



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
MERIDIANVILLE  
REAL. FAMILY.

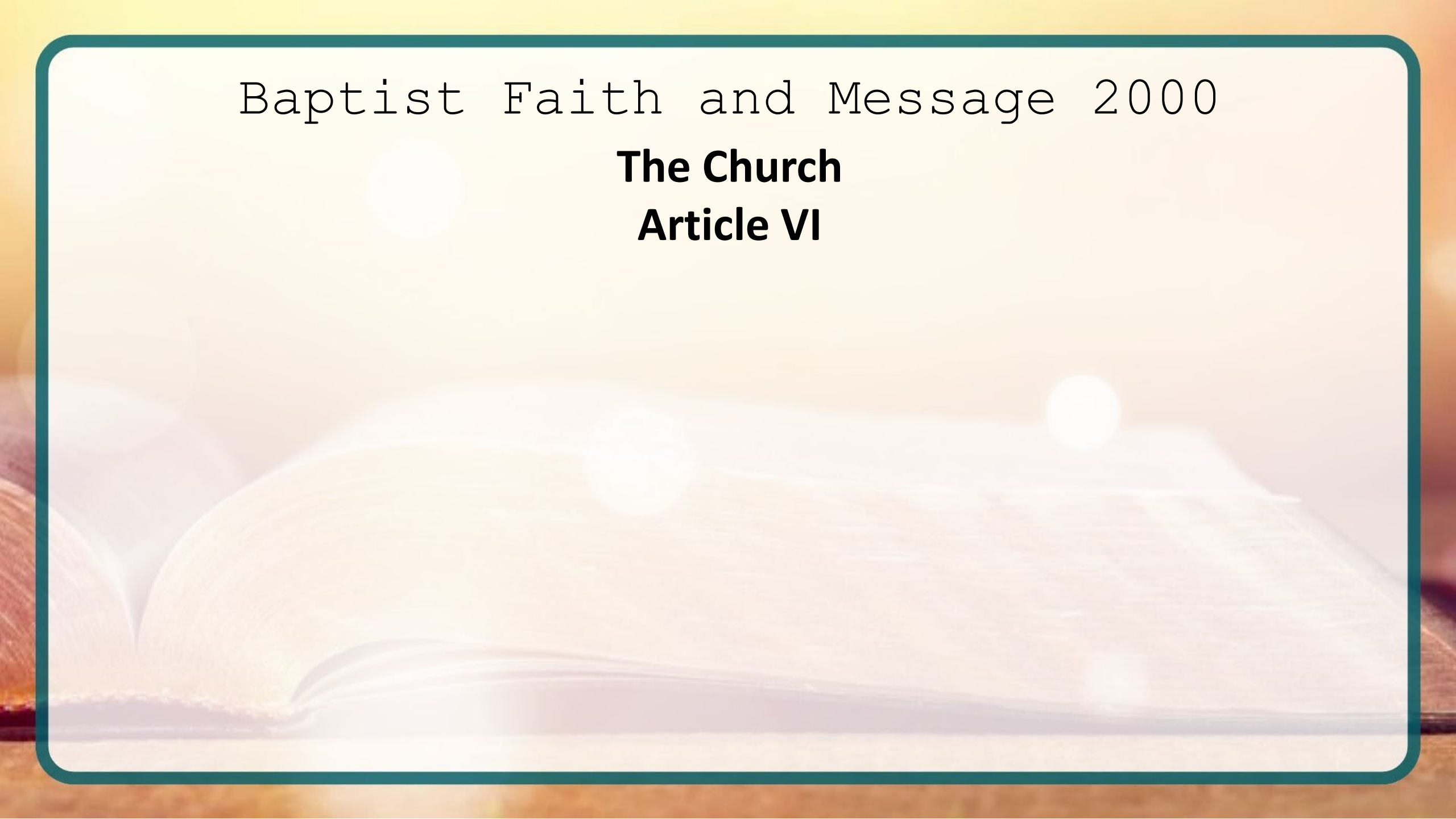
# WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH &  
MESSAGE  
2000

