



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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Earthly Headquarters?

Many denominations have National or International Headquarters along with General Councils, Synods, Conventions, or Boards of some kind to decide what church policy will be. Conversely, the organizational structure of the church we read about in the New Testament begins and ends with the local church. Each congregation was autonomous (self-governing), with a plurality of qualified bishops or elders who served as overseers directing the activities of the local church. The oversight of these elders was limited to the local church of which they were members, and they were not to be lords over God's heritage (Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2).

New Testament Christians recognized Christ as the only head of the church; therefore, each congregation was governed only by the will of Christ as delivered by inspired men. Each local church carried out only the work Christ had assigned them through

His word without any outside control (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 14:37; Gal. 1:8-9; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Thess. 1:8; Phil. 4:15-16; Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:3).

Subject only to Christ, the early church had no National or International Headquarters on earth, no General Councils to decide what church policy would be; no Synods, Conventions, or Boards of some kind. **WHY SHOULD IT BE DIFFERENT TODAY?**

-Vernon Teagarden

Do You Really Love Jesus?

You think you do, you say you do, but let's see if you really love the Lord.

Jesus said: "...if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?

Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay, but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3, 5). Have you repented of your sins?

Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in heaven. But

The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I deny before My Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33). Have you confessed your faith in Jesus before men?

Jesus said: "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). Have you been baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins? (cf. Acts 2:38).

Jesus said: "No man, having put his hand to the plough, looking back, is fit

for the kingdom of God” (Lk. 9:62). Those of you who are Christians, are you “fit for the kingdom of God,” or have you looked upon your decision to serve the Lord with regret and are no longer faithful to Him? Only he that endures to the end shall be saved!

These are some things that Jesus has asked of those who desire to serve Him. Those who truly love Jesus will obey Him. After all, He did say, “If you love Me, keep My commandments”(Jn.14:15).

-Vernon Teagarden

Keeping Your Heart

When I was a boy my brothers and I loved to go barefoot. We couldn't wait for the first warm day of spring to take our shoes off and enjoy the cool sensation of the new, soft grass on our bare feet.

From that first warm spring day to the first cool day in autumn, more often than not, we played and worked outside barefoot much to our mother's dismay. She had warned us of the hidden dangers in exposing our bare feet to the sometimes harsh surfaces we walked on.

Sometimes we would get cut and scratched by stepping on sharp stones, sticks, broken glass, rusty nails, or “sticker weeds”. But even when there were no visible wounds, gradually over time our feet became stained and even desensitized.

So much so, that gradually, we went from being able to walk in the soft grass in the

yard, to playing in the stubble of the hayfield right after the first cutting. We even got to the point where we would see who could run down the gravel lane the farthest barefoot without flinching, especially right after the township truck had dumped a fresh load of slag.

By the end of the summer, thick, hard, calluses had formed and pinpricks on the soles of our feet often produced no pain at all.

Developing calluses on the soles of our feet by progressively baring them to the harsh, physical elements is of little consequence compared to developing hard calluses on our hearts by progressively baring them to the harsh, sinful elements of this life. A heart so stained and hardened gradually becomes desensitized to spiritual truth eventually resulting in a lost eternal soul.

Many often fail to heed the wisdom of Proverbs 4:23 which reads, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” Many frequently and sometimes continually expose their hearts to the vilest worldly pursuits, giving their hearts over to them.

The apostle Paul tells us not to bare our hearts to sin as others do in Eph. 4:17-24. Because they are past feeling, their hearts become desensitized to that which is true and righteous, the result being a greater acceptance and prevalence of ungodliness and unbelief.

Likewise, in 1 Tim. 4:2 Paul describes those that depart from the faith and follow false doctrines as being so numb to the truth it is as if their

consciences have been seared with a hot iron.

We must be ever diligent in guarding our hearts from the callusing effects of sin and unbelief, for it is the fountain from which all of our actions spring.

Jesus taught in Mark 7:21-23, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile a man.” Jesus gave us the remedy for such heart hardening defilements. We should seek purity through Him. “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”, (Matt. 5:8). We should develop a purposeful desire to focus on the right objects. “Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”, (Matt. 6:19-21). We should also cultivate the right things in our hearts. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”, (Phil. 4:8).

Have we gradually allowed sin to take root in our hearts, displacing righteousness? Have our hearts become so desensitized that we are past feeling and numb to the truth?

May we truly and honestly strive to keep our hearts with all diligence!

- Jeff Haught