

A Review of Pyramid Doctrine

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Preface

This is a story about God's people, whether Israelite or Christian. They slave in Egypt in exchange for a false financial security. They wheel and deal "for the Kingdom of God" in Babylon. Both are controlled by Money. Jesus said it best. Either we serve God, or we obey Mammon.

I stand back and take a look at religion, recorded in history and prophesied for the future, and use these as a frame of reference to explain our present-time. We shall see from whence we came, and where we are going.

It is wise not to assume that the present generation has risen above the forefathers or the children to be. I hope the reader can relate to what the Bible tells us, not only in direct text, but also in the parables left behind as the story of Israel and the Church.

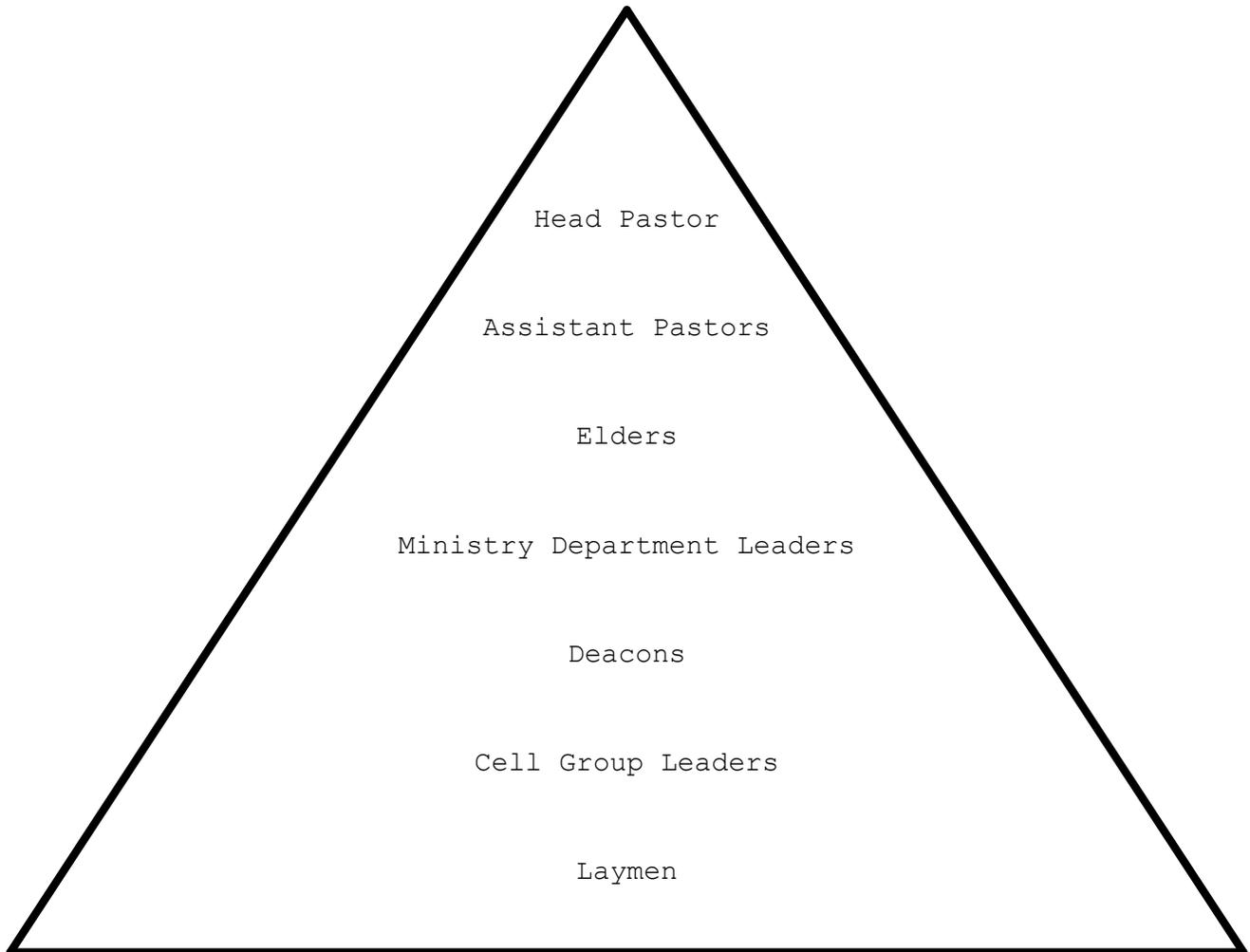
*1 Corinthians 3:10-15: Using the grace God gave me, I laid a foundation, like a skilled master-builder; and another man is building on it. But let each one be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Yeshua the Messiah. **Some will use gold, silver or precious stones in building on this foundation; while others will use wood, grass or straw.** But each one's work will be shown for what it is; the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire – the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If the work someone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward; if it is burned up, he will have to bear the loss: he will still escape with his life, but it will be like escaping through a fire.*

Suppose we were to line up all those claiming to be laboring for the Kingdom and ask if they were building with gold, silver and precious stones, or alternatively with wood, grass and straw. Being aware of human nature, we are warranted in fully expecting that every one of the questioned without exception would reply that they were most assuredly building with gold and the like. Statistically we know, however, that this is simply not the case. There will be some working with wood. Not only that, they will be selling their straw at precious stone prices.

Do not be deceived. The fact is, some give their spiritual labors a different assessment than what God will give them. We must open our eyes to this reality. God has a different standard. He has different expectations. He is God, this is His right. We must exercise discernment when throwing our hand to the till. Are we helping others erect wooden constructions with palm thatched roofs, or are we taking part in the structure of the temple according to heavenly design? Or perhaps we are building huge monuments for future generations to observe and bewonder – the pyramids.

The Model

Here we show a model of the church as it is typically organized today. There may be some minor changes here and there for any particular case, but these do not detract from the points made in this document.



