

Trinity Full Gospel Fellowship
Duncanville, TX
An Association of Independent, Spirit-filled
Churches and Ministries

Principles of the New Testament for Christian Work

I

It is accepted among us that biblical teaching concerning the character and functioning of local churches is fundamental to their spiritual well-being, as is scriptural teaching concerning the doctrines of salvation.

In matters such as the new birth, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the entire fellowship of Pentecostal/Charismatic people believe that the New Testament is our pattern. This scriptural reverence has been our stronghold as Pentecostal/Charismatic people in the storms that have swept round us. The power and authority of Pentecostal/Charismatic preaching always has been in its appeal to the Scriptures.

Because the church is God's plan for evangelizing the world, it follows that we should find a scriptural pattern for the founding and functioning of local churches. This is of prime importance in carrying out the Great Commission.

In our day it is now generally recognized that one of the weaknesses of modern missions has been its failure to follow the New Testament pattern in establishing healthy, autonomous churches. This weakness in the foreign field probably reflects a parallel condition in the homeland. The indigenous principle must be practiced here in order to establish it over there.

II

We hold that scriptural church government is essential to maintaining the strength of any revival movement. The histories of some of the largest Protestant organizations testify to this fact: That a movement of spiritual power is weakened and distorted as unscriptural church organization and government increases. What appears, at its inception, to be means to greater efficiency in God's work, eventually proves to be a deterrent to spiritual power.

A factor in the development of unscriptural church organization is the tendency to regard such matters as merely non-scriptural and a matter of expediency. This theory holds that there is no clear pattern in the Bible regarding the subject, leaving man free to choose as he deems best.

We believe that God, who has given us a divine pattern for salvation, has also left us a scriptural pattern in the work of the church with the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, with local Elders and Deacons. All such are to be recognized by the Presbytery.

Calling: A divine summons (not an invitation) which entrusts believers with the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which comes directly from the Godhead, and the Lord Jesus in particular, via the Holy Spirit.

Placement: The Lord Jesus divinely placing spiritually acclimated ministers under the *ministries (not ministers) of His ministers of reputation* for a designated length of time in preparation for the work of His Ministry.

Ordination: Man's recognition of God's calling, for life, to propagation of the Gospel.