

The Ekklesia vs. the “Corporate Church.”

Even the alleged “Supreme law of the land” supports the “right” for an assembly to function without hindrance as long as they don’t violate an individual’s rights:

*“Congress shall make **no law** respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” (1st Amend.)*

What part of **NO LAW** do we not understand? This poses an issue for a lot of us. We need to know what it really means to be a licensed minister? Licensed by whom? Granted permission by whom? Jesus or the STATE? This truth is applicable across the board for any license (marriage, traveling, or doing business) but I want to focus on the “church” and the Kingdom of God.

Definition of license: *“A permission **granted by competent authority** to engage in a business or occupation or in an action otherwise unlawful.” (Merriam-Webster)*

“It’s impossible to have religious freedom in any nation where churches are licensed to the government.” (Congressman George Hansen)

Read the following excerpt from “A Creature of the State”:

*“Two of the most serious of all problems for the church that incorporates is the legal fact that:
1. The corporation is a “creature of the State.” 2. The State is “sovereign over the corporation.”
These are legal maxims that originated in ancient pagan Rome, and they survive as governing legal dictum to this very day. The corporation that we know today, with all of its legal attributes, was perfected by the Romans at least 250 years prior to the birth of Christ Jesus. Those who have studied Roman culture will appreciate how every element of society, including its legal system, was imbued by their pagan worldview.*

There were no personal liberties in the Roman empire, only State-sanctioned privileges and benefits. The State was sovereign (the supreme authority) in all matters and nothing could be done absent the State’s license. Incorporation became mandatory by 6 A.D. for all “spontaneous collectivities of persons.” The church was not persecuted by Rome because of who they worshipped (there were hundreds of deities that Rome permitted to be worshipped). Persecution began because of the manner in which they worshipped. The church was held to be “illicit” because they refused to seek the permission of the State through incorporation.

*Why would the early Christians suffer the wrath of Rome rather than incorporate? The answer is both legal and, necessarily, theological. **For the church to incorporate would have been a public proclamation that Caesar was sovereign (the supreme authority) over Jesus Christ, the object of the church’s worship. Those Christians would have considered such a thing blasphemy!***

Secondly, they well knew that the church is the body of Christ – corpus Christi – not the corpus of the State (the word “corporation” comes from the Latin “corpus” or “body”). The early church had far more regard for the consistency of their testimony than many churches do today. We should try to learn something from their example. It is because of that testimony that they at no time sought the privileges and benefits of the Roman State:

'Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.' (3 John 7)
The early church existed to testify to the world the authority and Lordship of its Head and Founder, the Lord Jesus Christ – an imperial gospel. **The local church, though persecuted, was free and unconstrained to impact the culture of the Roman Empire, not become subordinate to its pagan rulers. Incorporated churches in America today, however, are constrained by the dictates of the State by virtue of the myriad of laws which apply to non-profit corporations.** (Peter Kershaw, *Heal Our Land Ministries*)
(End of excerpt)

Think about it. God creates man, man creates STATES and STATES create “corporate” churches. Our priorities are all wrong. The Head of the church is Christ. Period.

Isn't God our “competent authority?” Isn't having the STATE “call the shots” in conflict with the Lordship of Christ? He as our King (our Head) says, “No other gods before Me.” Have we “sold our birth right for a bowl of soup” like Esau? (*Gen. 25:30-33*) I will not accept the scraps thrown to me from caesar's table for silence and compliance. The word says, *“Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.”* (*III John 7*) Our lives are not on the world's auction block to the highest bidder. We are already Christ's possession purchased by His blood. Therefore, we need to have lives based in obedience to His Word, prayer (hearing His voice), and the principles of the Kingdom; not just looking for the “path of least resistance.” The Kingdom of Heaven isn't a democracy it's a theocracy. What our Heavenly King says goes. “Yes and amen!”

My soul has been grieved and my spirit vexed over these matters. I've been walking very soft before the Lord in contemplation. At times I feel like “just Lot” in Sodom and Gomorrah. *“Vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.”*

(*2 Pet. 2:7-8*) In prayer the Father spoke to me, “Don't base your decisions or allow yourself to be influenced by the majority of people's opinion or manner of life. My Word is the authority in which you conduct your life.” Maybe you feel the same way? The voices of the majority seem so compelling because of the sheer fact that they are the majority, the masses—resulting in peer pressure and confusion. I rebuke the spirit of confusion! Through much wrestling in my soul, I thought, “Who am I Lord? It must be me who is off. I'm the minority. Why do I have a different perspective, definitely from the world, but even from many other brothers and sisters that I respect and honor?” The Holy Spirit is so faithful. He has comforted me and assured me that I'm on target. He spoke, “I am raising up a remnant with the same message.” Thank God I'm not alone. Maybe it's you He's talking about?

The exhortation the Holy Spirit gave me was, “make sure you always walk in love and humility when you deliver My message. From this position you will be a pure vessel to maximize receptivity from the hearers. They will be without excuse, it will be their choice to receive it or not.” I constantly go back to the Word for “checks and balances” to make sure that I'm on track.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (*Ps. 119:105*)

I can't shake it, my heart is constantly hungering for “MORE!” The passionate zeal always drives me to the cross! I'm pressed to “lose my life so I can find it in Christ.” This is the dividing line. Who owns me? This very message is only found, understood, and appreciated on the narrow path; and “few” walk on that path. My exhortation to you is to make the sacrifice to walk that road that leads to life. *“He who has the Son has life but he who has not the Son has not life.”*

(1 John 5:12) I'm literally writing these words through tears, my heart breaks for the ones that refuse to receive the Word of the Lord. Please, please, PLEASE hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The truth is found on the narrow path not the wide one. Like the twelve spies sent out to the promise land, two (narrow way) out of twelve (broad way) had the true report. But because the people chose the report of the majority (democracy) they wandered around in the wilderness another forty years until that generation died off.

The Word says:

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for **wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*** (Matt. 7:13-14)

*“There is a **way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**”*

(Pro. 16:25)

“...Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isa. 5:20)

We need to stop wandering around in the wilderness of compromise! We need to heed the “pleadings” of God. Serving in the Kingdom will not always be convenient. There are opposing giants of fear, depression, and deception. There’s sacrifice and a price to be paid. Don’t give up—Push into the Kingdom! As a matter of fact, the founding fathers (apostles) were persecuted or even martyred to advance it!

*“...**All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**”* (2 Tim. 3:12)

*“...**In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**”* (John 16:33)