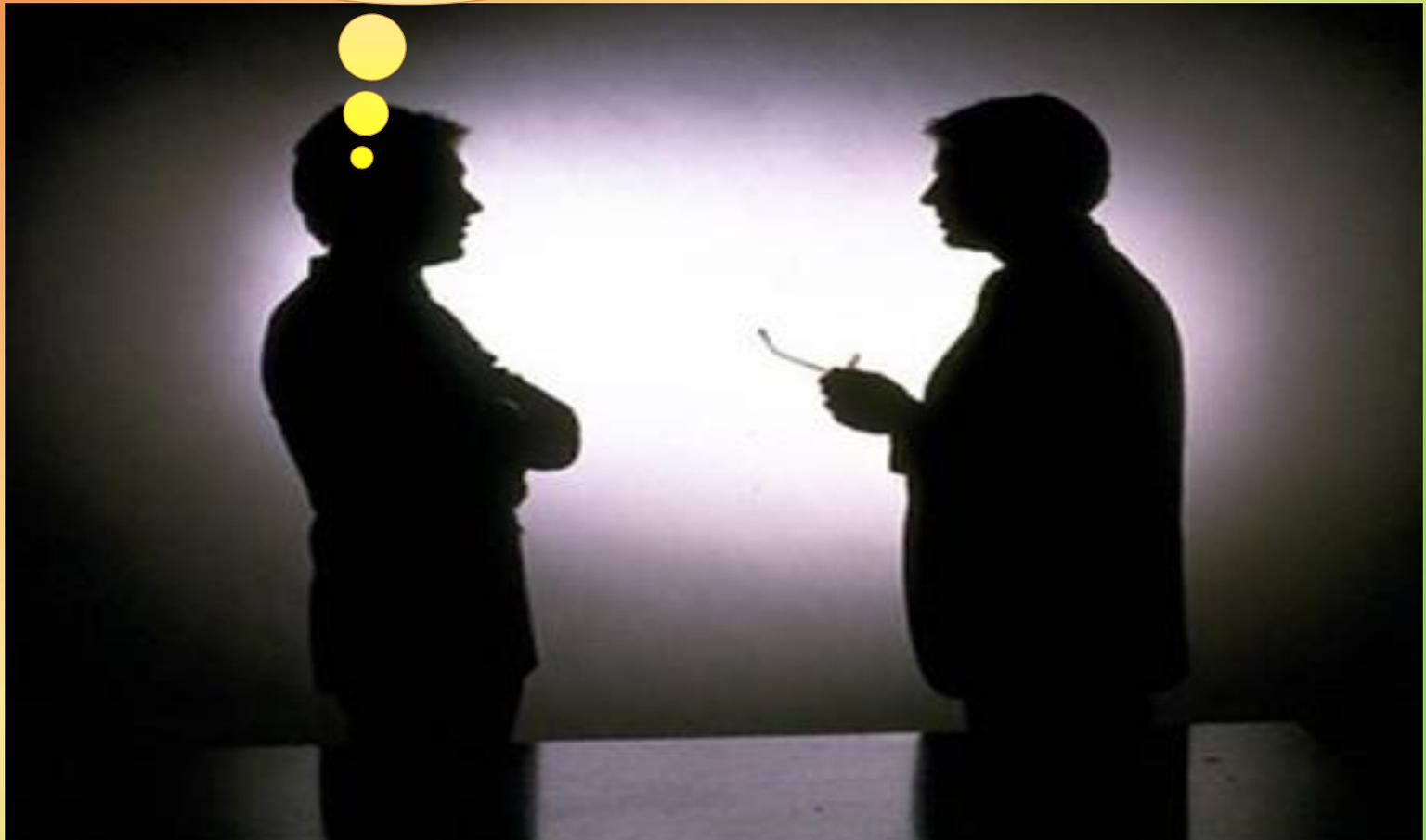
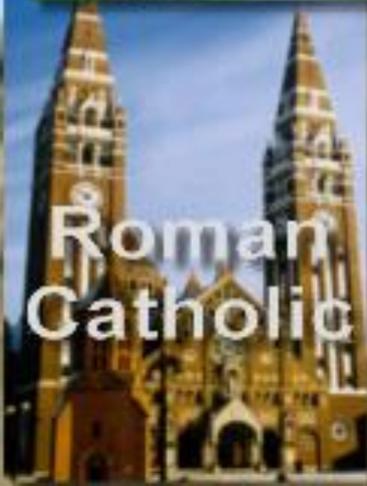
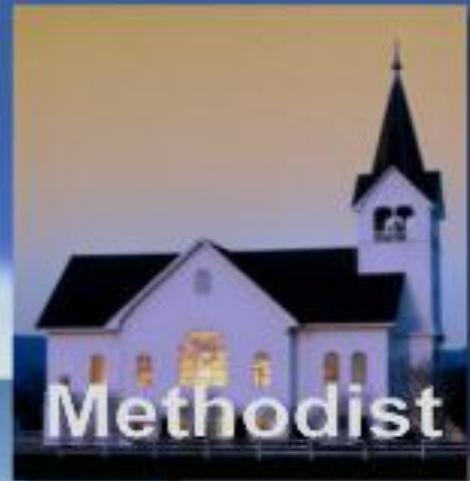
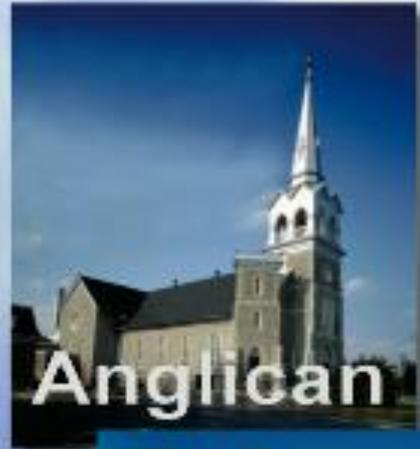


