

CHURCH PROBLEMS

By Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

1) WHAT IS A PROBLEM?

- A) Word "Problem" is not in the Bible
- B) Webster - "Something difficult to deal with"
- C) Thesaurus - dilemma, quandary, obstacle, difficulty, predicament, hurdle
- D) Antonyms - solution, explanation, answer, key

2) COMMON PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH

- A) Church Buildings (Not until the 4th Century - heat/cool, clean, maintenance)
- B) Services - schedule of times & when, which - first Sunday School or Worship, how often, how long, "Union Services"
- C) Fellowships - what kind, frequency, only within one's building or area (isolationist)
- D) Scheduled Workers - instrumentalist, specials, Communion prep & servers, greeters, drivers, custodians, grass cutters,
- E) Attendance and Offerings

3) CHURCH LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS

- A) Who - qualifications, training, selection, how long of a term, problem leaders
- B) Handling False Doctrines (I Tim. 1:3)
- C) Handling Discipline (Matt. 18:15-18)
- D) Article "Handling A Dismissal Gracefully"

4) HANDLING PROBLEMS

- A) Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding".
- B) Matt. 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."
- C) I Timothy 6:19 "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life"

CONCLUSION:

- A) Every situation must be handled individually and with great care, and with an understanding that one should always learn from past problems and mistakes.
- B) Matt 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Golden Rule)
- C) Terms which must be followed: Compassion, tenderness, understanding, feeling, mercy, kindness, benevolence, tolerance, charity, gentleness, thoughtfulness, sympathetic, patience
 - 1. Yet, justice must prevail (Proverbs 21:15)
 - 2. Righteous Judgments must be made (John 7:24)