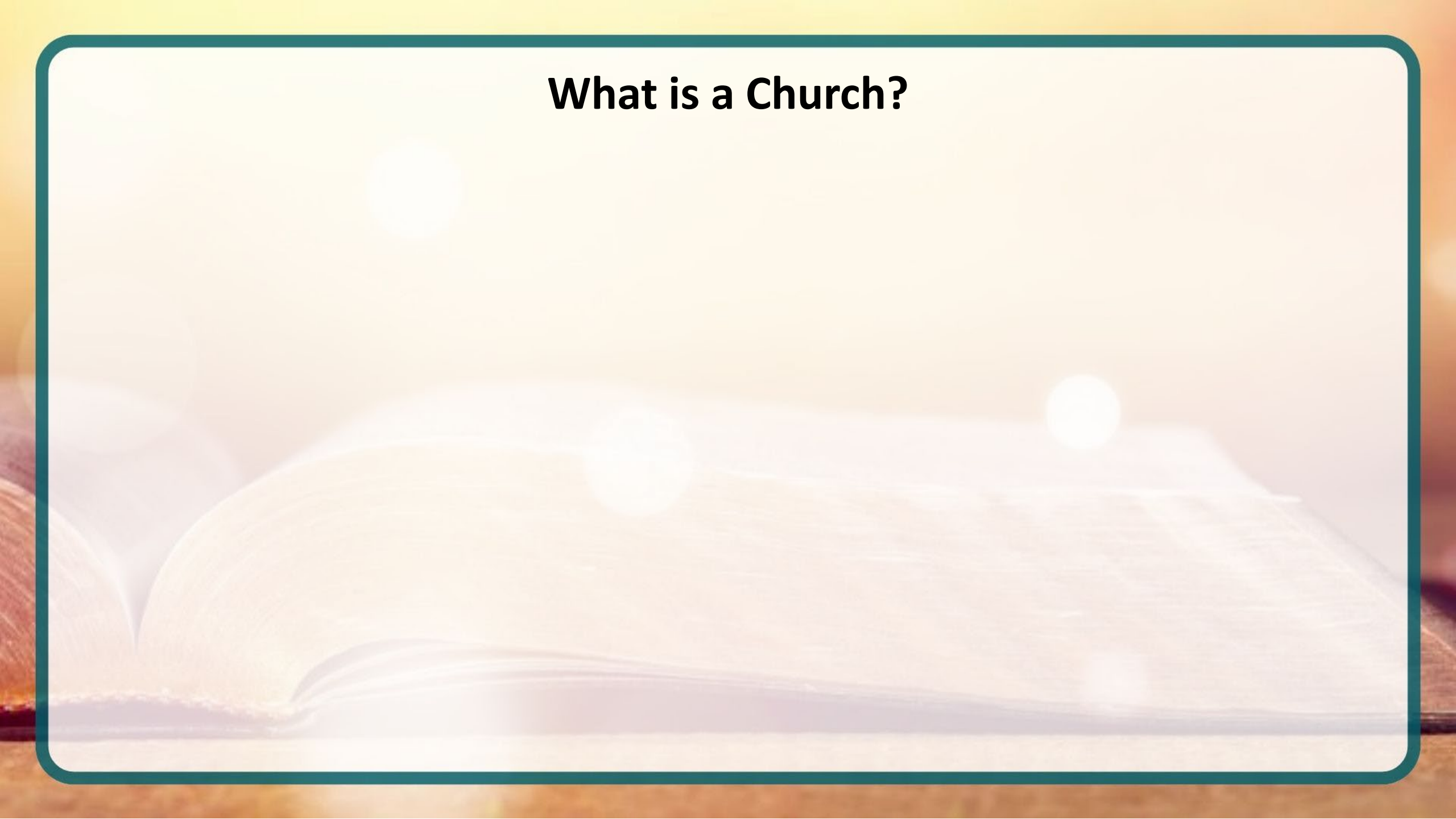
Baptist Faith and Message 2000

**The Church**

**Article VI**



# What is a Church?



## What is a Church?

*Ekklesia – A called out assembly*



## What is a Church?

### Marks of a Genuine Church

- Faithful preaching of the Word,
- Faithful administration of the sacraments.
- Faithful exercise of discipline.

## **Article VI**

### The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

## **Article VI**

### The Church

Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

## **Article VI**

### The Church

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.



## Key Verses

Matthew 16:15-19: He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Matthew 18:15-20:** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

## Key Verses

**Acts 2:41-42, 47:** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



**Acts 6:3-6:** Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty... And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose... These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

## Key Verses

**Acts 14:23, 27:** And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed... And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

## Key Verses

**Acts 20:28:** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

## Key Verses

**1 Corinthians 5:4-5:** When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.



## Key Verses

**1 Timothy 2:9-14:** Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

## Key Verses

**1 Peter 5:1-4:** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering

# Major Theological Observations

*A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers... governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word,*

- Each body is to be independent under the Lordship of Christ.
- All the members jointly have responsibility to do everything that Christ commanded the churches to do and should govern the church by his laws. A regenerate church and intentional church membership is Biblical and matters.

# Major Theological Observations

*observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.*

- The Ordinances are to be practiced in the Church as a mark of its faithfulness and legitimacy.
- The faithful assembly and ministry of local churches is how God primarily extends the gospel to the world.



# Major Theological Observations

*Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord.*

- Each church is a “**Christo-democracy**” operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Your participation and faithfulness is your duty as a Christian.

# Major Theological Observations

Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

- Pastors are the shepherds, responsible for the feeding, protection, and care of God's people.
- The term deacon literally means servant.

# Major Theological Observations

*The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.*

- Church Local / Church Universal.