**WHERE DO I START? WHAT
CHURCH DO I ATTEND? DO I
ATTEND A CHURCH?**







• Matthew 16:18- 18
*I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I** WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*
NASU

• **Matthew 16:18**
(LBLA)
¹⁸ Yo también te digo que tú eres Pedro, y sobre esta roca EDIFICARÉ MI IGLESIA; y las puertas del Hades no prevalecerán contra ella.

- John 17:20-23 - 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ESV

- John 17:20-23 (LBLA) ²⁰ Mas no ruego sólo por éstos, sino también por los que han de creer en mí por la palabra de ellos, ²¹ para que todos sean uno. Como tú, oh Padre, estás en mí y yo en ti, que también ellos estén en nosotros, para que el mundo crea que tú me enviaste. ²² La gloria que me diste les he dado, para que sean uno, así como nosotros somos uno: ²³ yo en ellos, y tú en mí, para que sean perfeccionados en unidad, para que el mundo sepa que tú me enviaste, y que los amaste tal como me has amado a mí.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-10 *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.* NASU

- **1 Corinthians 1:10 (LBLA)**
¹⁰ Os ruego, hermanos, por el nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que todos os pongáis de acuerdo, y que no haya divisiones entre vosotros, sino que estéis enteramente unidos en un mismo sentir y en un mismo parecer.

- Ephesians 4:4-6 - *4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.* Holy Bible, New Living Translation

Ephesians 4:4-6 (LBLA)

4 Hay un solo cuerpo y un solo Espíritu, así como también vosotros fuisteis llamados en una misma esperanza de vuestra vocación;

5 un solo Señor, una sola fe, un solo bautismo,

6 un solo Dios y Padre de todos, que está sobre todos, por todos y en todos.

- Philippians 1:27
(NASB) *27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

Philippians 1:27

(LBLA)

27 Solamente

comportaos de una manera digna del evangelio de Cristo, de modo que ya sea que vaya a veros, o que permanezca ausente, pueda oír que vosotros estáis firmes en un mismo espíritu, luchando unánimes por la fe del evangelio;

• Philippians 2:1-2
(NASB) ¹

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2

(LBLA) ¹ *Por tanto, si hay algún estímulo en Cristo, si hay algún consuelo de amor, si hay alguna comunión del Espíritu, si algún afecto y compasión, ² haced completo mi gozo, siendo del mismo sentir, conservando el mismo amor, unidos en espíritu, dedicados a un mismo propósito.*

- Ephesians 4:3
(NASB) *3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- *Spoudazo* – to make haste; we would say today “Give it all you’ve got.” 110%.

Ephesians
4:3 (LBLA)
*3 esforzánd
oos por
preservar la
unidad del
Espíritu en
el vínculo de
la paz.*

Attend The Church of Your Choice • CITY OF AZUSA

JESUS IS LORD
C H U R C H

CHRISTIAN FAITH CENTER

CENTRO CRISTIANO FAMILIAR
CHRISTIAN FAMILY CENTER

JESUS IS ALIVE
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HOLY PLACE CHURCH

HOUSE OF THE NATIONS
MISSIONS BASE

CENTRO ESPERANZA

VILLAGE COVENANT
C H U R C H

FOOTHILL COMMUNITY
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
C H U R C H

ST. FRANCES OF ROME
CATHOLIC CHURCH

EMMANUEL
SOUTHERN BAPTIST

CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE

CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
C H U R C H

FAITH TEMPLE
C.O.G.C.

