

(Continued)

Every time a Local School decides to change a policy, they do not contact every taxpayer for approval. When the State Road Commission determines to construct a new road or to widen a present one - they do not contact the general public or we would never have any improvements to our roads. Some people are so used to "running their own lives" and "calling all the shots" that they are uncomfortable being in any situation in which they do not have a vocal 'say' on every issue.

Scriptural Church Leaders have the "church at heart" and want the very best for the Lord's church. They do not want to be dictators, or to hide anything from anybody, even though some misinformed brethren often accuse them of such.

No group known to me (club, brotherhood, fraternity, lodge, association, team, corps, company, etc.) can operate and get anything accomplished by having every member, employee, or supporter to vote on every issue. Likewise the church needs to have confidence in the leaders whom they have appointed to oversee the normal business of the church. Then they should support the leaders. If there are questions in one's mind, pertaining to a decision of the leaders, the leaders should be asked to comment on such, but this should be carried out in the proper spirit.

A fully organized church will have elders, deacons, trustees, teachers, and a preacher. Nevertheless, God has given specific qualifications for church leaders and these MUST be adhered to. God did not speak on this issue just to be taking up space in the Bible. Many congregations have selected leaders apart from what God's Word says and then thereafter they have reaped the consequences. That being:

- a) Confusion and division within the church membership
- b) Slow or no growth to the body (stagnation)
- c) Lack of trust and confidence in the leaders
- d) Mediocre examples for future church leaders

If a church does not have an ordained Eldership, then it can function with a "Steering Committee" comprised of men of the congregation. This is not to say that women are not important in the church. There are plenty of ministries in which they can serve. However, God did select men as apostles, evangelists, and elders in the early church. I Cor. 11:3ff gives God's design for the domestic government, with God first, Christ second, Man third, and the Woman next. I Cor. 14:34ff states that women are to be silent in the church. I Timothy 2:9-15 states that women are not to teach men or demonstrate authority over man.

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