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Quality Characterized by Honesty

TWO MODELS OF THE CHURCH COMPARED AND THEIR PRODUCTS

CATEGORY OR ISSUE	TRADITIONAL MODEL	BIBLICAL MODEL
Concept of Church	Organization	Organism
Believers	"Members" (as in a club)	Disciples of Jesus Christ (members of the Body)
Involvement	Spectators (observing action)	Participants in the action, ministers
Head	The people	Jesus Christ
Authority	Constitution plus "proof texts"	The Whole Word of God
Government	Democracy (of and by the people)	Theocracy (of God via Word and Holy Spirit)
Selection of Leadership	Election	Appointment (depending on God to raise up gifted men and cause us to recognize them as leaders)
Basic Ministry	Conducting services	Equipping, meeting needs
Place of Ministry	Church building (at stated times)	Anywhere (all the time)
Primary Concern	Programs, things, buildings, etc.	God's glory, people
Objective	Build up the local church (club)	Build up the Body
Determining Factor	What the people WANT (peace at any price)	What the people NEED (according to the Word)
Great Commission	Get converts (addition)	Make disciples (multiplication)
Field	Our own area	The world
Purpose of Assembling	Entertainment, evangelism in the service	Stimulate to love and good deeds; encourage and equip the saints



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Emphasis	Meetings, setting and breaking records	God, individuals, families, quality plus quantity
Pastor-Teacher	Administrator, speaker, visitor, employee (belongs exclusively to this church)	Teacher, counselor, shepherd, equipper (belongs to body, works primarily with this assembly)
Attitude toward Pastor-Teacher	The “minister” (professional)	One of “many” ministers
Board	Administrators, decision makers, occupied with facilities, etc.	Multiplicity of leadership; unified; working together to equip the saints for ministry.
Resources	Human ingenuity, available funds, etc.	Word, prayer, H.S., spiritual gifts, and ministries
Methodology	What we’re used to, feel comfortable with	Whatever the situation demands as long as it is true to God’s Word and honors the Lord
Procedures	Beg, plead, cajole, etc. for workers	Trust God to raise gifted individuals (if HE isn’t interested; WE won’t be)
Leadership given to	Anyone willing	Faithful, available, teachable people
Finances	Needs dealt with only with available funds	Determine needs, then TRUST GOD to work through His people
Staff	Hired employees who carry out the policies set by the people through the Board	Associates for full-time involvement; a TEAM to assist in functioning of the Body
Salaries	Determined by “what I make” or “what I think” (staff viewed as employees hired by men)	Determined by biblical principles (e.g., 1 Tim. 5:17-18). Staff viewed as those sent by God to whom the assembly bears responsibility
Attitudes	Conditional acceptance	Unconditional acceptance
Ultimate Concern	Our church; what others think	Exalting Christ; what God says
Result	Rev. 3:1b Like the church at Sardis: you are alive, but you are dead	Eph. 4:11-16 Body built up to maturity functioning as God intends

The Two Products

Quite obviously the Biblical model leads to a healthy, ministering church whereas the traditional model leads to a sterile, ineffective church where the affliction of “spectatoritis,” the rust of institutionalism, and the self-indulgence of consumerism has all but reduced the church to invalid status. Rather than the picture of a well-trained soldier or athlete, the church today looks more like a patient dependent on a host of life support systems. This naturally leads us to what the church ought to be doing in the light of who it is.

