

# CHURCH

	<b>UNITY</b>	<b>DIVISION</b>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All believers Center and Proclaim Jesus Christ as Head and first of their meeting together and in shared-life. (Col 1:18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategize market, compete, and sell an agenda. Make a name for oneself to convince people of a particular belief/program (doctrine, second coming, justice, community, etc) on the aspects of Christ rather than following Christ Himself.</li> </ul>
<b>PERCEPTION IN THE WORLD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Church, One Body, One Faith or as “the saints in Christ who are” existing in regions throughout the world as described in Scripture (Acts 8:1, 9:31, 11:22, 13:1, 15:41, Col 1:2; Phil 1:1; Eph 1:1, 4:5; Gal 1:2; 1 Cor 1:2; 2:1; 1 Thess 1:1; 2:1; Rev 2-3)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXAMPLES: The Church in Sardis The Church in Jerusalem The Church in Philadelphia The Church in New York The Church in London The Church in Dubai The Church in Nairobi</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place a label in front of “church” based on doctrinal practice of Christ and create thousands of divisions for one family. Call it “our” particular faith in Christ based on what we believe about him and develop a statement of faith.</li> <li>There are 40,000+ different labels of faith: Methodist, Pentecostal, Foursquare, Lutheran, Catholic, Baptists, Free, Independent, Open Bible Presbyterian, Anglican, Calvinists, Wesleyans, Brethren, Denomination/Non-Denominational, etc...</li> <li>Grouping together with favorite teachers and leaders in the “church” type you agree with and exclude others that don’t agree with “your truth” about Christ or when you want to get out of Church for you.</li> </ul>
<b>PRIESTHOOD &amp; ORDINATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are “the priesthood of all believers” (1 Peter 2:5).</li> <li>No title/position/office/class distinctions to segregate.</li> <li>All function according to gifts</li> <li>Paul “an apostle of Christ” – not as a title = Apostle Paul.</li> <li>All believers ordained by God into priestly ministry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make titles/positions and self-ordain to create class distinctions where superior ministers as inferior, passive receivers.</li> <li>Ordain a few into a professional, elite office as “clergy” and the rest remain ordinary “laity”</li> </ul>

<p><b>EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat, low-structure authority lovingly serves one another and shared among all members in Christ.</li> <li>• The greatest is servant and least among the flock.</li> <li>• Servants begin in a basin.</li> <li>• (Luke 9:46-48, John 13:3-8, Gal 5:13, 1 Pet 4:10, Phil 2:3-7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hierarchical, high-structure of a few "lording over" and dominating the rest through bureaucratic and political means.</li> <li>• Seeks greatness and celebrity status to serve self-interests of influence, voice, and power</li> <li>• Luke 22:24-27 (Mark 10:42-43); 1 Peter 5:2-3; 2 Cor 1:24</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTREACH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People treated as family. They become an extension of love, selflessly and sacrificially to all.</li> <li>• The way they live their lives at home and in public are natural invitations to join the Family in Christ.</li> <li>• Family operates by the life of the Head, Jesus Christ.</li> <li>• A community models and spurs one another on to live by the Life of Christ in discipleship.</li> <li>• They minister together among the people throughout the week. Trusts the Holy Spirit to guide as they go.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates outreach programs to keep people at arm's length and treat members as cogs in the machine to keep it running.</li> <li>• Dependent upon humanely-engineered systems, fundraising money, and efforts to "strategize and reach people" to convert.</li> <li>• Invites new members join the ranks of "the club." Go into the community with serving programs and then leave.</li> <li>• Makes "discipleship" classes to tell other people how to follow Christ and the Bible, but leaves out practical daily living of following Christ and practicing His presence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEETINGS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared-life in Christ as a community becomes normal life and meets throughout the week spontaneously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets once/twice a week for a service or event and goes back to a secular "normal life"</li> </ul>
<p><b>PARTICIPATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual participation from all and brings together what Christ as Leader and Head has revealed.</li> <li>• The Body supports one another and shares each other's burdens.</li> <li>• Each and everyone are ministering Christ to one other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just a few minister/participate</li> <li>• The rest are passive and "receive" from the pastor/priest's sermon or benefit from a ministry of smorgasbord showmanship on a stage.</li> <li>• Full participation restricted in the moment of long messages.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LEADERSHIP DECISIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Ekklesia operates decisions as consensus from all and discerns the guidance from the Spirit. (includes rich/poor, equippers/non-equippers in the body, mature/immature in the faith)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rich and affluent on boards and councils, and staff leadership generally control decisions of the church or ministry led by democratic majority voting.</li> <li>• The majority of the Body is excluded with little or no voice in decision making.</li> </ul>

<p><b>CHURCH DISCIPLINE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offenses dealt with one-on-one directly first to resolve conflicts (Matt 18).</li> <li>• The Body attempts to gently restore in care and love to bring them back to Christ.</li> <li>• If unresolved, others and even the whole church is involved if necessary.</li> <li>• If a brothers/sister refuses and is unrepentant, they let them go their own way.</li> <li>• Refuses to entertain duplicity and division.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gossip about other members in prayers or do conflict/resolution problems in closed door meetings or private conversations.</li> <li>• Tolerant of self-professing who participate in sinful behavior, i.e. fornication before marriage, slander, gossip, greed, power, arrogance, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>INITIAL IMPRESSION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The whole Family comes to embrace you, and not just at meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greeters greet you at the door with a bulletin and Christianese.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MONEY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires very little money and is not dependent on money for functioning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires budget a lot of money to be delegated by a few to fund buildings, programs, and paid professionals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HELPING THE NEEDY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no needy among them, but when needs do arise, a community purse is held to provide for those needs of the family first, then spiritual fathers and mothers who have fully invested themselves into others, and then provisions are used to help the outside poor without enabling dependency.</li> <li>• Encourages and empowers those in poverty toward personal initiative to find work.</li> <li>• The Body suffers together with those suffering in need. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks deep, long lasting relationships</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provides temporary, emergency relief in area of need</li> <li>• Cares for orphans and widows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average 10% or less invested into mission or directly to help with needs in the family or the outside poor.</li> <li>• Feeding programs treat people like service projects, enabling welfare dependency, diminishing dignity, destroying personal initiative and erodes the work ethic of those they try to help</li> <li>• Shallow or short-term relationships based on need and “I’m here to rescue you or convert you” approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising efforts exploit the needy people leading them to feel like a charity case for their wealthy visitors, posing with a smiling faces to be taken back to market the next group of volunteers or donors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Superior giver seen to an inferior receiver when handouts are given/received leading to embarrassment.</li> </ul>

<p><b>WORSHIP</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spirit of Christ, Himself leads the meetings through all people. Worship is an obedient, selfless, sacrificial life unto Christ.</li> <li>• Christ Himself is the Source of fullness and Life, and getting a special "filling" is not necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a show, where a few entertain and are in the limelight and centered on.</li> <li>• Set order of worship artificially created for others</li> <li>• Worship becomes a place to go with an "event" to receive God, and get "filled up."</li> <li>• Worship begins when specialized musicians lead the rest, or when a music file is played.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No arguments. Christ is their attention and learning to follow Him.</li> <li>• Beliefs may be expressed freely, but not majored on.</li> <li>• Engages in open, free, and respectful dialogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fights over doctrine, the second coming/rapture, theology, sanctification, justice, government politics, etc.</li> <li>• Requires a moderator or leader who restricts and controls the direction of the study/discussion</li> </ul>