The number of persons on each level decreases as one climbs the pyramid structure. Depending on the size of the church, one or more of the levels will not exist. Periodically, elders will be above the pastors.

This structure is in complete disagreement with the family view portrayed by Jesus, the Lord, for the Church. Jesus said that we are all brothers and sisters, and therefore are all on the same level, none higher than the others. This is godly order, as opposed to the chaos initiated by the pyramid structure shown above.

brother - sister - brother - sister - brother - sister
or alternatively
son of God - son of God - son of God - son of God - son of God

The pyramid structure is an invention of religion. Every religion has it. But Christianity is not a religion. How is it that religious forms have infiltrated the church?

The pyramid structure is one of coercion, one of control, one of manipulation and violence. Since the devil is not omnipresent, he must rely on pyramid schemes to keep things under control. Where the Holy Spirit can work upon all believers simultaneously, and therefore has no need for pyramid command structures, the devil must handle his sheep differently. The devil would like to influence just one person, and have that one person steer the rest.

The first appearance of the pyramid structure came with Constantine. Realizing that annihilating the Church was impossible, he decided to co-op it. Mixing Christianity with every other religion under the sun, he effectively destroyed it. Out of this intermingling arose the Catholic Church, which is organized like a civil government, as opposed to the heavenly family. The pyramid structure is the result.

When Martin Luther promoted his theses questioning the doctrine of the Catholic Empire, a splinter branch sprouted. But he never questioned the command structure of the pyramid - at least not publicly or effectively. All other denominations and movements (including the independent ones) have followed suit. Some highly intelligent member of the group discovers that doctrine XYZ is incorrect. After perceiving that the internal friction is so great disallowing a correction of the doctrine, he decides to start his own splinter group. At first, his splinter group is described as a sect and so-forth, but once established, it is then accepted as legitimate.

Of all the corrected doctrines over the past few centuries, one lie has been left untouched. This is the doctrine of the pyramid structure. And when we consider *all* the false doctrines, one understands that the false doctrines have one goal - to justify the pyramid structure, and expand its power. This document exposes these schemes.



The pyramid does not end with the local church, but continues to grow unbounded save the confines imposed by planet earth. There are highly negative consequences to forming pyramids as command structures as

opposed to living as Christ and His apostles instructed us. The thoughts here will be expanded in the following pages, but are listed at this juncture for a quick introduction into the gravity of the situation.

The most important alteration from the divine order is that instead of Jesus (represented by the Holy Spirit) as the Head of the Church, we have the Head Pastor as the Head of the church. This has very grave and far-reaching side effects:

- (1) When the Holy Spirit begins to anoint the non-pastors for His work, the pastor sees it as a challenge to his authority, for the chosen person is de facto exercising authority in the anointing - and God demands submission to his anointed. The pastor then, feeling his control slipping through his fingers, "crushes the rebellion". In this way, the leading and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are almost entirely annulled.
- (2) If the anointing and gifts are tolerated, then only to the extent that they are used as trophies promoting and proving the "spirituality" of the church, and showing what good oversight services the leadership is providing.
- (3) In the pyramid system, spiritual authority is delegated. This means that all authority trickles down from the President of the World Level down to the House Group Leaders in the local congregations. The consequence is the following: the authority is always dependent upon the good graces of the delegator. The person then is not dependent upon the leading of the Holy Spirit, but rather the leading of man.
- (4) This structure is like a motor running with only one cylinder. As one can imagine, not much power comes out of it. The Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Evangelists, Givers, Elders, Administrators, etc. have no place in the church. Their godly input is considered disturbing for the Head Pastor, for it is. It perturbs his place as "king of the church". The sheep, who depend on all of the gifts, are literally starved to death, or at best, kept weak and sickly.
- (5) The one person dominator role at the head of the pyramid requires false submission, and with that false authority.
- (6) False authorities will not be financed by God, and therefore the money has to flow via manipulation.
- (7) The sheep has no direct line to God, the Father. The sheep is held at the mercy of the guru, the head pastor. This is supposed to mean that without the leading of the guru, one cannot please God. But the bible tells us the contrary, "The sons of God are lead by the Spirit of God." Romans 8:14.

(8) The pyramid is a command system, while the Church is a family.

Life in Egypt

Exodus 3:16-18 "Go and bring together the elders of Israel and tell them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, appeared to me—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—saying, "I have attended carefully to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt, and I have promised that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" "The elders will listen to you, and then you and the elders of Israel must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'

God commands Moses to speak to the elders of Israel, "Pack your bags, we are headed for the promised land". But Moses is only to tell the Pharaoh that "the God of Israel desires that Israel take a 3 day journey into the wilderness to make a sacrifice". The king of Egypt did not receive the full briefing.

It is very important to notice that God demands that the house of Israel must leave the presence of the Egyptians before they can serve Him. One can either serve Adonai, or Pharaoh. And likewise, one is making a sacrifice either to Adonai, or to Pharaoh, but not both.

Exodus 20:2 "I am ADONAI your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery."

The 10 commandments listed in Exodus 20:2-17 are widely familiar verses. The verse preceding the first commandment is extremely revealing. He wants us to understand something about Himself - He is the emancipation from slavery! No other title does God use for Himself more than this one - "I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery". Throughout the entire Original Testament, God reminds the hearers that He is the God who (1) brought Israel out of Egypt and (2) delivered her from the bondage of slavery. By far this act by Adonai is more impressed on the psyche of Israel than any other. This is the first and most foundational, historically speaking, occurrence as a nation, upon which everything else draws its existence.

Notice that the 10 commandments were given after the nation was freed. It would be squandering precious time for God to explain His will previous to the peoples becoming free for a variety of reasons.

- (1) One can only serve one master - Adonai or Pharaoh. Remember, they told Pharaoh that they had to leave *in order to serve Adonai*.
- (2) Building on (1), it is only possible to comply with the law of one master at any given time.

(3) Furthermore, it is only possible to fulfill the law of one master, if and only if he is freed from the bondage to foreign masters.

