

ENGLISH

Valley Baptist Missions Education

September 17th, 2024 - Dr. Stephen Stookey, Texas Baptists



“The Church: Autonomy & Leadership”

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

- What does it mean to be an autonomous church?
- What is the biblical basis for autonomy of the local church?
- How does church autonomy relate to other biblical Baptist Convictions?

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Baptist polity affirms two scriptural officers of a New Testament church—pastor & deacon
- Baptist Pastors: role & qualifications (1 Peter 5:1-5)
- Baptist Deacons: role & qualifications (Acts 6:1-6)

- Ordination
- Baptist distinctives related to Pastors & Deacons

The Baptist Faith & Message (1963)

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages. Matt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.

La Fe y Mensaje Bautista (1963)

Una iglesia neotestamentaria del Señor Jesucristo es un cuerpo local de creyentes bautizados, que se asocian mediante un pacto en la fe y en la comunión del evangelio, que observan las dos ordenanzas de Cristo, se someten a enseñanzas, ejercen los dones, derechos y privilegios investidos en ellos por Su Palabra, y procuran extender el evangelio hasta los fines de la tierra.

Esta iglesia es un cuerpo autónomo, que opera mediante procesos democráticos bajo el señorío de Jesucristo. En tal congregación los miembros son responsables igualmente. Sus oficiales bíblicos son pastores y diáconos.

El Nuevo Testamento habla también de la iglesia como el cuerpo de Cristo, que incluye a todos los redimidos de todas las edades. Mt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Hch. 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Ro. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ef. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Flp. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 P. 5:1-4; Ap. 2-3; 21:2-3.