

Church Activities

Eph. 4:11-16

Introduction:

- A. The church is a special arrangement.
 - 1. Special purchase. (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28).
 - 2. Special plan. (Eph. 3:10,11).
 - 3. Special care. (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor 12:18).
- B. The church is restricted in its activities.

Discussion:

I. The Activities Of The Church Are Restricted By Divine Authority.

- A. God requires positive authority for religious activity. (cf. Lev. 10:1; Matt. 15:9,13).
- B. All divine authority is recorded in the Scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18, 19).
- C. Divine authority (God's will) is ascertained in three ways:
 - 1. Statements or commands. (cf. Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 11:25).
 - 2. Examples. (Phil. 4:9; Acts 20:7).
 - 3. Necessary inference. (Matt. 22:31-33; "Every" First Day.)
- D. Divine authority is both inclusive and exclusive.
 - 1. Like a child told, "Go buy a dozen apples."
 - 2. Like God's command to Abraham (Gen. 22:1-3).
 - 3. "Go preach"; "Sing..."; "Baptize"; "Assembling."

II. The Activities Of The Church Are Restricted To Local Organization.

- A. Church spoken of in universal and local senses. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:1).
 - 1. Universal church never acts as a unit.
 - 2. Local church is organization - functions as unit.
- B. Local churches cooperated in N.T.
 - 1. Acted concurrently toward common work.
 - 2. Never acted jointly -- No machinery to tie them together.

III. The Activities Of The Church Are Centered Around Saints.

- A. Making Saints. (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Phil. 4:15-17).
- B. Edifying Saints. (Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 14:13-17; 14:26)
 - 1. By instruction.
 - 2. By meeting for worship.
- C. Disciplining Saints. (1 Cor. 5).
- D. Relieving Saints. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; cf. 9:13).

IV. The Activities Of The Church Are Different From Individual Activities.

- A. Individual activity and church activities are not same. (1 Tim. 5:16).
 - 1. Difference in their funds. (Acts 3:6; 4:4; 5:1ff).
 - 2. Difference in how raise revenue. (Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 16:2).
- B. Individual functions in various arrangements in the world. (cf. 1 Cor. 7:31).
 - 1. Secular institutions: Home, state, business, recreation.
 - 2. Church is spiritual institution, does operate in all realms of individual Christians.

Conclusion:

- 1. Church is special organization with special activities - Let's keep it so.
- 2. The church is not political, social nor humanitarian organization - leave for other institutions to do.