The pharaoh pretended to be a god, the son of a god, or to be on his way to becoming a god. In every case, he claimed (1) to have a direct line to God, (2) disobeying him was disobeying God and (3) the only way to serve God was to serve him. And to keep the pharaoh on the throne, public policy was that only he knew what God's will was for the people. No questions to ask, just obey. The priests existence was to teach these "truths". Things have not changed much.

The main obstacle between you and fulfilling your calling is slavery. If you are enslaved, you serve a foreign master.

There are 3 degrees of slavery.

(1) One has no clue that he is a slave.

(2) One knows he is a slave, but he has no idea that he has no business being a slave.

(3) One knows he should not be a slave, but he cannot break free.

The first step to becoming free is becoming disgusted with your circumstance. Exodus 3:6-9 shows us that God (1) saw the oppression and (2) heard their cry. Unless you request assistance, none will come.

The pharaohs don't come without tell-tale markings. The pharaoh alleged that he were God, or God's son, or at least God's Chosen One. No matter, the conclusion was all the same, "If you want to obey God, you have to obey me" and likewise "Disobeying me is disobedience to God". Not obeying was severely punished. If the promised curses direct from the gods did not come as advertised, a whip to the back or a sword in the gut was coercion enough.

Today things are not much different, whether you have Egyptian sand in your sandals or not. Strange teachings circulate saying, "You can only serve (be obedient to) God, if you are serving (be obedient to) me". Furthermore, "If you serve me really well, at some point you will be able to serve God directly". The goal of all this nonsense is to keep you serving the pharaoh as opposed to serving God. And apparently the trick works, for it is used world-wide today.

Exodus 3:19 I know that the king of Egypt will not let you leave unless he is forced to do so.

Slave drivers don't give up their slaves for free. They profit from "slave labor"; for it is their just position as slave master to obtain free labor. The Pharaoh could never have built those pyramids by being just, so he turned to manipulation.

To understand the pyramid structure, let us turn our attention to the pyramids of Egypt. It should not be forgotten that the pyramids were the gravestones for the kings. Adonai's people were literally building houses for the dead, instead of housings for the Living God. This is a massive waste of resources - such is manipulative policy.

Even though the pyramids were ultimately symbols of death, they were sold to the deceived public as houses of eternal life. It was supposed that the pharaoh would live forever, with all of his most prized belongings - gold, silver, food, women, art, etc. Apparently, those things of earth, these fleshly desires, were to satisfy the pharaoh in the afterlife. A fake eternal life is the theme here.

Furthermore, the Egyptians and the Aztecs used the pyramids as places of worship. Idolatry to be exact; false gods and all the rest. Witchcraft ran rampant, and there is a reason for this. Witchcraft is a necessary ingredient in running pyramid structures. No witchcraft, no pyramid.

But in the end, God has promised not only to put His thumb down on the slave driver till he capitulates, but also that Israel would plunder him - return pay with interest we presume.

Exodus 18:11 Now I know that ADONAI is greater than all other gods, because he rescued those who were treated so arrogantly."

Through the liberation, Moses' father-in-law recognizes that Adonai wishes to free us from those treating us arrogantly. It happened then, it happens now. It is important to God that his people become free from foreign masters. Indeed, the first commandment deals with this point. Christians in bondage don't provide much of a testimony. Incidentally, the 11th command deals with the treatment of slaves, and guarantees their freedom, if the slave wants it.

Egypt is the land where the pyramids were built. In the Bible, Egypt stands for false security in the economic and military sense.

Exodus 16:3 The people of Israel said to them, "We wish ADONAI had used his own hand to kill us off in Egypt! There we used to sit around the pots with the meat boiling, and we had as much food as we wanted. But you have taken us out into this desert to let this whole assembly starve to death!"

Numbers 11:18 "Tell the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you will eat meat; because you cried in the ears of ADONAI, "If only we had meat to eat! We had the good life in Egypt!" All right, ADONAI is going to give you meat, and you will eat it.

Ezekiel 17:17 Pharaoh with his mighty army and numerous troops will give him no help in the war, when they raise siege-works and build fortified towers to destroy many people;

Getting out, staying far from, and not relying on Egypt proves very difficult. Christians, for the most part, simply do not want to leave, just like the children of Jacob. Even after Christians discover that the establishment is not their home, they stay. Life is too comfortable in the dunes of Egypt.

The lure is simple: security, safety. These are baits to hook and capture the victim.

Pyramid Doctrine

Every pyramid has a pharaoh at the top. He claims to be the chosen one to lead God's people to where ever God is going. Pastors assume the role as the center of the church and of individual spiritual growth. We have a fixation toward the center as opposed to outward. The fixation is on one person. Simply put, we are discussing the hijacking of the church by the Pastor. To this end, he must develop a set of teachings to justify his being pilot, engineer, navigator on the plane, and air traffic controller on the ground, all at once.

Most, if not all, false teachings revolve around justifying and expanding the power structure of the pyramid. We will look at these, sometimes in excruciating detail.

If one wants to know about how to build pyramids, one might wish to read a very good handbook on this topic, "The Purpose Driven Church" by author Rick Warren.

Moses, the God of Aaron

Exodus 4:15-16 You will speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and his, teaching you both what to do. Thus he will be your spokesman to the people, in effect; for you, he will be a mouth; and for him, you will be like God.

This has the appearance of one being the boss of the other. But more so, even like God. Pyramid philosophers love that phrase. One should note, however, that this is *plan B*.

Exodus 4:10-14 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not an eloquent man, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." The LORD said to him, "Who gave a mouth to man, or who makes a person mute or deaf or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? So now go, and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what you must say." But Moses said, "O my Lord, please send anyone else whom you wish to send!" Then the LORD became angry with Moses, and he said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak very well. Moreover, he is coming to meet you, and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart.

