

Changing Jesus' Church
Matt. 16:16, 18

Changing Jesus' Church

- **Organization**

- *Worship**

- **Singing** – Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16

- (Instruments?)**

- **Teaching** – Acts 20:6-7 (“Boring” sermons? Story-telling, joke-filled?)

- **Prayer** – Acts 4:24ff (Sensational, provocative?)

- **Lord's Supper** – I Cor. 11:30 (not important, too ritualistic?)

- **Contribution** – I Cor. 16:1-2 (Sent around often, pressure applied?)

Changing Jesus' Church

- **Organization**
 - Each congregation of God's people is **independent and autonomous** – not freedom to choose how to worship, still **bound to the Word**
 - No “headquarters” or hierarchy, chief bishops or popes found in the NT
 - Only **elders and deacons** within each local church (1 Tim. 3)
- ***Leadership**

Changing Jesus' Church

- **Organization** ***Money**
 - **No example of orphan's homes or other benevolent efforts within communities**
 - **Acts 3:6 vs. 2:44-45**
 - **Church is authorized to help brethren in need only – is not authorized to use God's money in any other benevolent effort –**
1 Cor. 16:1-2

Changing Jesus' Church

- **Organization**

- *Money**

- **Focused purpose** for which God's money can be used – in teaching God's Word and providing the means for the saints to worship (expedients)

- **No example of fellowship halls, gyms, or other "social" efforts – these do nothing for the benefit of the spirit – I Cor. 11:22, Rom. 14:17; John 4:23-24**

- **Distinctive difference between what brethren can do as people and the church can do as an organized entity – I Tim. 5:16**

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Matt. 7:21-23, Lev. 10:1-2