



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

THE CHURCH: HER ORGANIZATION & ORDINANCES

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HOMEWORK: READ CHAP 40



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THE CHURCH: HER ORGANIZATION & ORDINANCES

TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS

IS THE CHURCH

- AN ORGANIZATION OR
- AN ORGANISM ?

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH ? - ARE THEY

- INFANT BAPTISM ?
- FIRST COMMUNION ?
- CONFIRMATION ?
- FOOT WASHING ?



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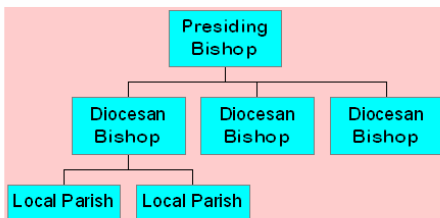
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TYPICAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

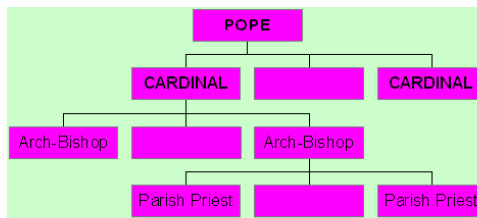
IS THE CHURCH

- AN ORGANIZATION OR
- AN ORGANISM ?

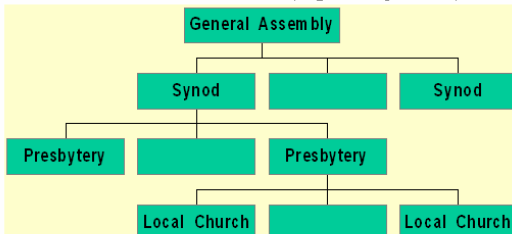
• EPISCOPALIAN



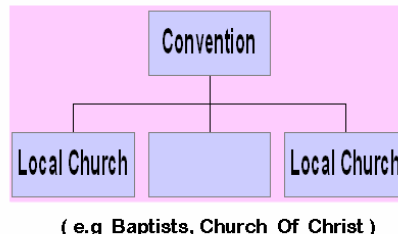
• ROMAN CATHOLIC



• REPRESENTATIVE FORM (e.g Presbyterian)



• CONGREGATIONAL FORM



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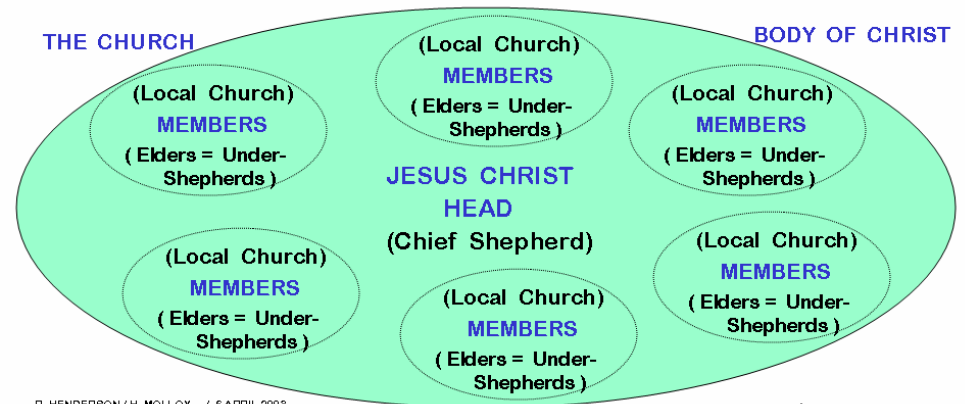
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THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANISM

IS THE CHURCH

- AN ORGANIZATION OR
- AN ORGANISM ?

- THE BIBLICAL MODEL VIEWS THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANISM
 - The church("called out ones") is the body of Christ - Rom 12:5; Eph 2:16
 - Every believer is a member of Christ's body - 1 Cor 12:27
 - Jesus Christ is the head of the body - Eph 1:22; 5:23
- Each local church is a microcosm of the body of Christ





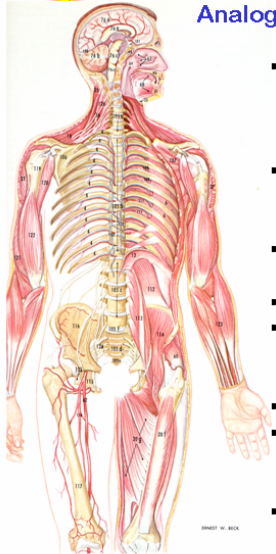
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THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANISM

IS THE CHURCH
• AN ORGANIZATION OR
• AN ORGANISM?

Analogy of Human Body & Christ's Body (The Church)



- Many members but they function as one body
 - Physically: Born with a body and its members
 - Spiritually: Born by the Holy Spirit into Christ's body as a member - 1 Cor 12:13
- Members of the body differ - 1 Cor 12:15-18; Rom 12:4-6
 - Their function & gifts are different
 - God designed it that way
- Just as each member of the human body is content with its function - so should we be - 1 Cor 12:14-24
- Total dependence between members - 1 Cor 12:21,22; Rom 12:5
- No exaltation of one member over another - 1 Cor 12:22-25
 - Because of their function or gift
 - Otherwise divisions occur
- God in His grace has gifted every member - 1 Cor 12:7; 28-30
- God's wonderful goal for the members - Eph 4:16
 - To function in the body as they are gifted
 - Results in the edification of the body in love
- The local church :
 - Needs to encourage the exercise of spiritual gifts
 - The dynamic is not the elders - but the Holy Spirit

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BIBLICAL ORDINANCES

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

- **ONLY TWO ORDINANCES ARE RECOGNIZED IN SCRIPTURE :**
 - WATER BAPTISM - ACTS 2:41; 16:30-33
 - LORD'S SUPPER - 1 COR 11:23-29
- **COMMON QUESTIONS ON ORDINANCES :**
 - DOES WATER BAPTISM OR THE LORD'S TABLE IMPART A SPIRITUAL BENEFIT ?
 - ARE THESE ORDINANCES MERELY RITUALS OR RITES ?
 - WHAT IS THE PROPER MODE OF WATER BAPTISM :
 - SPRINKLING ?
 - POURING ?
 - IMMERSION ?
 - WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED ?
 - AM I REALLY PARTAKING OF THE ACTUAL BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST IN THE LORD'S SUPPER ?

