

STRUCTURE OF CHURCH

I Cor. 12:12

I. DEFINITION OF CHURCH (CALLED OUT; ASSEMBLY)

- A. OT - calling of people together to hear voice of God
- B. NT - Acts 19:32 - assembly confused - *"Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly (church) was confused..."*

II. PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL EXPRESSION

- A. Prayer, worship, praise, counsel
- B. Fellowship and training

III. STRUCTURE OF CHURCH

- A. Organism
 - 1. Likened to human body - *I Cor. 12:12 - "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."*
 - 2. Conception
 - 3. Birth
 - 4. Nourishment
 - 5. Training
- B. Organization
 - 1. Self-governing
 - 2. Self-supporting
 - 3. Self-propagating
- C. Divine government
 - 1. Theocracy - *The rule of God through delegated authorities...*
 - 2. Plurality of leadership (elders)
 - a. Acts 20:28-29 - *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers To feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*
 - b. Heb. 13:17 - *"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."*

IV. PROMOTES ORDER AND DISCIPLINE

- A. Dispute between believers (Mat. 18:17)
- B. Questions of doctrine (Acts 15)
- C. Discipline of moral conduct (I Cor. 5:11)- *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."*