Exodus 6:30 - 7:2 Moses answered ADONAI, "Look, I'm such a poor speaker that Pharaoh won't listen to me." But ADONAI said to Moses, "I have put you in the place of God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your

prophet. You are to say everything I order you, and Aaron your brother is to speak to Pharaoh and tell him to let the people of Israel leave his land.

If this be a pyramid relationship, we know that this is not God's first choice. So why should we strive after it? This prophet-god order of things came *after* Moses has his eyes on his own alleged shortcomings. Furthermore, the prophet-god show was how they were to present themselves to *Pharaoh*. There is no indication that this is the way they were to interact with each other as God's people. It was, in effect, a game for the king of Egypt in a plan to leave that place of slavery.

Yitro's Advice

Exodus 18:13-27

This particular passage serves as the foundational argumentation to justify the current pyramid structure. For it is biblical! One will repeatedly see the theme describing the rumored proper authority structure having those over 1000, 100, 50 and 10. The bountiful literature discusses the respectable way to build and expand the size of the Church. The pyramid consultants opportunely gloss over one minor catch in the story.

This structure is not a means of growing into the fulness of Christ as in Ephesians chapter four, but rather as an *organization of justice* - that is, settling civil disputes. Go back and read it. This is not a structure for stimulating fellowship. Unless one wants to boil the Church down to a group of people routinely having disputes with one another, one cannot use this pattern as a template for the Church. On this point, the Jethro argument falls flat.

Going further we see that we have no evidence that the presumably heathen father-in-law gave godly advice. In any case, the honest seeker of biblical Church "structure" is forced to look elsewhere.

The Apex Position of Biblical Leaders

Standard thought places Moses and Joshua as *the* leaders of the Israelites in pyramid fashion. As a matter of fact, at all times was a *single* man who held this position.

Aside from the fact that scripture does not say this explicitly about any personality in the Bible save Jesus Christ, there are problems with this view. One could equally argue that Aaron was the boss due to his position as High Priest.

*Exodus 40:15 and anoint them as you **anointed** their father, so that they can serve me in the office of priest. Their **anointing** will signify that the office of priest is theirs through all their generations."*

I can assure you that Moses showed respect for God's "division of labor" so as to not impinge upon Aaron's work. That would have been an affront to the anointing given by God, and to God Himself as the giver of the anointing. It was Moses' job to stay out of the priests' business.

*Exodus 35:5 Take up a collection for ADONAI from among yourselves – anyone **whose heart makes him willing** is to bring the offering for ADONAI: gold, silver and bronze;*

*Exodus 35:10 **Then let all the craftsmen among** you come and make everything ADONAI has ordered:*

*Exodus 35:25-26 All the women **who were skilled** at spinning got to work and brought what they had spun, the blue, purple and scarlet yarn and the fine linen. Likewise the women whose **heart stirred them** to use their skill spun the goat's hair.*

*Exodus 35:29 Thus every man and woman of the people of Isra'el **whose heart impelled him** to contribute to any of the work ADONAI had ordered through Moshe brought it to ADONAI as a voluntary offering.*

*Exodus 35:30-35 Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, ADONAI has singled out Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **He has filled him with the Spirit of God – with wisdom, understanding and knowledge concerning every kind of artisanry.** He is a master of design in gold, silver, bronze, cutting precious stones to be set, woodcarving and every other craft. **ADONAI has also given him** and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, **the ability to teach others. He has filled them with the skill needed** for every kind of work, whether done by an artisan, a designer, an embroiderer using blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen, or a weaver – **they have the skill for every kind of work and design.***

Here, the gathering of the saints for the construction of the Holy Tabernacle, the House of God, is revealed. We see here that God Himself called, anointed, instructed, gave willing hearts to and imparted skill to those who were on the construction team. The calling, anointing, instruction and skill did not come *through* Moses. And when they were working, Moses was not standing behind everyone's back "making sure things were going in the right direction". He showed faith that God Himself could direct the work. It is His own House. Why should Moses get in the way of that? If he did, the House would never have been built correctly, for the anointing of all the laborers would have been short circuited.

Or take the Generals (priests and musicians) during war for instance. Moses was not out and about on the battle field. The leadership structure was always and still, depending on what God was doing, straight forward: the one would take the lead while the others would melt into the background, including Moses and Joshua.

Joshua, in contrast to the pyramid bosses, tried very hard to get the eyes off of him and onto God even to the end of his life. He did not appoint an apex leader upon his passing, but rather offered them the alternatives (1) allegiance to God, or (2) no allegiance, to God. He knew that when people look to a man as their leader, they will fall. When Joshua and those in his generation led, it was through example.

*Joshua 1:16-8 They answered Joshua, "We will do everything you have ordered us to do, and we will go wherever you send us. Just as we listened to everything Moses said, so will we listen to you. **Only may ADONAI your God be with you as he was with Moses.** If anyone rebels against your order and doesn't heed what you say in every detail of your order, he will be put to death. Just be strong, be bold!"*

The obedience to Joshua hinged on the prerequisite that God was with him as He was with Moses. It does us well to remember that Moses only commanded what he first heard from Adonai. Compliance is absolutely dependent upon the spoken Word of God, not any position in a pyramid. That is, when God's direction is not present, neither is obedience a requirement, nor is it advised.

The bottom line is that it is assumed in a pyramid structure that all works of God flow through the apex. This is most assuredly not the case. God does work through, and directly with, others outside of the supposed apex.

At any given instance in time there are multiple personalities simultaneously claiming to be *the* apex. All of them want to be pope. The author admits that he finds this somewhat amusing, even though it is very sad. This situation in itself proves that in the very best of circumstances, all would-be ascendants to the throne are false save one. The truth, however, is that all are in error.

Korach the Levite

In Numbers 16:1-5 Korach claimed that Moses had raised himself up over the other Israelites. This is wrong on two points. (1) He was not raised above the other Israelites, and (2) since he was not raised, he could not have possibly done it himself.

