**A CHURCH WITHOUT ELDERS**

**Can a Church Exist Without Elders?**

The churches in Galatia did exist without elders until Paul and Barnabas appointed them

**Acts 14:23**

Churches in Crete lacked something when they did not have elders **Titus 1:5**

Wisdom of God’s plan **Ephesians 3:10-11**

**How** does a church function without elders? **Matthew 18:15-20, Acts 6:1-6** and **Acts 15:1-30**

**How Does a Church Function Without Elders?**

Distributive function of members

All Christians are to **look out** for each other **Hebrews 12:14-16**

All Christians are to **encourage** each other **Hebrews 3:12-13**

All Christians are to **assemble** to encourage each other **Hebrews 10:24-25**

All Christians give as prospered **1 Cor. 16:1-2**

All Christians withdraw their company from marked brethren **1 Cor. 5:9-13**

All Christians are to **do what they can** for the Lord & for each other **Ephesians 4:16**

**Follow** the authority of the **head** which is **Christ Eph. 4:15**

Collective action of the local church

The **church met** to take care of **church business** **Acts 6:2-6**

**Apostles** called the meeting **v.2**

**Everyone** attended **v.2**

The **apostles** gave the **guidelines** for selecting deacons **v.3**

Apostles explain why **v.2,4** (communication)

**Everyone** **cooperated** (was pleased) in the **selection** of the men **v.5**

The **apostles appointed** the **deacons** **v.6**

**Acts 15:1-30**

**Church** at Antioch (brethren in **v.1**) sent Paul & Barnabas to apostles & elders in Jerusalem about dispute over Judaism **v.2-3**

**Not** a regional council

Not to determine doctrine (Paul already had it)

It served to **confirm** the word in Paul

**Jerusalem** was the **source** of the problem **v.1,5, especially v.24**

Met with the **church** and apostles & elders **v.4**

Some **Pharisees** in the **church** spoke **v.5**

Apostles & elders met about this **v.6**

There was much dispute **v.7** (see **v.5**)

Peter spoke

**Multitude** was silent after Peter spoke **v.12**

Paul & Barnabas spoke

James offered a **solution** **v.13-21**

Apostles, elders, **with** **whole church** pleased to send letter and men as a **solution v.22, 23-25**

**Business Meetings**

**With** or **without** elders **Acts 6, Acts 15**

**Whole church** assembled for church business

**Women silent** in the churches **1 Cor. 14:34-35**

Men and brethren = **male** brethren that spoke

On **spiritual** matters of **judgment**, elders still make the final decisions

On **nonspiritual** matters of **judgment**, submit to each other **Eph. 5:21**, **experts** **1 Cor. 16:14-16**, older men **1 Peter 5:5**, men **1 Cor. 14:34**

**not majority** rule, **not minority** rule, **is** **maturity** rule **1 Cor. 1:10-13**