction").

We all are called from "fiery destruction" to "bow the knee" to God.

We must not "delay", but hasten on to the "house of God" for "strength" and "instruction" and "fellowship".

WOW!

MEETING PLACE

By Nathan Young
Lexington, KY



Family reunions have great memories for me as a young boy. Every time I pass a roadside park in Ohio I always say to whoever is in the car with me, "This is the place we had our family reunions when I was a young boy. It is still very dear to me."

The Lord's Supper is a meeting place, whether in the catacombs of Rome, in the concentration camps of Germany, or in the safety of our modern churches, the Lord's Supper has always been the meeting place for Christ and His followers.

In **Luke 22:15**, Christ said to His Apostles, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Christ said this just hours before He went to the cross. I can only imagine the compassion that He had for them at that time, and He is just as eagerly desiring to break the Bread and share the Cup of the New Covenant with us today!

The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not "church ordinances", they are ordinances of Christ, given to the Church by the Lord! The faith-only believers tell us you are saved without baptism, that it is just a choice. In **Matthew 21:25** Jesus asked the question about the baptism practiced by John the Baptist, (that was the forerunner of the Christian Baptism we practice today), "Was it from Heaven or from man?"

The growth experts tell us there is too much dead time in Communion, someone may lose interest and so we stopped giving instructions. To save time, we move the emblems to the lobby and serve from the back and it becomes a formality. Some have moved it to a side room and made it just a choice. It is a short distance from a formality to just a choice. It is not the church's table it is the Lord's Table.

I think William Barclay is right when he wrote, "**Without instructions to precede it, the Lord's Supper degenerates into either formalism or superstition.**"

We need to ask the same thing about the Lord's Supper that Christ asked about baptism. "Is it from Heaven or from man?" When Christ was on the cross and said to His Father in Heaven, "It is finished", He was telling Him the mission He sent Him was done, and He had already instituted the Lord's Supper. I think that tells us it is from Heaven.

I think as long as we understand that it is the Lord's Table and it is from Heaven and not from man and that Christ still has the same desire and passion to meet His Church around His Table now, as He did then, that it will not become just a formality, and we will say, "This is where we have our family reunions with Christ and His Church."



SOME QUOTES I'VE BEEN READING....

Aristotle wrote:

"Anybody can become angry, that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way, that is not within everybody's power; that is not easy."...

Will Rogers:

"A fool and his money is soon elected."

Ben Franklin:

"Here comes the orator - with his flood of words and his drop of reason"

G. Campbell Morgan:

"The reason why men do not look to the Church today is that She has destroyed Her own influence by compromise."

Thomas Jefferson said (1820), *"Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so – they have with others – the same poison for party, for power, and the privileges of their corps....and the more power the more dangerous as they are in office for life and not responsible – as the other functionaries are to the elective central."*

Moses L. Lard (1818 – 1880)

"He is a poor observer of man and things who does not see slowly growing up among us a class of men who can no longer be satisfied with the ancient gospel and the ancient order of things. These men must have changes; and silently they are preparing the mind of the brotherhood to receive changes. Be not deceived, brethren, the Devil is not sleeping. If you refuse to see the danger till ruin is upon you, then it will be too late."

A.W. Tozer, GEMS FROM TOZER, pgs. 47-48

"A new Decalogue has been adopted by the neo-Christians of our day, the first word for which reads, 'Thou shalt not disagree;' and a new set of Beatitudes too, which begins, 'Blessed are they that tolerate everything, for they shall not be made accountable for anything.' It is now the accepted thing to talk over religious differences in public with the understanding that no one will try to convert another or point out errors in his belief"

"Imagine Moses agreeing to take part in a panel discussion with Israel over the golden calf; or Elijah engaging in a gentlemanly dialogue with the prophets of Baal. Or try to picture our Lord, Jesus Christ seeking a meeting of the minds with the Pharisees to iron out differences. The blessings of God are promised to the peacemaker, but the religious negotiator had better watch

his step. Darkness and light can never be brought together by talk. Some things are not negotiable."

Booker T. Washington, a black man, wrote a century ago (1911):

"There is [a] class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs – partly because they want sympathy, and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs..."

There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don't want the patient to get well, because as long as the disease holds out they have not only an easy means of making a living, but also an easy medium through which to make themselves prominent before the public."

Does this make you think of a few so-called reverends?

Duncan Heaster, THE DEATH OF CHRIST, Carelinks Ministries:

"Nicodemus bought 300 pounds of spices, far greater than the amount used at the most lavish royal burials of the time. The cost of this would have been colossal; equivalent to tens of thousands of dollars. And he did this on the spur of the moment; he bought it in the three hours between the Lord's death (3 p.m.) and sunset (6 p.m.). He didn't count the cost, thinking that OK, he'd given up his place in the society and economy, and would now have to live frugally on what he had for the rest of his days. No. Like the widow, he gave what he had, his capital, which many would have more 'prudently' kept for the rainy days ahead."