Korach makes the dividing line the fact that

"After all, the entire community is holy, every one of them, and ADONAI is among them."

Korach fell into the flesh thinking and alleging there existed a pyramid command structure. Continuing in the flesh, he wanted to become the apex himself. But he had to get rid of Moses to do it. As long as Moses was around, there was going to be no pyramid structure. Moses shoots back at Korach in verse 7 what he received from Korach in verse

3: "you take too much on yourselves" meaning, you think too much of yourselves. The line about holiness was a bogus excuse to shove Moses out of his job.

This is one of the principal problems with pyramids. It refuses to recognize the ministries of others, especially when the service is obvious; for the recognition of all ministries precludes pyramid churches.

Moses sets the record straight in verses 8-11,

Numbers 16:8-9 Then Moses said to Korach, "Listen here, you sons of Levi! Is it for you a mere trifle that the God of Israel has separated you from the community of Israel to bring you close to himself, so that you can do the work in the tabernacle of ADONAI and stand before the community serving them?"

Numbers 16:10-11 He has brought you close and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you. Now you want the office of the priest too! That's why you and your group have gathered together against ADONAI! After all, what is Aaron that you complain against him?"

The Levites already had a promising function in the community, and in some aspects they were higher than Moses himself. But they were not happy with some; they wanted all. They did not want to acknowledge Moses' and Aharon's ministry. The rebels were not sufficiently happy with probably the most important ministry that existed - the cleansing of the house of Israel from sin in a foreshadowing of the work of Christ. From this standpoint, one could forcefully argue that if there were a pyramid structure, it was Aharon on top, and not Moses. But there are problems with this view as well.

Korach's supporters Datan and Aviram assert further unfounded grievances,

Numbers 16:12-14 Then Moses sent to summon Datan and Aviram, the sons of Eliab. But they replied, "We won't come up! Is it such a mere trifle, bringing us up from a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert, that now you arrogate to yourself the role of dictator over us? You haven't at all brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, and you haven't put us in possession of fields and vineyards. Do you think you can gouge out these men's eyes and blind them? We won't come up!"

These two were not happy with their earthly economic status and blamed it on Moses. This grumbling of lack was a recurrent theme in the desert. Not only that, they had their eyes on Moses as the leader (dictator), as opposed to God, even though we read

Exodus 20:2 "I am ADONAI your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.

Again, we have all-out fleshly thinking. They confused Moses the messenger with Moses the king of the pyramid.

In verse 15-16 Moses says,

"I haven't taken one donkey from them, I've done nothing wrong to any of them." Moses said to Korach, "You and your group, be there before ADONAI tomorrow - you, they and Aaron.

These are not words coming out of a pyramid system. The apex of a pyramid says, "Hey, I am God's appointed as head of this group, and that is that". Moses, because he does not believe in pyramids, rolls the ball into God's court. Now it is God's opportunity to determine who is holy, and who is not.

Why can we not simply say that Moses had his job, Aaron his, Bezalel the son of Uri (Exodus 31) his, etc.? On this point, the pyramid system dies an unceremonious death.

Who led the Israelites through the desert? Was it Moses? No, it was God directly in the form of a cloud by day and a fire by night. The pillar of fire and of cloud are foreshadowings of the Holy Spirit.

The Tithe, and then some

This subject has been handled in the document "Rethinking the Tithe", so we will not repeat the whole lot.

Pyramids, cities of security and personal kingdoms, must be funded because they consume resources. Since these Egyptian building structures consume much resources, the pharaohs must introduce new funding mechanisms to bring in the cash.

The tithe fits the bill very nicely. By ignoring the key scripture showing that the tithe is reserved as payment for those performing sacrificial services for the removal of sin, the vast majority of Christians have been sold into slavery for a lie - they give 10% of their earnings to a pharaoh, without one crack of the whip.

Needless to say, this pyramid structure would crash inside of one month should the slaves wise up to the scam. The real Church, being snuffed out by the weight of working to build pyramids would then have a grand opportunity to take the lead.

And since we are on the topic of mammon, we point this out: The tithe collectors specifically, and the pharaohs in general, like to consider themselves as *the* channel for material blessing. They sell the conviction that giving to them, in whatever form, somehow opens the storehouses of heaven. Once the victim believes this lie, the believer is an ever ready cheerful giver. It seems, the only persons getting rich off this "sowing and reaping" belief system are those selling it. "Become a partner of this ministry and you will be wealthy." Only a pure heart, untainted by mammon, has the eyes to see this for what it is.

Confronting

An explicit, if unspoken, goal of Pharaohs is to defend their pyramid structure. They like sitting at the top. One particular tactic is to circulate a strange teaching that runs something like this, "You should not criticize your pastor / elders / leaders / church". Various strings are attached saying that one is acting in unbelief, touching God's anointed, or giving the devil place. The hypocrisy is apparent, for this teaching against criticism is itself nothing less than a criticism.

Previous to looking at this in more detail, we must understand that there are two ideas bound up in the word "criticize". One meaning is to "put another down by means of pointing out the other's faults", while the other is used in scientific circles - "objectively compare against a standard". It should be obvious that if the goal is to "put down", this is counter-productive; so we will not deal with this meaning here, but rather the other.

*1 Corinthians 5:12-13 For what business is it of mine to **judge** outsiders? Isn't it those who are part of the community that **you should be judging**? God will **judge** those who are outside. Just **expel** the evildoer from among yourselves.*

This verse allows very little wiggle room. Another practice of instilling confusion is the unabashed misuse of the word "judge". "Judge" can mean "authorizing punishment after establishing fault", or "compare against a standard". The bible speaks plainly against authorizing judgment (the one reserved for Christ) against others, but does encourage comparing actions and teachings against standards, such as the Word. A Christian does have the right to pronounce a judgement of expulsion. Note carefully, that this expelling is reserved for *evildoers*, not for those who do not see eye to eye with the pastor / pharaoh.

