



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...”

Romans 1:16

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

- ✘ What is congregational autonomy - the direction of the execution of the will of Christ belongs completely within the local church and is not to be surrendered, partially or completely, to any outside control. Elders are to be appointed within each local church (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5). These elders - (Acts 20:17-28, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-2) have the oversight of the congregation of which they are members (I Peter 5:1-2).
- ✘ Elders rule under the authority of Christ, the Chief Shepherd (I Timothy 5:17, I Peter 5:1-4). **NO** passage of Scripture broadens their authority. The elders of the local church have **NO** right to oversee anything other than the work of the local church where they are members. There is **NO** authority for a congregation **to allow any man, group of men, or organization outside the local church to oversee all or any part of its function.**

ARTICLE

- ✘ The Christian Standard Magazine is a magazine that was first published in 1982 and is published by the Christian Standard Magazine Company.
- ✘ Purpose: To provide a platform for Christian writers to share their insights and experiences.
- ✘ To reach a wide audience of Christians.
- ✘ To connect congregations and Christian churches or Church members with Christ fellowships.
- ✘ To help Christians achieve the ideal of spiritual growth.
- ✘ To inspire, encourage, and motivate Christians to grow in their relationships with God and others.

NOT FROM GOD

ARTICLE

- ✘ Kent E. Fillinger serves as president of 3:STRANDS Consulting, Indianapolis, Indiana, and regional vice president (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan) with Christian Financial Resources.
- ✘ From 1985, attendance began to decline.
- ✘ From 2000 to 2010, membership declined by 3.73%.
- ✘ Since 2015, the Churches of Christ have lost more than 2,000 people and nine congregations per month.

WRONG!

The Churches of Christ lost members at a faster rate than other evangelical Christian denominations.

HOW CAN I HELP THE LOCAL CHURCH GROW?

- ✘ **Attend** – No congregation can grow unless its own members attend and actively participate – Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20
- ✘ **Exhort** – We must be encouraging one another to encourage self growth, which leads to other growth – Hebrews 3:13-15

HOW CAN I HELP THE LOCAL CHURCH GROW?

- ✘ **Live** – We need to live like true followers of Jesus, not the denominational standard - Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7
- ✘ **Preach** – Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20 – if indeed we are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ

HOW CAN I HELP THE LOCAL CHURCH GROW?

I, Me

Attend
Exhort
Live
Preach



What must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30

- **Believe in Jesus –**
John 8:24/3:16
- **Repent of Sins –**
Luke 13:3-5; Acts 2:38/7:30-31
- **Confess your Faith in Jesus –**
Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9
- **Baptism for the Remission Of Sins –**
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38/22:16
- **Live Faithfully for the Remainder of Life –**
Revelation 2:10; James 2:10
- **Remember Matthew 7:21-23 (not everyone, but...)**