

In the New Testament, each church:

- Received instruction from the apostles
- Managed its own work
 - Edified itself
 - I Cor 12-14
 - Disciplined its own
 - I Cor 5
 - Supported preachers by sending directly to the preacher
 - Phil 4:15-16
 - Relieved its own needy saints
 - Ax 4:32-35
 - Ax 11:27-30 – sometimes received funds from other churches to relieve its own
- ...And so must we!

In the New Testament, each church:

- Practiced and maintained boundaries of fellowship
 - Made up of the saved
 - Acts 2:41-42
 - Determined incoming fellowship
 - Acts 9:26-28
 - Acts 18:24-27
 - Withdrew themselves from the impenitent:
 - 1 Cor 5:1, 2, 4, 13
 - Received back the penitent
 - 2 Cor 2:6-8
- ...And so must we!

In the New Testament, each church:

- Took its marching orders from the apostles, not another church
- Carried out its God-assigned work
 - The church's divinely-appointed organization equipped it sufficiently to carry out its work
- Maintained its own boundaries of fellowship based on the apostles' doctrine
- Was autonomous
- ...And so must we!

God's design for the local church

- Sufficient in any age and in any culture
 - 2 Pet 1:3
 - 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - Rev 22:18
 - Col 3:17

Innovations of Men Must be Rejected

- Hierarchy or structure like this:
 - Central organization directing local churches
 - Conference to which representatives are sent to vote to determine policy
 - Headquarters with presidents or board of directors to determine teaching
 - Sponsoring church
- Why reject?
 - No authority for them

These so-called “improvements” must be rejected:

- Positions or offices like these:
 - “the pastor”
 - The Executive Minister
 - Youth Minister
 - Singles Minister
 - Children’s Minister
 - Donut Ministry Leader
 - Basketball Ministry Leader
 - Youth group
 - Chairmen of the elders
 - Cardinals, archbishops, popes
 - Boards of directors
 - Governing bodies
 - Tiered systems of overseers
- Why reject?
 - No authority for them

From heaven or from men?

- Innovations and so-called “improvements”:
 - Please men
 - Are popular
 - Are considered advantageous
 - Are deemed reasonable
 - But are lawlessness
 - Mt 7:23
- Such plans:
 - Cannot glorify Christ
 - Cannot be practiced by faith

God's organization on earth of the called-out

- The local church
 - The saved in a locality
 - Following Christ the Head and the teaching of the apostles and prophets
- With a clearly defined membership
- Oversight of bishops
 - With deacons
- Teachers and Evangelists
- Doing its own work