*The Roman "litra" or pound was about 12 ounces, so 100 pounds (**John 19:39**) would have been about 75 imperial pounds. Such a weight would fill a considerable space in the tomb, forming a mound, which would smother the corpse. Such was their love. It was common for kings to have such large amounts of spices (e.g. **Jeremiah 34:5**).*

Those men were showing their belief that Jesus truly was Lord and King for them. To believe Jesus is Lord and King is not something which we can painlessly or cheaply believe. It demands our all. And there is no reason to think that Joseph 'got away with it'. The Acts of Pilate 12 reports that the Jews became so hostile when they heard that Joseph had asked for Jesus' body that they imprisoned him. It should be noted that Joseph didn't do what he did for hope of a future reward.

*The cross itself was enough to motivate him to give all purely for love of the Lord Jesus; not for any future hope. It could be that the reference to how he "waited for the Kingdom of God" when he begged for the body (**Mark 15:43**) suggests that he had lost hope for the future Kingdom at that time, he had earlier waited for it, but now*

he simply lived life for love of Jesus. And this should be our attitude if we are for some reason denied the Kingdom ahead; that, simply, we love Jesus, and would give our lives for Him all the same, Kingdom or no Kingdom.

There is significant extra-Biblical information about Nicodemus. Josephus mentions him as a distinguished man in Wars of the Jews II, 20 and IV, 3,9. He is mentioned in the Talmud [Gittin 56a] as Nakdimon ben Gurion, one of the three richest nobles in Jerusalem. The Talmud also mentions a story about his daughter [Ketuboth 66a]. It relates that one day when Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai was riding out of Jerusalem, he spoke to a poor young beggar woman, and discovered that she was Nicodemus' daughter. He recalled that her father had lost his fortune, and had not practiced deeds of charity.

This rather confirms our picture of Nicodemus. He did indeed lose his fortune, and his previous mean spiritedness was radically transformed by his experience of the outgiven life and love of Jesus. In the light of that, he gave away all. And the powerful impact of the cross of Christ can likewise banish all carefully calculated meanness from our hearts too, and concretely result in real generosity."

Thomas Edison:

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

CHRISTIAN NEWS:

Husband/Wife Father/Mother on the Ropes:

"The legalization of homosexuality is already beginning to destroy the biblical concept of father and mother, husband and wife. The new marriage licenses in California replace "husband and wife" with 'Party A and Party B'.

In Scotland, teachers in some major cities have banned Father's Day cards this year so as not to offend students who live with single mothers and lesbians.

The London Telegraph reports, 'The politically correct policy was quietly adopted at schools 'in the interests of sensitivity' over the growing number of lone-parent and same-sex households' (Father's Day Cards Banned,' June 20, 2008).

Last year Scotland's National Health Service approved a policy for hospital workers mis-titled, 'Fair For All'.

In fact, the policy is 'fair' for no one, because it destroys the right of free speech and forbids the use of historical and biblical terms such as 'mother' and 'father' (some patients might have two mothers or two fathers) and 'husband' and 'wife', labeling this 'homophobic language'. Such terms must be replaced with 'partner' or 'they/them'

(*There is only one acceptable way to talk about homosexuality – SILENCE!*)"

Charles Spurgeon stated:

"A magazine which is not outspoken and is destitute of principle is a literary nuisance."

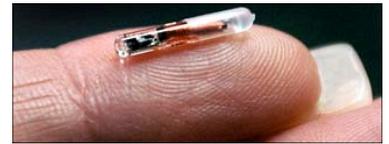
"Shadows are proof that there is light."

Jesus said, "Judge not that ye be not judged..."

"House speaker Nancy Pelosi called President Bush a "total failure." Her colleague in the Senate, Harry Reid, echoed her statement with his, 'Who would be afraid of [President Bush]? He's got a 29% approval rating.' Most Americans agree and his approval rating has been below 30% quite regularly. However, Pelosi, Reid and friends in Democratic-controlled Congress went recently to an approval rating of 9%; the first time in recorded history Congress has gotten down to single digits."

The rest of the verse says, "...with what judgement ye judge you will be judged."

DEAR BROTHER FAULL,



"Apocalypse Soon – Hi Tech"

The following website shows many ways to track us; our purchases, actions and shows these as fulfillment of certain passages in Revelation about not being able to buy or sell without marks on our hands or foreheads to purchase and sell.

<http://www.apocalypsesoon.org/hitech.html>

(Scroll to the bottom of that page and click on High Tech Developments)

Here is my answer to my good friend. Maybe it will help you, too:

Thanks for the information. Of course, we have all known that all this technology was coming and it will get worse yet by new inventions.

Many of these things have been around for a long time. They even have electronic scanning for cats and dogs now so you can find your pet.

I do not think those who have this done to their pets do it for any evil purpose.

This article assumes that these things are done for evil. That is an assumption. I could care less what the government or even corporations know about me. I am doing nothing wrong. Could it be used for evil? Of course. Could such a scenario be used by a world power? Of course. Could it be innocent? Yes, it could just simply be the technical age in which we live.

I am being funny, of course but maybe we could take some hints for future living from Osama Bin Laden (He seems to avoid hi-tech).