PRAISE CHAPEL
AZUSA

CHRISTBRIDGE
ACADEMY

 Creek
BAPTIST CHURCH



SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 AM

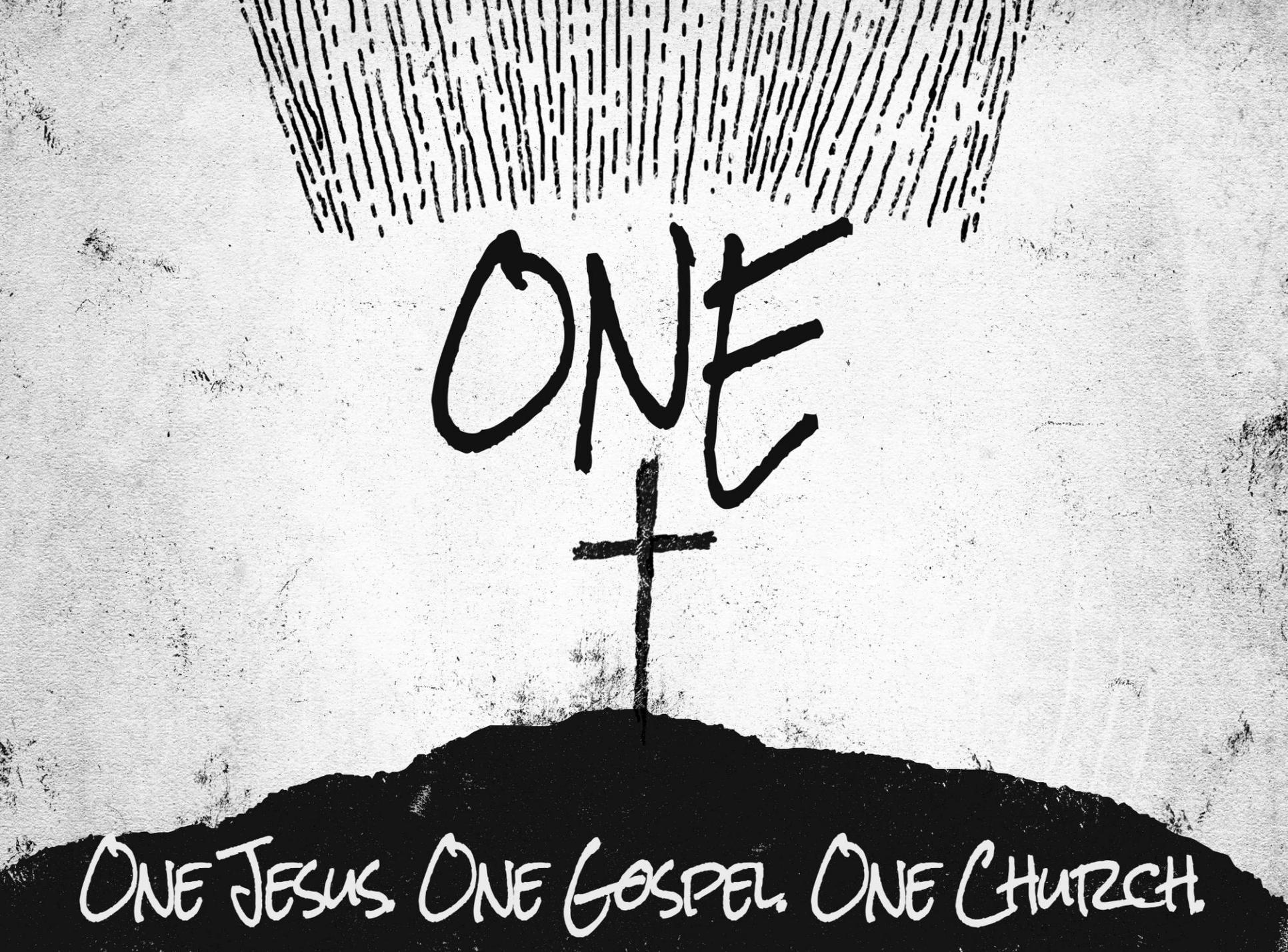
WORSHIP
10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

WED.
6:30 PM

PASTOR:



**HAVING TROUBLE
SLEEPING? TRY
ONE OF OUR SERMONS**

A hand-drawn illustration on a textured, light-colored background. At the top, a sunburst is depicted with numerous vertical, slightly wavy lines radiating downwards. Below the sunburst, the word "ONE" is written in large, bold, black, hand-drawn capital letters. A simple black cross is drawn below the word, with its vertical stem extending down to a dark, irregularly shaped silhouette representing a hill or ground. At the base of the hill, the words "ONE JESUS ONE GOSPEL ONE CHURCH" are written in white, hand-drawn capital letters.

ONE

ONE JESUS ONE GOSPEL ONE CHURCH

MEN CHOSE TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN WAYS AND ABANDONED GOD'S WORD.

- 1 Corinthians 1:11-17 (NASB) ¹¹ *For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.*

1 Corinthians 4:6 - I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.

ESV

**1 Corinthians 4:6
(LBLA) ⁶ Esto, hermanos, lo he aplicado en sentido figurado a mí mismo y a Apolos por amor a vosotros, para que en nosotros aprendáis a no sobrepasar lo que está escrito, para que ninguno de vosotros se vuelva arrogante a favor del uno contra el otro.**

- *Has Christ been divided?*
- *Paul was not crucified for you, was he?*
- *Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

John 4:1-2 (NASB)

¹ Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were)

THE BIBLE PROPHESIED THE “FALLING AWAY” OR APOSTASY WOULD COME.

- **PAUL WARNED US ABOUT IT - Acts 20:27-31 (NASB) *"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.***

