THE CHURCH IS A SUFFICIENT, DIVINE INSTITUTION
TO DO ALL THE WORK GOD WANTS DONE ON THE EARTH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The issue of HUMAN ORGANIZATIONS that preach the gospel centers
around Bible authority.

2. The issue of INSTITUTIONALISM has been one of the main battles over
which brethren have fought throughout the centuries.


4. In this lesson, I want us to study the sufficiency of the local church,
and why it is wrong for a human institution to do the work God assigned
it to do.

I. FIRST, LET US STUDY SOME PRECIOUS TRUTHS CONCERNING THE
CHURCH.

1. It was purposed by God in eternity. Eph. 3: 9 – 11

2. It has a Divine Head, Christ. Col. 1: 18; Eph. 1: 22 -23

3. It has a Divine Foundation. I Cor. 3:11

4. It is the only institution that is to wear Christ’s name. Rom. 16:16

5. It was built by Christ. Matt. 16:18

6. It is the only institution of which Christ is the Saviour. Eph. 5: 23

7. It is the only institution that is the Pillar and Ground of the Truth.
I Tim. 3:15

8. It is the only institution in which God is glorified. Eph. 3: 21

9. It is the only institution that the saved are added to. Acts. 2:47

10. It is the only institution that is to worship God on the first day of
the week. Acts 20: 7; 2:42; I Cor. 16: 1-2
(1) We are to worship Him in songs, in teaching, and prayer at other times. Heb. 10:25

11. It is the only institution that Christ will deliver to the Father in the end of the world. 1 Cor. 15:24

12. This being true, we are duty bound, if we want to please God, to work and to worship in this Divine institution – and we must reject all human institutions that try to infringe on, and to supplant this Divine institution in its work and worship.

II. LET US NOW LOOK AT THE MISSION CHRIST HAS ASSIGNED TO THE CHURCH:

1. EVANGELISM – Matt. 28: 19 – 20; I Thess. 1:8; I Tim. 3:15

2. EDIFICATION – Matt. 28: 20; Acts 2: 42; Eph. 4: 11 – 13

3. BENEVOLENCE to its needy members – I Cor. 16: 1 -2; I Tim. 5: 9 – 16

4. WORSHIP according to the Divine pattern – Acts 2: 42; 20: 7; I Cor. 16:2

III. THE QUESTION IS: CAN THESE WORKS BE PERFORMED BY HUMAN ORGANIZATIONS FORMED BY BRETHREN?

1. Can a human organization do the very same thing the Divine organization, that God designed from eternity, does? Eph. 3: 9 – 11

2. If a human organization can do one work divinely assigned to the church, why can’t it do all the work?

   (1) Why can’t the human organization serve the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week? Acts 20:7

   (2) Why can’t the human organization take a collection on the first day of the week to support its work? I Cor. 16: 1 – 2

3. Can a human organization take over the work of Benevolence assigned to the church?

   (1) The answer is “no”. I Tim. 5:16
IV. GOD IS GLORIFIED IN THE CHURCH WHEN IT FULFILLS ITS MISSION. Eph. 3:21

1. If a human organization can perform the glorifying work which God intended to be done by the church, why do we need the blood bought church to do this work? Acts 20:28

2. God cannot be glorified in a human organization. Eph. 3:21

3. A human organization functioning in the realm God ordained for the local church is wrong. 1 Tim. 3:15; Acts 14:23

4. The church is the ONLY PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH, and there is NO scriptural authority that authorizes something else.

V. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE READ OF NOTHING LARGER THAN, NOTHING SMALLER THAN, AND NOTHING OTHER THAN THE LOCAL CHURCH THROUGH WHICH CHRISTIANS ARE TO WORK AND WORSHIP TOGETHER. Acts 9:26–28; 2:42; Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 11:17–34; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8

1. When God specifies something, man is LIMITED to what he has specified.

2. When God specified the local church, man is LIMITED to the local church. 1 Tim. 3:15; Acts 20:7

   (1) When God specified singing, that eliminates the instrument. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

   (2) When God specified gopher wood with which to build the ark, Noah was limited to gopher wood. Gen. 6:14

   (3) When God specified the local church, that eliminates societies doing the work that God intended the church to do.

VI. HUMAN ORGANIZATIONS, THAT DO THE WORK GOD INTENDED THE CHURCH TO DO, ARE WRONG BECAUSE ONE CANNOT WALK BY FAITH AND SUPPORT THEM. 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6

1. Where there is NO AUTHORITY from the Word of God, there can be NO FAITH. Rom. 10:17
2. There is NOTHING in the Word of God that authorizes human organizations doing the work God intended the church to do.

3. Human organizations, that do the work God intended the church to do, are wrong because Christians are not given a choice of teaching the gospel through the local church or through a human organization. I Thess. 1:8; II Cor. 11: 8 – 9; Acts 11: 22 – 26

VII. GOD’S WORD IS “THE SEED” OF THE KINGDOM. LK. 8:11; Matt. 13:19

1. A seed produces after its kind. Gal. 6:7 – 8

2. God’s word will not produce Missionary societies, Foundations, etc.

3. God’s word will only produce the Church.

CONCLUSION:

1. I think you can see from this lesson that there is no authority for Human Institutions to do the work of the Church.