

The Church of the Living God

I. The Identity of the New Covenant Church

A. The Composition

1. Racial

a. Old Covenant Israel (Exodus 19:1-8; 24:1-18)

b. New Covenant Israel (Ephesians 2:11-22)

2. Spiritual

a. the “chosen” (Deut. 7:6-10; Ephesians 1:18; 4:4; I Peter 2:9-10; see also CHS Book Seven. pp. 122-123)

b. a spiritual house and priesthood (I Peter 2:4-5; Revelation 1:6)

c. sinners cleansed, forgiven and justified (see Justification: The Heart of the Gospel)

B. The Foundation

1. Jesus Christ

a. the Cornerstone of the body (Ephesians 2:20)

b. the builder of the church (Matthew 16:13-20)

c. the Head of the church (Ephesians 1:20-22)

2. Apostles and Prophets (Ephesians 2:20)

II. The Authority and Power of the Church

A. In Jesus Christ

1. His authority (Matthew 28:18; see also CHS Book Seven. p. 128)

2. In His disciples (Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7)

B. In the Church (Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:6)

1. Illustrated in Old Covenant Israel (see CHS Book Seven; pp. 135-137)
2. Illustrated in the unseen heavenly reality (Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 12:22-24)

III. The Purpose of the Church

A. Administration in Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10)

B. Administration through the Church (Ephesians 3:9-11; 6:10-20; see also CHS Book Seven, Chapters. 12 and 18-19)

1. The “mystery” unveiled
2. For “eternal purpose”
3. The Church is the pillar and support of the truth (I Timothy 3:15)
4. Spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)

IV. Internal Function

A. Core Value: Unity (Book Seven, Ch. 13)

1. Jesus Christ on unity (John 17:20-21, 23)
2. Apostle Paul on unity (Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 1:27; 2:2; Col 3:14-15)
3. Realized in a common foundation (Eph. 4:4-6)
4. Realized in relational integrity (Eph. 4:25-5:2; CHS Book Seven pp. 170-177)
5. Realized in moral integrity (Eph. 5:3-4; CHS Book Seven pp. 180-182)
6. Realized in regular attendance (Heb. 10:24-25)

B. Authority Structure

1. Jesus Christ as Head (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18)
2. Leadership and building gifts (Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:28; CHS Book Seven, Ch. 14)

- a. for equipping the saints (Eph. 4:12; I Peter 2:5,9)
 - b. for doctrinal integrity (Eph. 4:13-16)
 - 3. Offices (qualifications and duties)
 - a. elders (I Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-3)
 - b. deacons (I Tim. 3:8-13)
 - 4. Family order (CHS Book Seven, Ch. 17)
 - a. between husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-33; I Cor. 11:2-16; I Tim. 2:9-15)
 - b. children and parents (Eph. 6:1-4)
- C. Necessary Considerations
- 1. Discipline (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 6:1-11)
 - 2. Giving
 - a. support for the less fortunate (Acts 4:34; II Cor. 8:1-15; I Tim. 5:3-10; Gal. 6:10)
 - b. support and respect for pastors and elders who teach (I Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:17; I Tim. 5:17-18; I Cor. 9:1-14)
 - c. biblical standards (sacrificially: Luke 21:1-4; II Cor. 8:1-9; 9:1-15) (tithing: Matt. 23:23; Lev. 27:30-32; Num. 18:21; Deut. 26:12; Gen. 14:17-20)

What We Believe About the Church

The Church of Jesus Christ is comprised of an association of local Church assemblies and each church is a fully functioning and autonomous Church body. Each church is comprised exclusively of the Adamic racial family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These also have been the called and chosen by God to be set apart from the ungodly world of spiritual darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. They have received Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord publicly confessing him. They are sinners who have been cleansed, forgiven and fully justified from all unrighteousness. Together, they are

identified as the living “body” of Jesus Christ with Him as the Head of the Church body, and a holy priesthood serving Him.

The Church was created by God to carry out His “eternal purpose” as the pillar and foundation of the truth in order to make known to the civil ruling authorities the many varied applications of His immutable Law as the need arises. The primary goal is to manifest His Kingdom in the land according to His righteousness and justice.

In order to carry out this “eternal purpose” the Church body must strive for unity among all the members. This is achieved in a commitment and practice to love one another in truth, recognition of those who are gifted in leadership roles for the equipping the saints for ministry and for doctrinal integrity. This also includes respect for, and submission to, the office of elder(s) who are charged by God as shepherds of the church. This congregation is, therefore, to be elder-ruled and not by any one man.

The family, and especially the marriage institution, is the heart of the Church and for the manifestation and growth of the Kingdom for future generations and is achieved through the biblical order of authority between husband, wife and children.

The order of the Church is also maintained through accountability among the members, and for church discipline as appropriate and necessary.