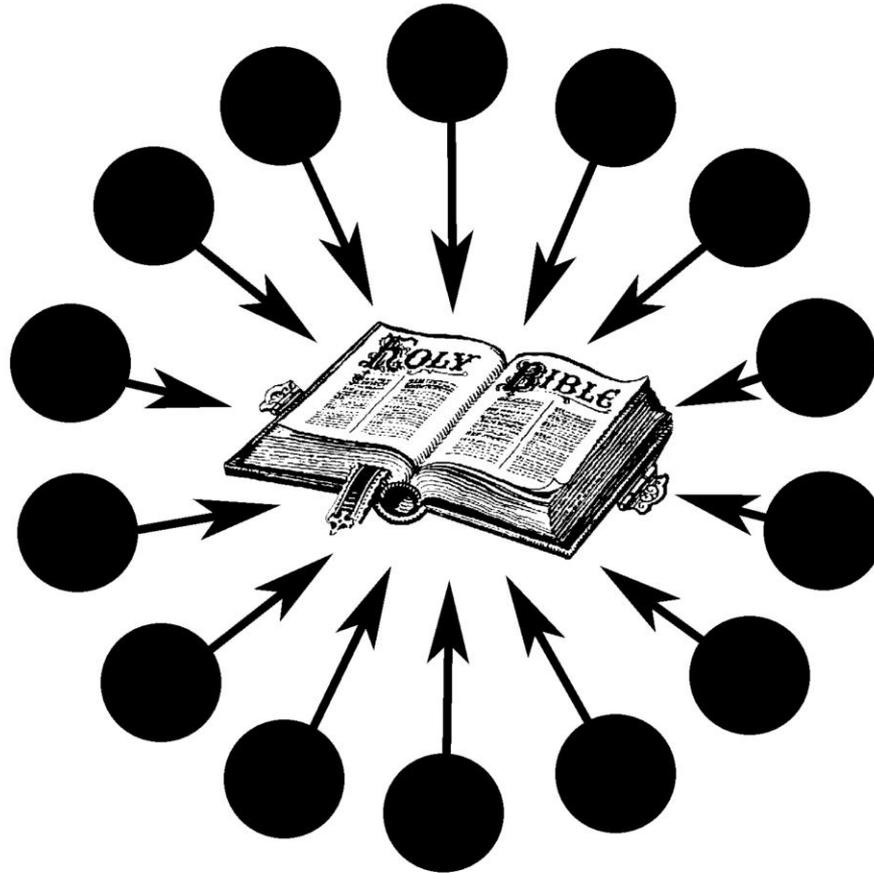
Acts 20:27-31 (LBLA) ²⁷ pues no rehuí declarar a vosotros todo el propósito de Dios. ²⁸ Tened cuidado de vosotros y de toda la grey, en medio de la cual el Espíritu Santo os ha hecho obispos para pastorear la iglesia de Dios, la cual El compró con su propia sangre. ²⁹ Sé que después de mi partida, vendrán lobos feroces entre vosotros que no perdonarán el rebaño, ³⁰ y que de entre vosotros mismos se levantarán algunos hablando cosas perversas para arrastrar a los discípulos tras ellos. ³¹ Por tanto, estad alerta, recordando que por tres años, de noche y de día, no cesé de amonestar a cada uno con lágrimas.

"SAVAGE WOLVES"



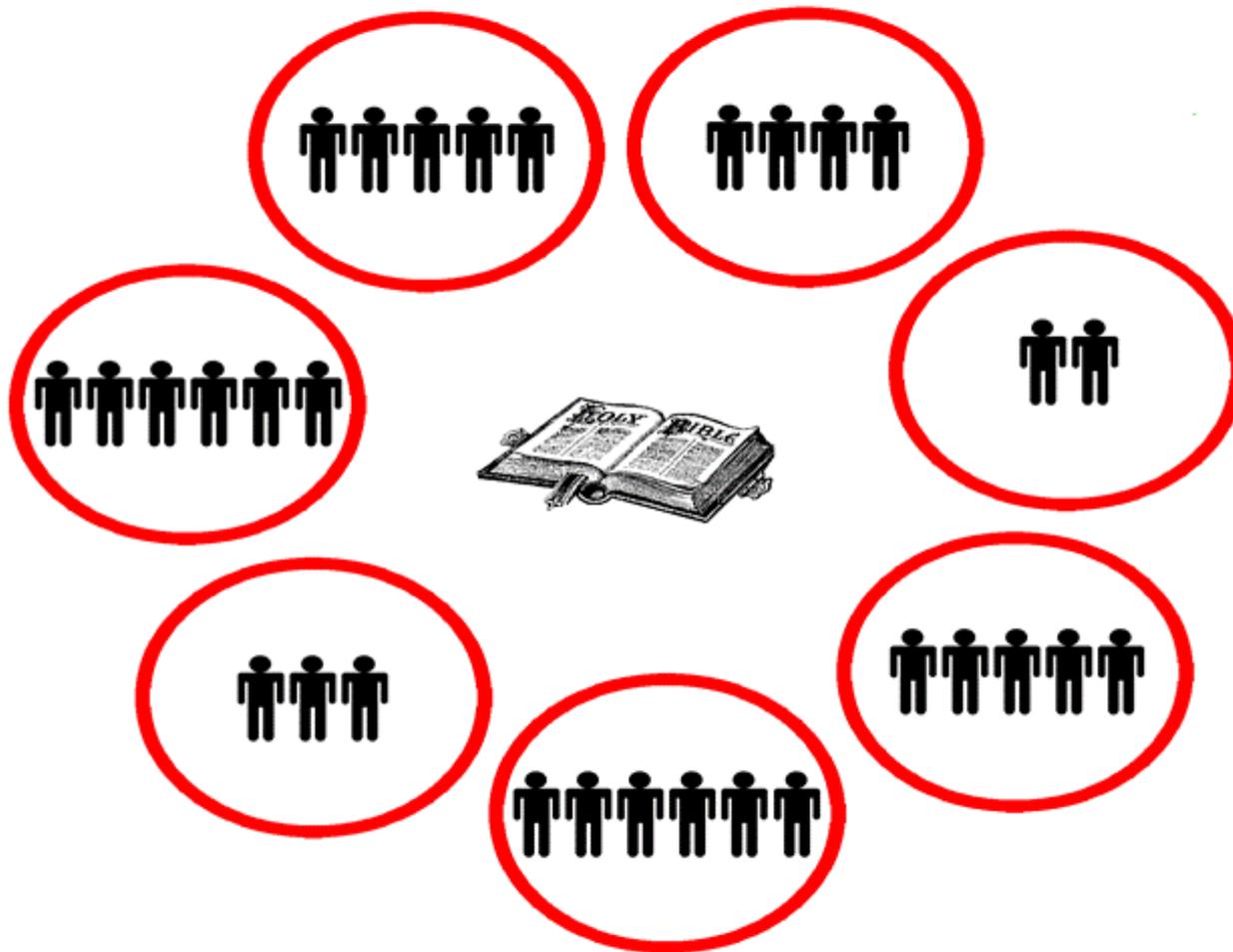
from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Organization of the Church as Revealed in the Bible

