

## **Unity and Church Organization**

What will it take to achieve the unity of the New Testament church (Acts 2:37-47)? Is that kind of unity even important? Yes! It is commanded (John 17:20-21; 1 Cor 1:10)! Where do we begin? We must return to the simple New Testament pattern of church organization.

The church Jesus built is organized like a body comprised of many parts or members (Eph 1:22-23; 1 Cor 12:27). Unity within that body will prevail as each member submits to Christ (Eph 4:1-3; Phil 2:1-11). Unity becomes visible as members unite for worship and instruction (1 Cor 11-12; Heb 11:25).

Simplicity of organization characterized the early church. It had no ruling board with authority over many congregations. Each group was self-governing under the spiritual oversight of its elders (1 Tim 3). Their authority did not extend beyond the group from which they were selected (Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; 1 Pet 5:1-4).

Deacons were appointed in each church to assist in the physical needs its members (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim 3:8-13). Everyone served the Lord together while submitting to the spiritual guidance of their elders (1 Thess 5:11-17; Heb 13:7, 17).

By order of the apostles, evangelists appointed elders and trained faithful men to teach and preach God's word (Titus 1:5-9; 2 Tim 2:2; 4:1-2). Women too were teachers. They were instructed to train younger women in their roles as wives, mothers and homemakers (Titus 2:3-5). Imagine all this work being accomplished without a single college or seminary. It is God's simple pattern of organization, and it will work if we will have faith enough to implement His plan and give Him the glory.

Green Meadow church of Christ  
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.