Seriously, though. I want you to think of this: You have this mark of the anti-Christ (there is no such thing as THE anti-Christ, for in John's day, anti-Christ was not future, but present and it was not one but it was many for he has told us, "Even **now** there are **many** anti-Christ's who have gone out into the world.") nevertheless, this site insinuates that there is ONE who is going to have all these tech advantages to control us. He thinks it is a literal mark on a literal hand or forehead.

But the Revelation is a contrast. The mark of the beast on the forehead contrasts to the seal of God on the forehead.

Is the one literal and the other spiritual? If not, where can I get the literal seal of God for my forehead? I would surely want it since they are the ones that are going to be protected.

In **Chapter 7**, God seals His servants.

In **Chapter 14**, their sealing is mentioned again.

Do I have the Holy Spirit, which is the only seal that I know of that is mentioned in Scripture?

Do I have to have both seals in order to be saved?

I believe both seals simply indicate ownership and servanthood. We either have the mind of Christ or the mind of the Dragon. We cannot serve both the Lamb and the Dragon.

This is my understanding of this figurative book. It does not mean, however, that I do not highly regard your love of God because we disagree. I highly regard our friendship.



**You Cannot
Plough a Field
by Turning it
Over in Your
Mind!**

WAS MEMBERSHIP IN A LOCAL CHURCH A PART OF NEW TESTAMENT POLITY?

By: Fred P. Miller

1. **Acts 18:26-27** is the earliest mention of letters which would accompany a person moving to another church fellowship. Speaking of Apollos:



"26 ...Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, **exhorting the disciples to receive him**: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:"

2. **II Corinthians 3:1** shows that some needed letters of commendation also showing that was a common practice as it says that they also wrote such letters as well as receiving them.

"Do we begin again to commend ourselves? **or need we, as some others**, epistles of commendation to you, or *letters* of commendation from you?"

3. **I Timothy 5:9** speaks of supporting widows. "Taken into the number" shows there had to be a reckoning of who was and was not a member "in the number."

"Let not a widow be **taken into the number** under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,"

4. The tradition of extending "the right hand of fellowship" to someone who has not been a local member but makes their own statement that they have been baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins and wish membership in a local Christian Church is based on **Galatians 2:9**. Our tradition is to accept a statement in lieu of a letter. No letter seems to have been given to or carried by Paul and Barnabas.

Galatians 2:9, "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas **the right hands of fellowship**; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

5. A person could be deprived of membership. He could be "disfellowshipped" by the action of the

whole congregation (not the preacher of elders). If he was removed as a member then there must have been a membership roll to which he with others belonged.

I Corinthians 5:4-7, “4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when ye are gathered together**, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 **Purge out therefore the old leaven**, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:”

6. Elders have responsibility over the “flock”. There has to be some way to know who is in the flock and who is not. How can you watch over someone if you do not know who is in the flock?

Acts 20:28, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to **all the flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath **made you overseers**, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

I Peter 5:2-3, “2 Feed the **flock of God** which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God’s* heritage, but **being ensamples to the flock**.”

7. Christians are admonished to obey the elders in their local church. How do you know which congregation’s elders are responsible for you and which ones you are to respect as your spiritual overseers if you are not a member of a local church?

Christians are to obey their elders of their local “flock”. Members at First Church do not need to seek the advice of the elders at Ben Hill Christian Church. Their elders are responsible for their flock, not ours unless someone from that congregation places their “membership” here.

Hebrews 13:7, 17, “7 Remember them which have **the rule over you**, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. 17 **Obey them that have the rule** over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

8. A Bible based church Scripturally, fully “set in order”, (see **Titus 1:5**) has elders who are the leaders assisted by deacons who SERVE the saints who make up the congregation. Paul and

Timothy wrote to them. Notice that they did not write to “The saints or those saved Christians who would be in the “number”.

Philippians 1:1, “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, **with the bishops and deacons**.”

9. A sinning member who had been expelled from the local church could be restored to membership. That is: he could be restored to the fellowship of that local church upon his repentance. There seems to have been a formal acceptance offered that was yet to be offered in Corinth to the repentant sinner who was expelled after the action in **I Corinthians 5**.

The following Scripture shows that the disfellowship action was carried out by the congregation i.e. was inflicted of many, not by officers or one man. The repentant brother was restored to membership. **II Corinthians 2:6-10**, “6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, **which was inflicted of many**. 7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. 10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your *sakes* forgave *it* in the person of Christ;”

10. Some people in Bible times, as well as the present, usurp authority that does not Spiritually belong to them. (We are speaking about a New Testament church not any denomination, which does not try to follow New Testament church order as Christian Churches or Churches of Christ have aimed at doing.)

Diotrophes mentioned on **3rd John** usurped the congregation’s authority as to who could and could not be received as a member and also “cast out” members of the church. If there was no church roll as who was or was not a member, how could they be “cast out”? Diotrophes could not have acted arbitrarily at all if he did not know which member opposed him. He was a usurper of the freedom, which belonged to all. The rest of the letter shows John ignored the false usurper and visited the church anyway.

II John 1:9, “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrophes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.”

What do you think happened to Diotrophes? Did the church let him stay?