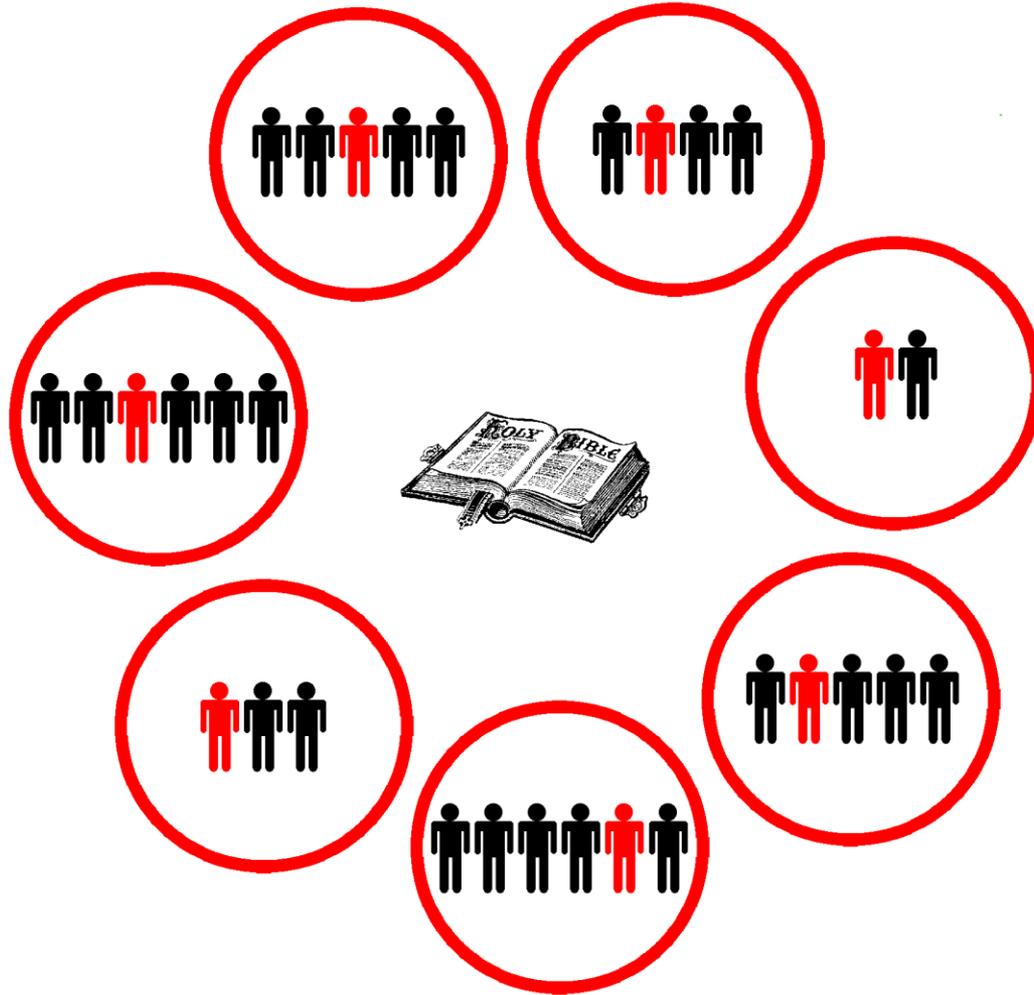


1. Christ is head of every local church.
2. The Bible is the only written creed for each local church.
3. Each local church is autonomous and self-governing.
4. No organizational tie between local churches.
5. No organization larger than local churches.
6. Local churches appoint their own plurality of elders.

