

GOD CALLED OR CHURCH HIRED LEADERS?

Ephesians 4:11-12

Introduction: Today's Churches are nothing like the first Church nor the Churches of this nation's founding fathers. My, my look at the size and number of staff members of some of today's Churches. No matter how many or how few members or staff members a Church has, God's work will not be done unless it's done God's way. No matter how good it looks or sounds, nothing will ever be as good as it is supposed to be unless it's done God' way.

I. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR HOW HIS CHURCH IS TO OPERATE

1. First of all it is HIS Church.
 - If we use our plans, our ways, our methods, our this and that, etc. it will be only as good as WE can make it.
2. Next, it is HIS Church.
 - God must build it. *"...Upon this rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it..."*
3. And then it is HIS Church.
 - It must be built according to HIS plan.
 - *"...Except the Lord build, they labor in vain that build it..."*

II. GOD'S PLAN INCLUDES HIS PERSONAL CALLING THE CHURCH LEADERS

1. It is God who selects the pastor and other leaders for HIS Church.
2. God commands Church members to yield leadership to the Pastor God has placed in HIS Church.
3. God expects HIS Pastor to yield to the role of ministering/serving to other Church members for they, too are called to be ministers.

III. GOD'S PLAN CLEARLY OUTLINES HIS PURPOSES FOR HIS CHURCH LEADERS

1. God's purpose for Church leaders is to perfect, equip, train the Church members for the work of serving and ministering.
 - Every Christian is a minister. Every Christian is expected to lead lost people to Jesus Christ.
 - The work of the Church ministry/service is not to be done by the Pastor - however some Pastors have to do it all, and then, some Pastors want to do it all. Either way the Church suffers.
 - The work of ministering/serving requires training and equipping.
 - The Pastor will fail God and the members if he does not train and equip the members and if they don't want to be trained or equipped.

2. God's purpose for the Pastor is to edify or build up the Body of Jesus Christ and the Church.
 - The Church must be built up in its COMMITMENT to do what Jesus Christ expects and commands.
 - The Church must be built up in its STRENGTH. Weak Christians cannot witness effectively or serve adequately.
 - The Church must grow NUMERICALLY. If the Church is obedient in its role of service and ministry, God will add to His Church, daily.
 - HOWEVER, this will never happen when a Church leaves doing God's will for the Church to the Pastor only. NOR will it happen if the Pastor refuses to pass on responsibility to the rest of the Church Family and train them to be leaders and witnesses and tries to do everything himself.

CONCLUSION:

1. This is God's Church! The Church must do things God's way for God's work to be done.
2. Church leaders must be God's chosen leaders.
3. God's leaders must do things God's way.
4. Do you want to see our Church doing things God's way? Then it has to start with YOU.
5. Churches must prayerfully seek God's choice for their Pastor, for their other leaders.