

The Most Dangerous Form of Church Governance

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1. **Jesus Builds His Church**

Building and foundation: Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 11:49;
Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 3:2; Revelation 18:20

A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation. Exodus 19:5, 6; 1 Peter 2:9, 10

2. **Forms of Church Governance**

(1) Episcopal, (2) Presbyterian/Congregational, (3) Representative

3. **Relevance**

The Form of governance determines the Jesus we Preach. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

The Church is the primary countercultural agent. James 4:4

4. **A Representative Church.** 1 Timothy 3:15; Church Manual, 26-27

“From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12).

4.1 **Local Church:** (1) members, (2) church board, (3) business meeting

4.2 **Local Conference:** (1) local churches, (2) executive committee, (3) constituency meeting

LOCAL CHURCH		LOCAL CONFERENCE		UNION
members	=	local church	=	conference
board	=	executive committee	=	executive committee
business meeting	=	constituency meeting	=	constituency meeting

4.3 **The Pastor.** “We must move discretely, sensibly, in harmony with the judgment of God- fearing counselors; for in this course alone lies our safety and strength. . . . in this work there is no such thing as every man’s being independent” (*Testimonies to Ministers* 489).

“Let us all remember that we are not dealing with ideal men, but with real men of God’s appointment, men precisely like ourselves, men who fall into the same errors that we do, men of like ambitions and infirmities” (*Ibid.*, p. 495).

5. **No Part of the Church determines its Own Status**

“The Lord in His wisdom has arranged that by means of the close relationship that should be maintained by all believers, Christian shall be united to Christian and church to church. Thus the human instrumentality will be enabled to co-operate with the divine. Every agency will be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all the believers will be united in an organized and well-directed effort to give to the world the glad tidings of the grace of God” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 164).

“The companies of believers, though scattered over a large territory, were all members of one body; all moved in concert and in harmony with one another. When dissension arose in a local church, as later it did arise in Antioch and elsewhere, and the believers were unable to come to an agreement among themselves, such matters were not permitted to create a division in the church, but were referred to a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility. Thus the efforts of Satan to attack the church in isolated places were met by concerted action on the part of all, and the plans of the enemy to disrupt and destroy were thwarted” (*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 164, 165).

6. **Summary and Conclusion**

“The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11).