Be that as it may, many people feel put down when they are judged and criticized in the positive sense. What we are dealing with on one hand is a lack of maturity. A quick Boolean word search - "wise" AND "rebuke" - in a competent Bible software program reveals that wise persons give and gladly accept rebukes, but fools do not. How much more should the one who claims to be in a position of authority accept a rebuke?.

Proverbs 9:8 If you reprove a scoffer, he will hate you; if you reprove a wise man, he will love you.

Proverbs 13:1 A son who heeds his father's discipline is wise, but a scoffer doesn't listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 15:31 He who heeds life-giving correction will be at home in the company of the wise.

Proverbs 25:12 Like a gold earring, like a fine gold necklace is a wise reprover to a receptive ear.

Ecclesiastes 7:5 It is better to hear the rebukes of the wise than to listen to the songs of fools.

On the other hand, we may have a more dangerous situation. Those who do not deserve to exercise authority have no mandate from God, but they want the authority anyway. They are left with the fleshly method. In the end, they pretend to be something they are not. If their endorsement is not from God, then it must be from man. But, for whatever reason, man demands that the leaders be faultless; perhaps as a replacement for God Himself. Pointing out a wrinkle or pimple directly attacks his power base.

The one with an authorization from God has no need for mandates from man, so he needn't be much concerned with hiding his blemishes. Every dictator harshly punishes critics and assumes control over communication technologies, for he knows that his power is destroyed if correspondence criticizing the dictator is relayed through the country. This is the exact same phenomena that one sees in the church when one preaches that one is not allowed to criticize the leaders / church, or otherwise differ in opinion. The motivations are identical in each case.

Has the reader ever noticed that teachings and prophecies to the effect, "You guys are awesome and blessings are on the way" are readily accepted, while those couriers having messages like "There is sin here and hard times are ahead" are quickly scurried out the exit door - or at least not invited for a second round? Could it be that God only has "feel good" reports, or do the people have itching ears that don't appreciate the positives of negative feedback portraying truth?

But beyond the obvious power-grab as shown by the logic above, the Bible does not remain silent on this subject.

The prophets as a whole spoke to two groups, the secular leaders (kings) and the religious leaders (priests). This tasking has not been changed even unto the present generation. For the most part, they kept quiet. But when there was something needing criticizing, the prophets were the servants of choice. To say that criticism of God's people is incorrect disregards 90% of what we read from the prophets.

Criticism was frowned upon then as it is now. Immature people don't like it. Power hungry people like it even less. Many prophets died for their truthfulness - the final result of the hate stirred up in others when their shadowy actions are laid bare. The same inspires pharaohs across the land to dole out teachings discouraging thinking through and uncovering dirty deeds. It is a terrible day when people are punished for speaking the truth and bringing uncomfortable facts to the table.

Jeremiah 6:27 I have made you a refiner and tester of my people, to know and test how they behave.

Jeremiah 6:28 All of them are total rebels, spreading slanderous gossip; they are bronze and iron, [inferior metals,] all of them corrupt.

The prophets were not killed because *they* had done wrong. They had only brought to light that the *leaders* were doing wrong; so the leaders had them liquidated. My, how things have not changed!

1 Corinthians 14:3 But someone prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 But if you all prophesy, and some unbeliever or uninstructed person enters, he is convicted of sin by all, he is brought under judgment by all, and the secrets of his heart are laid bare; so he falls on his face and worships God, saying, "God is really here among you!"

Here is the New Testament prophet in action: encouraging the unbelieving (saints) to turn from their sin. This is the exact same job they had in the Old Testament.

Perusing the numerous letters written by the Apostles to the Christians abiding in their respective cities makes one thing crystal clear - they criticized. If there was something not right, they mentioned it. They hammered it. Pick a book, any book, and read through it. No doubt you will find some judging, criticizing, correcting and rebuking. No Apostle of old would be permitted to speak in a pyramid church.

- (1) Matthew 18:15-17 - "... go and show him his fault ..."
- (2) Galatians 6:1 - "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently"
- (3) 2 Corinthians 13:2 - "... I will not spare those who sinned ..."
- (4) 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - "And we urge you brothers, warn those who are ...".
- (5) 2 Thessalonians 3:15 - ", but warn him as a brother."
- (6) 1 Timothy 5:19 - "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses."
- (7) 1 Timothy 5:20 - "Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning."
- (8) 2 Timothy 2:14 - "Warn them before God against ..."
- (9) Titus 3:10 - "Warn a divisive ..."
- (10) 1 John 5:20 - "... so that we may know who is genuine."
- (11) Revelations 2-3

- (12) Luke 17:3 - "Watch yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."
- (13) Galatians 2:14 - But when I saw that they were not walking a straight path, keeping in line with the truth of the Good News, I said to Kefa, right in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Goy and not like a Jew, why are you forcing the Goyim to live like Jews?"

Since all (real) leaders are brothers (how can one be a servant of the messianic community without first being part of it), this verse applies to them.

The bible speaks very solidly on the facts. No commentary or great fan-fair is necessary. We are to speak up and confront others who are doing wrong, and indeed publicly. Moreover, leaders are not given a special indemnity allowing them to avoid the fruit of their actions. Here is a historical example:

*Galatians 2:14 **But when I saw that they were not walking a straight path, keeping in line with the truth of the Good News, I said to Peter, right in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, why are you forcing the Gentile to live like Jews?"***

It is only logical that prior to challenging wrong-doing, one must first objectively judge the actions of the person. This requires that the teaching claiming we should not judge (compare against a standard) is an overt attempt at a cover-up.

The religious reaction to the confrontation is known. The message bearer is stamped as "not in love, spiteful, hateful, legalistic" and the like.

*Galatians 4:16 **Have I now become your enemy because I tell you the truth?***

Make no bones about it. Whosoever tells the truth will find some enemies. This verse is in the context of referring to those who have been challenged about performing religious rituals. This the the religious first line of defense, "you were not speaking in love, therefore it cannot be of God". These are among those who do not understand that Jesus is not only the Lamb, but also the Lion. Love without truth is not love. Peace without truth is not peace. We shall pursue peace with all our heart, but not while sacrificing truth.

