Church Activities

Eph. 4:11-16

Introduction:
A. The church is a special arrangement.
   2. Special plan. (Eph. 3:10,11).
   3. Special care. (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor 12:18).
B. The church is restricted in its activities.

Discussion:
I. The Activities Of The Church Are Restricted By Divine Authority.
   A. God requires positive authority for religious activity. (cf. Lev. 10:1; Matt. 15:9,13).
   B. All divine authority is recorded in the Scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18, 19).
   C. Divine authority (God’s will) is ascertained in three ways:
      1. Statements or commands. (cf. Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 11:25).
      2. Examples. (Phil. 4:9; Acts 20:7).
   D. Divine authority is both inclusive and exclusive.
      1. Like a child told, “Go buy a dozen apples.”
      2. Like God’s command to Abraham (Gen. 22:1-3).
      3. “Go preach”; “Singing...”; “Baptize”; “Assembling.”

II. The Activities Of The Church Are Restricted To Local Organization.
   A. Church spoken of in universal and local senses. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:1).
      1. Universal church never acts as a unit.
      2. Local church is organization - functions as unit.
   B. Local churches cooperated in N.T.
      1. Acted concurrently toward common work.
      2. Never acted jointly -- No machinery to tie them together.

III. The Activities Of The Church Are Centered Around Saints.
   A. Making Saints. (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Phil. 4:15-17).
   B. Edifying Saints. (Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 14:13-17; 14:26)
      1. By instruction.
      2. By meeting for worship.
   C. Disciplining Saints. (1 Cor. 5).
   D. Relieving Saints. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; cf. 9:13).

IV. The Activities Of The Church Are Different From Individual Activities.
   A. Individual activity and church activities are not same. (1 Tim. 5:16).
      2. Difference in how raise revenue. (Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 16:2).
   B. Individual functions in various arrangements in the world. (cf. 1 Cor. 7:31).
      2. Church is spiritual institution, does operate in all realms of individual Christians.

Conclusion:
1. Church is special organization with special activities - Let's keep it so.
2. The church is not political, social nor humanitarian organization - leave for other institutions to do.