

Autonomy of a Local Church

Ac 14:23; 20:17...28; 1Pe 5:1-3

Ac 6:1-6 *Local cong...*

- **Cared for own needy**
- **Selected own representatives**

Ac 9:26-28 *Local cong...*

- **Controlled own fellowship**
- **Compare Ac 18:27... see 1Co 5**

Ac 11:22-24 *Local cong...*

- **Select preacher**
- **Sent preacher**
- **Determined place to send him**

Ac 13:1-3; 14:26,27 *Local cong...*

- **Sent out preachers**

Take away HS's involvement (vv2,4**)
and all have left is local cong.**

1Co 16:1-3 *Local cong...*

- **Own collection**

2Co 9:5 ("your bounty" (KJV, ASV),
"your..bountiful gift" NASB)

- **NO BROTHERHOOD collection**
- **Chose own messengers**

Php 4:15-16 *Local cong...*

- **Supported preacher**
- **No other church or organization of any kind involved**

Ac 15 ??

- **NO ...**
 - * **Why the meeting in Jer., vv1,24**
 - * **"Judgment," "decrees," delivered by apostle Paul, 15:19,28; 16:4**
- **Paul flatly denies authority of Jerusalem apostles for his gospel, Gal 2**

Violations

Denominationalism

- Roman Catholicism
- Methodists
- Baptist - claim local autonomy...but ...
- "CofC" denom..! ("Sponsor. church"; "Mission" ch.)

Congregation giving up its self-rule to another org.

- Missionary society
- Edification society
- Benevolent society

QUESTION... what about when no elders?

- **Not change limitations of **Ac 20:28; 1Pt 5:2** - no author. to oversee anything else!**
- **Don't know if had or didn't have elders in all these cases (i.e. vv refer. above, e.g. Antioch, Corinth...)**
- ***NO authority for violation of local congregation autonomy - NONE!!!***

This Arrangement Divine And Sufficient

Divine History

- **Evangelism – 1st 30-40 years ...**
- **Edification – Ac 2:42; 5:42...8:4! 9:31;
11:26...13:1; 15:35**
- **Benevolence – Ac 2:44-45, 4:32... 34;
11:27-30; 1 Co 16, 2 Co 8,9... Rom 15:26,28**

This Arrangement Divine And Sufficient

Trust in the Divine Plan!

- **Set aside Divine wisdom for human wisdom? **2Sam 8****
- **Apostasy ...**
 - ✦ ***2nd century ... Roman Catholicism***
 - ✦ ***19th century ... Disc. of Christ (Christian Church) - missionary society***
 - ✦ ***20th century ... sponsoring church & beyond***
 - ✦ ***21st century ... ???***