

ORGANIZATION

Anyone who believes it possible to hold membership in a church organization and to reside (simultaneously) in the perfect will of God is deceived in a certain measure (this is not necessarily a soul destructive deception). We say this on the basis of the fact that these (in joining such organization) do thereby lay a line of distinction between themselves and their independent (and other-denominational) brethren and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore the so-called independent is the one who (in this particular aspective) is residing in the highest realm of the divine will, for he has layed no such line of distinction between himself and his brother in Christ whether his brother be an organizational member or not. Although such are called independent, if they are "holding the Head" they should not be reproached for this reason.

Bartleman states that he (by the Spirit) warned the Azusa St. leadership not to organize but they did so anyway. It appears to us that this move (by the Azusa leadership) opened the door for the multiplicity of Pentecostally oriented organizations to have birth.

While we do very sincerely believe that those seven brethren who instituted the P.F.B.H. organization were likely all saved men who also made it home to heaven, we do yet deny that they could have been led of the Lord in this particular move. We will base this denial upon the Scriptural assertion that the Lord will never sanction (in any form or fashion) the division of his body and certainly will not institute such division himself.

At the same time it also seems that he has blessed the F.B. church members and associates because of the Holiness principles which have been exalted by them through the means of the organizational structure. These blessings have probably been taken by the membership as confirmation of divine approval upon the organizational structure itself, which conception (we say) is an error. The Lord will never commend any form of division or factionalization within his spiritual body.

It cannot be refuted that the primary purpose of organization is control, we do thereby seek to control the convictions of the membership, which thing can seem to carry merit. One problem with this conception is that it does not recognize (to the fullest degree) the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ over his Church, and the infallible keeping power which has been delegated to him by the eternal Father, as touching "the election of grace". We do now deny also that any soul will be saved by the disciplinary actions of any man-made church organization. The disciplinary action described in 1Cor.5:4,5 cannot be implemented (so we say) through any man-made organization but only within the spiritual body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For folks to indicate that the Lord needs or requires organizational structures through which to govern his spiritual body is a distortion of the truth at best. On the other hand, if we say that it is his will to draw all of his body into one organizational structure (that is to say, anything that has been instituted since the book of Acts.) this is a doctrine of Antichrist.

While we actually know that formal organization itself remains outside of the Lords spiritual body, we yet say that organizational membership nevertheless lays a certain line of distinction between the nominal church member and other Christians, and is bound to foment some degree of superiority illusion in the mentality of the subject (especially the younger more unseasoned Christians). The so-called church of God has been a great example of this mindset.

Therefore we say that it is now time to disband our organizations and to call on the great head of the Church that he would demonstrate his own perfect and sovereign powers of Church governmental abilities, in the which he requires no assistance from organizational structures.

We now say that "inordinate" organizational "affections" will have to be covered by the blood and finally that all endeavors which were motivated by such affections will have to be erased by fire in order that the "elect" individual may stand justified in the kingdom of God. What do we mean by the term 'inordinate organizational affections'. We mean the desire for the various forms and degrees of ecclesiastical authority that is conferred upon the individual by way of election or appointment to the ecclesiastical offices of the particular church organization.

When we think of completely eliminating church organizations, many questions begin to surface in our minds as to how the Lords work could thereafter be effectively moved forward and held on course, (this is especially true with those of us who have never been outside the influence of church organizations). We now say that all such questions can potentially work together to foment a challenge to the doctrine of the supreme headship of the Lord Jesus Christ over his Church, and also have the innate potential of bringing individuals collectively into (or unto) a faith shipwreck. We should know, that the Lord Jesus Christ has the sovereign power to move his work forward and hold it on course in any one of an infinite number of means and measures and that surpassing all human ability to imagine or surmise.

Some may think to say that the initial purpose for the creation of the P.F.B.H. church organization was the exaltation, maintenance and propagation of a higher standard of Holiness. This seems to have actually been the case, however we are completely oblivious (so it seems) to the fact that this mindset (when the flesh gets involved) inevitably leads to a pharisaical spirit and illusions of superiority.

We are now (with deliberate purpose) challenging the high-minded arrogance of the P.F.B. church conference. Friend, don't tell me that we are not arrogant. Whenever we can kick the truth back into the teeth of God-called ministers of the gospel, even as though it is great sport to do so, we are beyond arrogant, we appear to be implacable.

If the Master (as we assert) will not inspire individuals in the creation of church organizations (seeing as he would therein be contradicting his stated will as recorded in Jn.17) then why, some may ask would he allow them to form and thereafter exist, even advancing his work within them rather than through them? Because friend, he has a sovereign purpose. This will require other articles which we might as well honestly confess, we are not ready to move into.

Those who are organizationally bound will most likely feel that they are condescending, whenever they visit other churches independent or of other organizations. We yet do acknowledge that the P. F. B. H. is the best organization we know of and the F. B. people are definitely our choice of a church family.