

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

One Lord or Head

The word, Lord, indicates a master and is used to denote a master/servant relationship. The following verses teach there is but one Lord:

1. Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"
2. Zec 14:9 "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."
3. Mark 12:29 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"
4. 1 Cor 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."
5. Eph 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

The secular world and the organizations in the world are built upon a hierarchy structure. In most American organizations you will have leaders, then first line supervisors, then mid-management supervisors, then executives, and finally a board of directors or owner(s). The non-supervisory employee and each supervisory employee below the executive level has more than one master or supervisor. The Lord's true church is not organized in this manner. The Lord's church has only one head or master and each member of that church is subject to that head or master. There are no other head's or masters in the Lord's church.

While the local church has governmental responsibility over the membership of the church, that government is given to her by her one head in exacting detail and all of the members are equally under the government of that one head and all the members have an equal vote in carrying out that government. No elder has any right to Lord it over the membership of the church: 1 Pet. 5:3 "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Any organization that has hierarchy structure has no right to claim itself to be the Lord's church, as the Lord's church has only one Lord. Thus to have Bishops lording it over the membership, or to have bishops over bishops, building to an apex is contrary to the scriptures. Likewise to have an organizational structure above the local church with an earthly headquarters is also unscriptural. Again, the Lord's church and its membership have only one head or Lord:

1. 1 Cor 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and

the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

2. Eph 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

3. Eph 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

4. Eph 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

5. Col 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."