

How was the early church structured?

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The Bible says Jesus Christ is the head of the church, thus it is to him that all of God's people must look for direction, both individually and as a body of believers. An incorporated church, registered with the state, has signed a covenant agreeing to function in accordance with the requirements set out by state law. This includes the election of a board of directors whose duties generally include making corporate, ecclesiastical, and spiritual decisions, which removes the participation and responsibility of the rest of the brethren (1Cor. 12:13-31; Rom. 12:4-5). The early church was not structured in this manner; it was not incorporated, nor did it seek to join itself with the state in any way (2Cor. 6:14).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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