The chances are good that the prominent figures in the New Testament would not be able to make the rounds in the current establishment. Paul would be labeled too legalistic due to his insistence on refraining from sin. John the Apostle of love was cool until he wrote Revelations - a loving Father would never rebuke his children in the first three chapters like that. John the Baptist, who had automatic revelation knowledge about the sin in peoples' lives is plain dangerous. It may come to light what is better left in the dark. Most of the minor

prophets had nothing but disaster, death and punishment to foretell. "No thank you, we think positive here: health, wealth, free love and cheap grace." is the establishment's chant.

Jesus Christ would most certainly be rejected as a professional christian speaker. Every thing he said caused a polarization - that's "division" in church speak, which is supposed to be evil. You either loved Him for telling it like it is (otherwise known as speaking the truth), or you hated him; for he revealed hypocrisy, making the establishment look bad in front of "their" own sheep. He routinely and intentionally offended them with confrontations in an attempt to wake them out of their cozy self-righteous slumber.

If the sheep, on account of criticizing, run away, they are unattended, and that would be bad for the sheep - so the logic goes. The prophets, apostles and Jesus need not come to our church.

The truth of the matter is that before the true Church can unite, those loyal to Him must separate themselves from *christian city* (a false church system that presents itself as if it were His Church).

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are living the life of trust. Test yourselves. Don't you realize that Jesus the Messiah is in you? - unless you fail to pass the test.

But how much more shall leaders be judged against a higher standard? How can one claim that those in positions of authority should receive a carte blanche? The pharaohs of this world turn God's system around on its head. The sheep are given the more stringent standard, corrected at every turn, even for things that are not wrong, while they consider themselves the untouchables. This is done in the name of keeping the pyramid structure structurally sound. Otherwise the massive building is shown for what it is, a house of lies. Pharisees did this. They still do.

Running around confronting every thing in sight is not necessarily positive. There are rules and regulations, method and motive, as to how to do it right. Reading the context surrounding the above noted scriptures is a good place to start, as well as Ephesians 4:15.

*1 Corinthians 4:5 So don't pronounce judgment prematurely, before the Lord comes; **for he will bring to light what is now hidden in darkness; he will expose the motives of people's hearts;** and then each will receive from God whatever praise he deserves.*

*1 Corinthians 4:14 I am not writing you this to make you feel ashamed, **but, as my dear children, to confront you and get you to change.***

*Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the **truth in love**, we will in every respect grow up into him who is the head, the Messiah.*

Spiritual Covering

On the face of it, the phrase "spiritual covering" is an idea drawn from the military. Protection is offered from the protector.

When a group of commandos are approaching their target, it is a traditional tactic that while some move forward, others hold their location and give "cover" (or protection), usually in the form of weapon fire from behind a sheltered position.

With the word "spiritual", one alludes to the spiritual world. Putting the two together, one comes to the conclusion that the protector provides cover from spiritual beings bent on harming the protected.

It would be technically correct to say that when A prays for B, A is providing spiritual cover for B. But then the same would be inversely the case should B then pray for A.

But the "spiritual covering", as the stock teaching goes, does not denote this. What is really conveyed is that an otherwise assailable sheep receives covering from "his spiritual leader". Furthermore, as the story goes, the covering is necessary for the complete protection of the sheep, and that this indispensable covering can only come from him; perhaps on account of the particular function, or a direct delegated authority from God.

My presumed intent of the phrase "spiritual covering" appears logically accurate, even when no biblical text recounting the official doctrine is available.

In typical form, the Pastor alleges to have some gift of spiritual covering for the sheep, no one else has this gift, and every sheep needs it. Logically therefore, every sheep is required to obtain this spiritual covering from the pastor, otherwise he is an easy target to be devoured.

The reasonable extension of this teaching, if not always made explicit, is that when the sheep disobey the spiritual leader, the sheep wanders too far from the God given protection, and he becomes easy prey for the devil. Full obedience is requested.

Often, the spiritual covering is also dependent upon paying the tithe (and offering) to the protector. All you have to do is pay the 10% invoice, and the tithe collector will keep the devil off your back. Spiritual protection traded for money is an age-old trick; it is used often because it is very effective.

Martin Luther correctly attacked the letters of indulgence - a cash cow if there ever was one. The tithe is a modern version of the same, whereas now the product is blessings and such; as opposed to eternal salvation for the dead.

Another common cost of protection comes in the form of being "part of the family". This requires becoming an official member of a church (name on a roster; completing a course; signing some sort of form/contract; being presented in front of the congregation; ...) As part of the family, it is usually expected that one attends "church" more than once a week and becomes "involved". A mild guilt trip is arranged for those not visiting the ample number of times a week.

What happens when one does not submit or pay for the protection? Some maintain that the protection is lost automatically, while others claim the protector can give or withdraw the protection at will. Whatever the case, the entire philosophy is false.

As with all religious ideas, it sounds and feels good. For then I could effortlessly sit on my haunches in peace with no effort; except to obey my God given master. This is the goal, to make sure that sheep exert no effort and remain ignorant as opposed to growing mature into the likeness of Christ. This sounds harsh. However, it is what it is. Otherwise, they would not fall for such silliness. And it makes manipulating the sheep into building pyramids all the easier.

Whether this is the stated or intended goal on the protector's part is immaterial. This is the result. Any and every slave-master relationship ends in the slave being incapable of thinking, acting, caring, or taking on responsibility for himself.

But outside of that, the problem becomes longer. No spiritual leader (regardless of the function) has any special authority or power to impart spiritual covering. He cannot deliver. Protection depends on our obedience to God, not to any man.

Not only is his assumption that only he possesses the power to deliver the desired protection incorrect, but also wrong is the inherent logical deduction that the "spiritual covering" provided by the Blood of Christ is insufficient.