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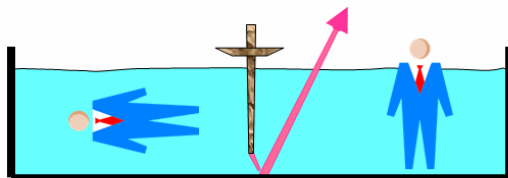
WATER BAPTISM

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

• WHAT IT IS

- ROM 6:3,4; COL 2:12

- IT IS THE OUTWARD PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD SPIRITUAL TRUTH
- THE INWARD SPIRITUAL TRUTH IS THE BELIEVER'S PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION OR IMMERSION SPIRITUALLY INTO CHRIST'S :
 - **DEATH** - (IMMERSION INTO WATER PROCLAIMS YOU DIED WITH CHRIST)
 - **BURIAL**- (HELD UNDER WATER PROCLAIMS YOU WERE BURIED WITH HIM)
 - **RESURRECTION** - (RAISED UP FROM THE WATER PROCLAIMS YOU WERE RESURRECTED WITH CHRIST)
- IT IS PERFORMED AFTER A PERSON BELIEVES IN CHRIST - ACTS 8:12,13; 36-38



YOUR IDENTITY IN ADAM TERMINATED

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST - HE'S YOUR LIFE

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THE CHURCH: HER ORGANIZATION & ORDINANCES

WATER BAPTISM

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

• WHAT IT ISN'T

- IT DOESN'T IMPART ANY SPIRITUAL BLESSING OR GRACE UPON THE RECIPIENT
- WATER BAPTISM DOES NOT REGENERATE A PERSON
- ONLY FAITH IN CHRIST REGENERATES A PERSON - 1 JN 5:1,4; 1PET 1:23
- THERE IS NO SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR INFANT BAPTISM - IT'S NOT IN SCRIPTURE
- WATER BAPTISM IS NOT A **REQUIREMENT** FOR SALVATION
- WATER BAPTISM IS A **RESULT** OF SALVATION

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

• WHAT IT IS

- 1 COR 11:23-29

- THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A "REMEMBRANCE" (LIT: "TO BE MINDFUL AGAIN")
- IT IS AN AFFECTIONATE CALLING TO MIND OF:
 - THE PERSON & WORK OF CHRIST FOR YOU PERSONALLY
 - HE DIED FOR YOUR SINS (AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE) - 1 JN 2:2
 - HE ALSO DIED UNTO THE SOURCE OF YOUR SINS (YOUR SIN NATURE)- ROM 8:3
- CHRIST'S DEATH HAS VALUE ONLY DUE TO HIS RESURRECTION -1COR 15:14-17
- YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN BUT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS - ROM 6:11-14; 18
- THE BREAD REPRESENTS HIS BODY WHICH WAS GIVEN FOR YOU
- THE CUP REPRESENTS HIS BLOOD (DEATH)
- THE CUP IS "THE NEW COVENANT" FOR THE CHURCH (SEE CHAPTER 21)



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THE LORD'S SUPPER

WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

• WHAT IT ISN'T

- IT IS NOT A "MEMORIAL" (SOMETHING DONE "IN MEMORY OF")
 - THAT'S FOR DEAD PEOPLE
 - CHRIST IS ALIVE IN HIS GLORIFIED BODY
- IT IS NOT A PARTAKING OF THE LITERAL BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST
 - "TRANSUBSTANTIATION"
 - BELIEVES BREAD & WINE IS CONVERTED INTO CHRIST'S BODY & BLOOD
 - "CONSUBSTANTIATION"
 - BELIEVES BREAD REMAINS BREAD - WINE REMAINS WINE
 - BUT THE PRESENCE OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST ARE IN THE ELEMENTS
- THE LORD'S SUPPER IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR SALVATION
- THE LORD'S SUPPER DOES NOT IMPART SOME SPIRITUAL BLESSING OR GRACE



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THE CHURCH'S NEW COVENANT

LORD JESUS CHRIST

COVENANT (BINDER)

BELIEVERS



1 COR 11:23-26; MT 26:26-29;
MK 14:22-25; LK 22:14-20; 2 COR 3:6

"THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT"

- 1 COR 11:25

- THE CUP REPRESENTS CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH ON THE CROSS OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT (HEB 13:20)
- THE NEW COVENANT IS THE APPROPRIATION OF THE CUP OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT TO EVERY BELIEVER BY GOD
- THE CUP (CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH)
 - BINDS YOU (POSITIONALLY) TO CHRIST'S DEATH
 - YOU GROW (CONDITIONALLY) IN CONFORMITY TO HIS DEATH (DEATH TO SELF) - PHIL 3:10
 - BINDS YOU TO CHRIST'S RESURRECTION LIFE & FELLOWSHIP - PHIL 3:10
- CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH IS MADE EFFICACIOUS BY HIS RESURRECTION -1 COR 15:14-17