Organization of the Local Church as Revealed in the Bible and Witnessed by History 33-150 AD



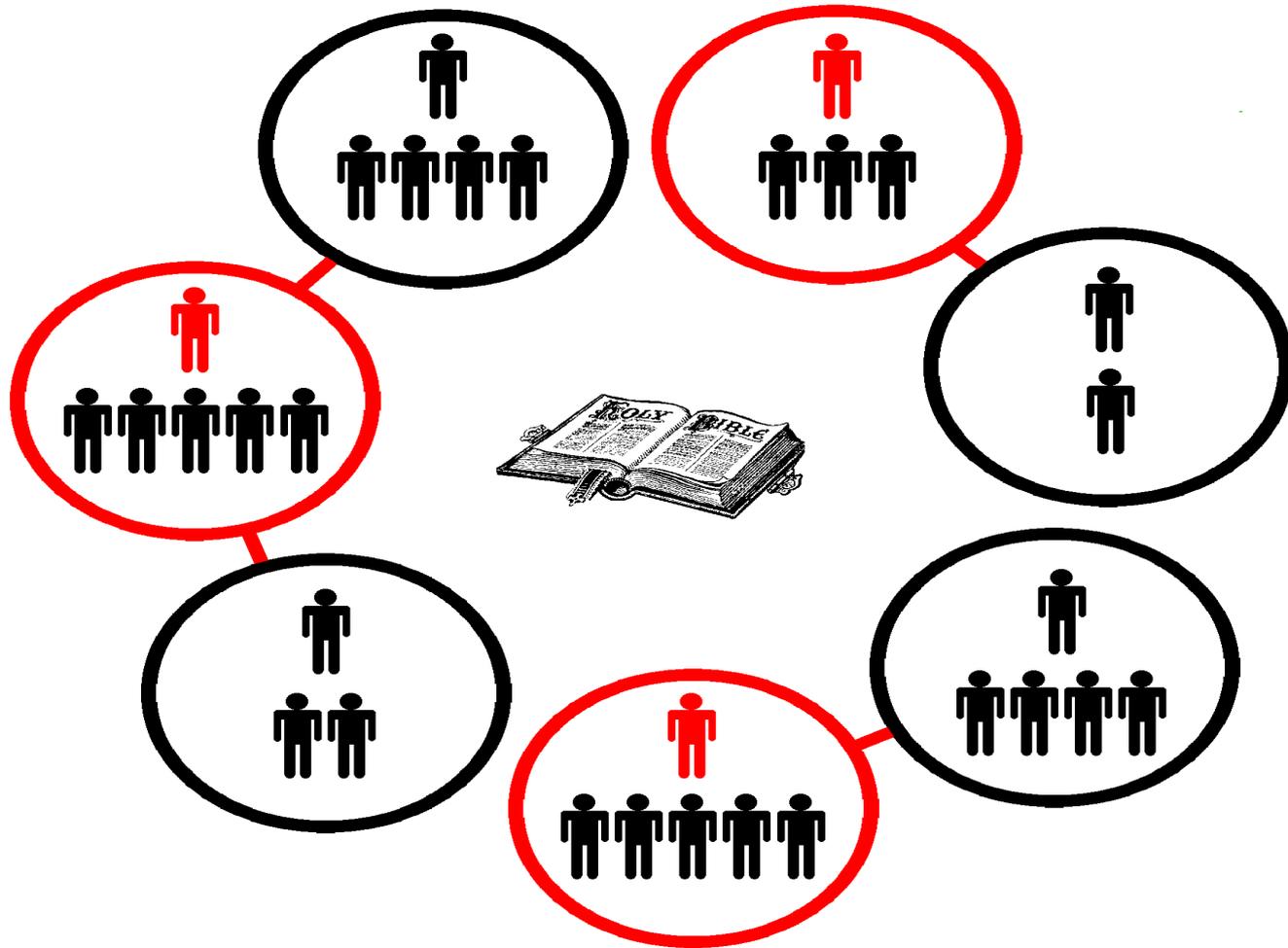
Organization of the Local Church 150 AD "The Exalted Elder of the Eldership"



Organization of the Local Church

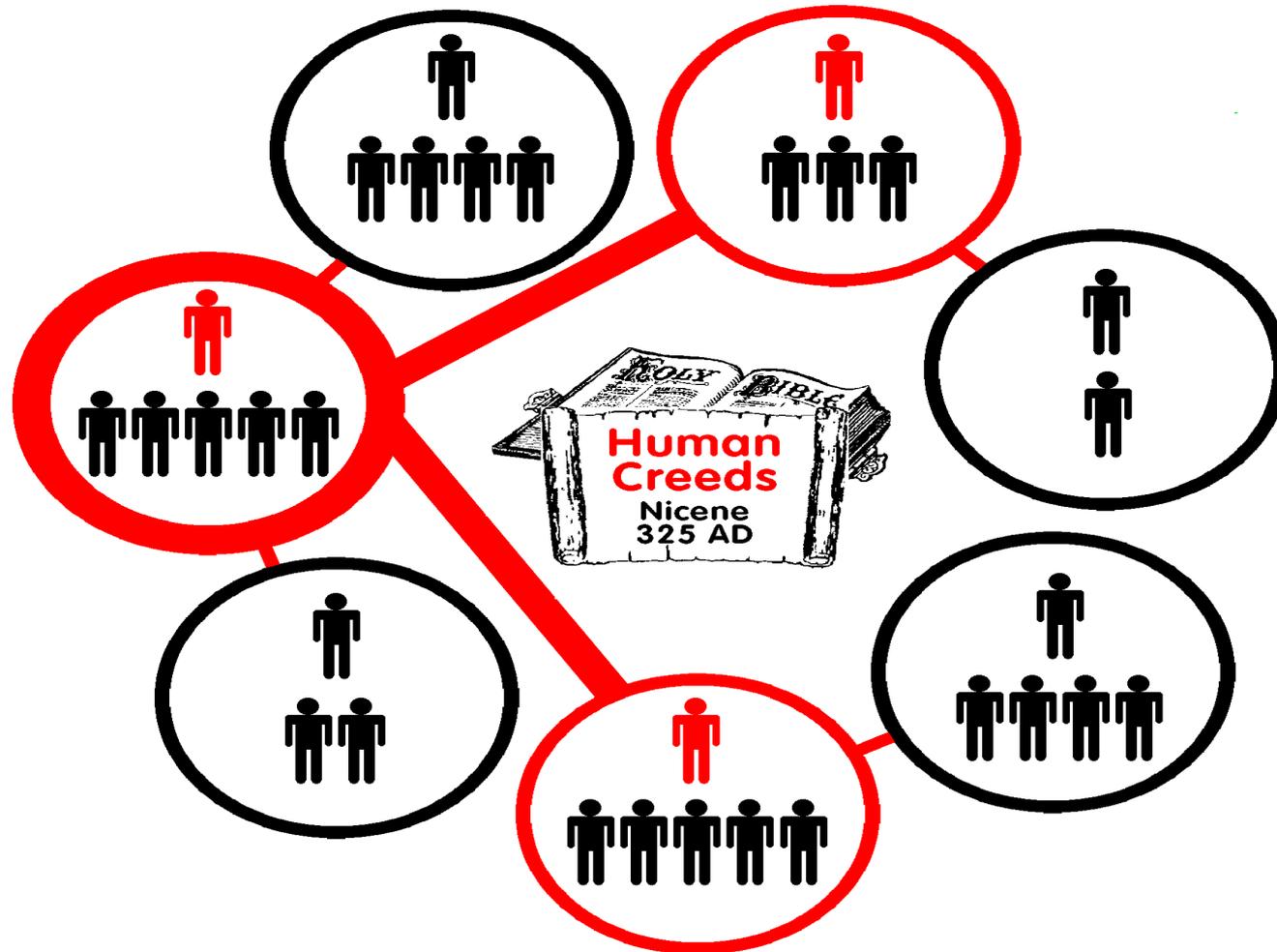
250 AD

"One Diocesan Bishop over Churches"



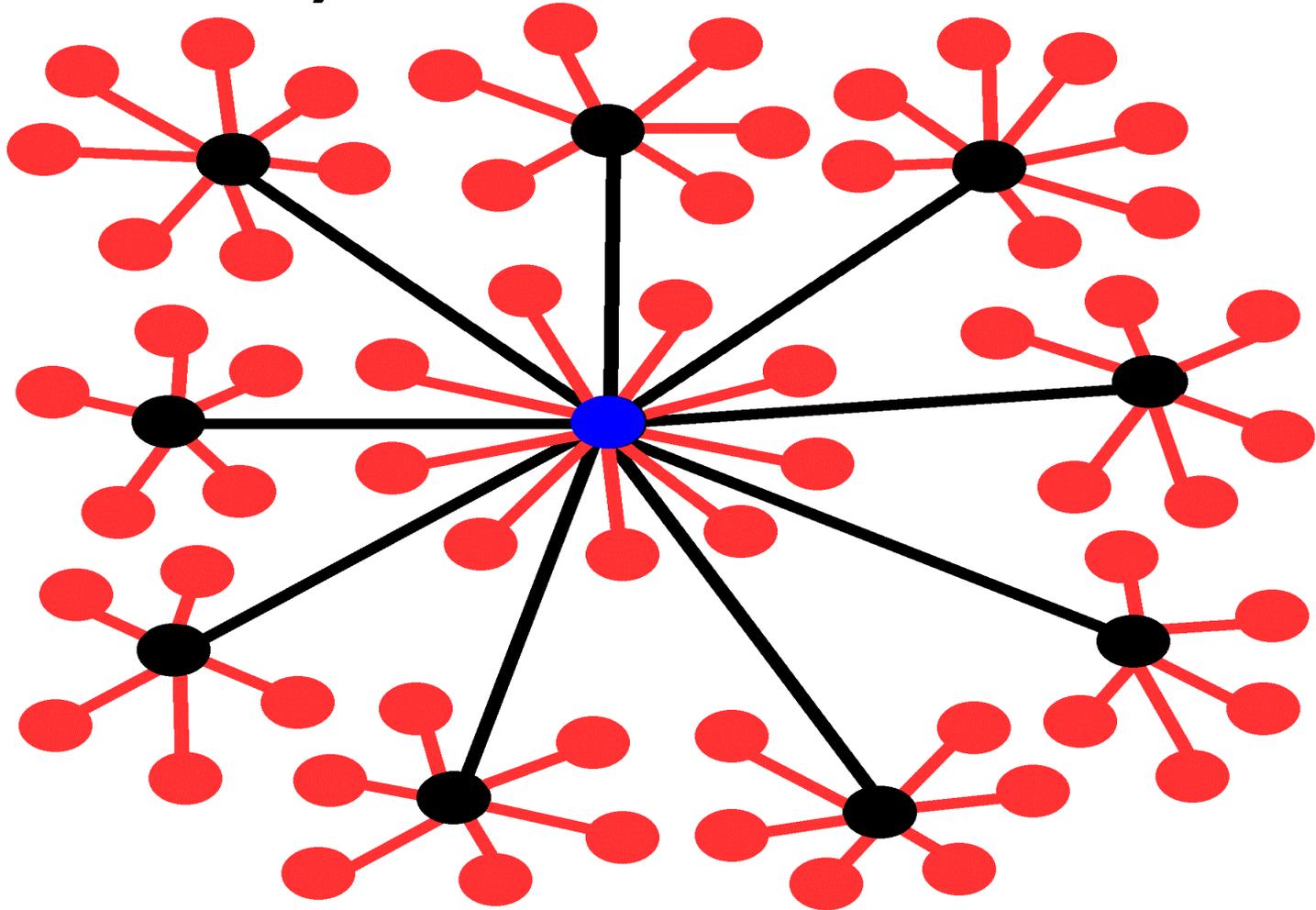
Organization of the Local Church 300 AD

"One Metropolitan over Diocesan Bishops"



"Let the ancient customs in Egypt, Libya and Pentapolis prevail, that the Bishop of Alexandria have jurisdiction in all these, since the like is customary for the Bishop of Rome also. Likewise in Antioch and the other provinces, let the Churches retain their privileges. (The First Ecumenical Council of Nice, Canon VI, 325 AD)

Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church



World head + Diocese head + Local parish
(Rome)

Diocese head + local parish (2946)

Local parish (219,583)

By 150 A.D., there was a distinction made between **bishops** and **presbyters**.

- Irenaeus became bishop of Lyons in 177 A.D. and was the first to publish a list of bishops.
- In 190 A.D., Victor of Rome claimed to be "universal bishop," but he was ignored by other churches.
- Cyprian of Carthage (195-268) was the next one to exalt himself above other elders. By the close of the third century, each congregation of any size had a bishop as its head with a group of elders under him. The bishops of **Rome, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and Constantinople** received special recognition and power.

- They adopted a practice not taught in the New Testament of appointing a bishop over a group of churches. Then a city. Then a region.
- Eventually, this unscriptural group appointed a “**bishop**” to be the head of the universal church. History tells us of the appointment of the first “Pope” (Papa or Father) as universal ruler of the church around 600 AD.

- 1 Timothy 4:1-3 - *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. NASU*

- 2 Timothy 4:1-4 - *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. NASU*

- ***"depart from the faith"***
- ***"fall away from the faith".***
- They were going to give heed to ***"deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."***
- They were going to lead people astray by means of ***"the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."***

- **Cyprian** thought it was necessary for those who wanted to be elders to be completely devoted to the church and not to a family. So he order that bishops were to be unmarried. Again this didn't become a widely accepted practice until the fifth century.
- 1 Timothy 3:2 (NASB) ² *An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,*
...
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (NASB) ⁴ *He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity* ⁵ *(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),*

Peter warned of false teachers to come –

2 Peter 2:1-2 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; NASU

2 Peter 2:1-2 (LBLA) ¹ Pero se levantaron falsos profetas entre el pueblo, así como habrá también falsos maestros entre vosotros, los cuales encubiertamente introducirán herejías destructoras, negando incluso al Señor que los compró, trayendo sobre sí una destrucción repentina. ² Muchos seguirán su sensualidad, y por causa de ellos, el camino de la verdad será blasfemado;

John 17:21-
*that they may all
be one; even as
You, Father, are
in Me and I in
You, that they
also may be in Us,
so that the world
may believe that
You sent Me.*

NASU

John 17:21 (LBLA)
*²¹ para que
todos sean uno.
Como tú, oh
Padre, estás en
mí y yo en ti, que
también ellos
estén en
nosotros, para
que el mundo
crea que tú me
enviaste.*

• Jude 1:3-4 (NIV)

³ *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.* ⁴ *For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*

Jude 1:3-4 (LBLA) ³ *Amados, por el gran empeño que tenía en escribiros acerca de nuestra común salvación, he sentido la necesidad de escribiros exhortándoos a contender ardientemente por la fe que de una vez para siempre fue entregada a los santos.* ⁴ *Pues algunos hombres se han infiltrado encubiertamente, los cuales desde mucho antes estaban marcados para esta condenación, impíos que convierten la gracia de nuestro Dios en libertinaje, y niegan a nuestro único Soberano y Señor, Jesucristo.*

Matthew 7:21-23 (HCSB)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but [only] the one who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?’

²³ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!’

• **Luke 6:46**
(Darby)

*And why call
ye me, Lord,
Lord, and do
not the things
that I say?*

• **Luke 6:46**
(LBLA)

*46 ¿Y por qué
me llamáis:
“Señor, Señor”,
y no hacéis lo
que yo digo?*

- John warned of "***antichrists***" who had come – 1 John 2:18-19 - **18**
Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. NASU

Who is the **ANTI-CHRIST**?

- 1 John 2:21-22 - *22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. NASU*
- 1 John 4:3-4 - *and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. NASU*
- 2 John 7 - *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. NASU*

OUR LORD WARNED US

- Matthew 7:15- *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.* NASU
- Before the canon of the New Testament was completed, the seeds of the apostasy were being sown; BEFORE THE FIRST CENTURY ENDED ... it was already BEGINNING.

This is a sensitive matter.

- 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NASB) ²⁴ *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,* ²⁵ *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,* ²⁶ *and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

- *“They are not of us”.*
- *“Depart from me you workers of iniquity I never knew you.”*
- *“Lord, Lord”. But they do not do and will not “do the Father’s will.”*
- **IN OUR QUEST FOR DOCTRINAL PURITY, THERE MUST ALSO BE A PASSION FOR THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY...**