A contradiction is deep-rooted in this dogma. When one asks the "spiritual authority" who provides his spiritual covering, he may be able to give an answer. But then ask that protector who his spiritual covering is, for at some point up the chain, we shall find one who has no spiritual covering, but rather receives his covering straight from God.

One then can ask one of two questions depending on the case.

(1) If he needs no spiritual covering from a man, why should I? Surely the person at the top, a prime target for the devil, requires special protection.

(2) Why should that one person on earth have a special connection to God, and the rest of us do not? This hierarchy of spiritual defense services cannot be supported in the Word. Under the Original Covenant, this was at best somewhat the case. But for those under the New Covenant...

So here we are, back to the basics. Jesus, my High Priest according to Hebrews 8:1, provides all the covering I need against sin, and the wiles of the enemy on account of sin. It is a slap in His face to assert that His protection is not enough. His love protects me. What shall separate me from it? See also Acts 2:38, 1 John 2:12. Jesus is the exclusive spiritual covering. With the same thought, 2 Thessalonians 3:3 says that the Lord guards us from the evil one.

Hebrews 8:1 Here is the whole point of what we have been saying: we do have just such a high priest as has been described. And he does sit at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.

Acts 2:38 Peter answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Jesus the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!"

1 John 2:12 You children, I am writing you because your sins have been forgiven for his sake.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is worthy of trust; he will make you firm and guard you from the Evil One.

Also see James 4:7. One notices that no person filling any named function, was involved. It does not say, "Submit yourself to your church leader, and the devil shall flee." Resisting the Devil is the key.

James 4:7 Therefore, submit to God. Moreover, take a stand against the Adversary, and he will flee from you.

And here we ask a simple question. Do the demons flee in the name of "Jesus", or in the name of your spiritual leader? And since this is the case, who is unequivocally your spiritual covering and protection? See Mark 9:38, Luke 9:49, Luke 10:17.

Mark 9:38 John said to him, "Rabbi, we saw a man expelling demons in your name; and because he wasn't one of us, we told him to stop."

Luke 9:49 John responded, "Rabbi, we saw someone expelling demons in your name; and we stopped him because he doesn't follow you along with us."

Luke 10:17 The seventy came back jubilant. "Lord," they said, "with your power, even the demons submit to us!"

Ephesians 5:23 reports that the Messiah Himself keeps the Body safe.

Ephesians 5:23 because the husband is head of the wife, just as the Messiah, as head of the Messianic Community, is himself the one who keeps the body safe.

Ephesians 6:10-18 is a favorite verse among Christians, but altogether disregarded when one is confronted with the false doctrine of the "spiritual covering". The armor and the weapon are for spiritual protection against demonic tactics. Notice that this protection is not reserved for those who have a spiritual guru, do everything they are told and pay the 10%-on-income protection payment.

Ephesians 6:11 Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

In the case where we have a strong foe, Jesus teaches in Mark 9:29 about fasting and praying.

Mark 9:29 He said to them "This is the kind of spirit that can be driven out only by prayer."

1 John 5:18 again testifies that the Son protects him.

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has God as his Father does not go on sinning; on the contrary, the Son born of God protects him, and the Evil One does not touch him.

No where in the Bible do we find the faintest hint that a person could provide spiritual covering from spiritual attacks. Our protection from demonic activity lies in the fact that (1) Jesus is our High Priest, (2) we resist the devil, (3) we possess the Name of Jesus (4) we utilize the God-given armor, and (5) in some cases we engage in fasting.

Idolatry is a very simple concept. When a place is reserved for God, but is occupied by something else, we have idolatry. In this case, a spiritual leader has taken the place of God as (1) High Priest, (2) absolute authority over demonic powers and (3) His armor.

The watered down version of the spiritual covering teaching is the, "We (the gurus) acknowledge that your doing XYZ is from God, and now it is covered". The idea is that those who do not seek approval from the spiritual protection will see defeat, or less success, even if the XYZ is really from God.

However, Jesus said "go, I am always with you". I've got all the coverage I need right then and there under the proviso that I am doing what He commands.

With that said, it is always wise to inquire good counsel, but the counselor can in no way provide any covering for your actions whatsoever. The counselor can be held accountable for providing false guidance or be given a reward for good instruction, but that is all.

Anointing, Submission & Authority

In the conventional church we see the unidirectional submission. Submission in the alternate direction does not happen, for this would be a challenge to the pyramid church structure. The pyramid requires the one-way submission to exist. One can also describe this as a *static* system.

The alternating - or *dynamic* - submission, anointing and authority, as described in Ephesians 5:21, is only possible in the family Church.

The leader of the pyramid church will naturally subscribe to submitting to others. Such as to the regional leader of the denomination, or some internationally known preacher. But this serves only as an admission to the pyramid structure. And submission to others in the same organization is in reality only show. In the end, nothing happens without his approval. All co-pastors, elders and deacons are reduced to "yes" men.

The pyramid church has no room for other servants. For "competing" servants draw attention away from the pyramid leader. The contenders' very ministry to the sheep proves that others are also capable of serving.

The pastors have formed a monopoly of spiritual serving. They have hijacked the church and closed out all others. The monopoly provides them much more power, prestige and money than would otherwise be the case, should the monopoly have never existed. The pyramid pastors, in their desire to keep the attention on themselves, do not allow the apostle, prophet, teacher or evangelist in the door, unless of course, giving rises during their preaching. No-names are not welcome.

The anointing provides us the ability to serve. But the anointing given to us is not given without measure. Any teacher alleging that he knows everything there is to know would be laughed out of town. A prophet claiming to have all revelation would undergo the same treatment. But for some odd reason, the pastors say that a sheep needs only one pastor. They don't stop there. Being served by another pastor's is strictly forbidden.

The goal here is to keep the sheep in one pyramid, and not hopping from one pyramid to the next.

Once the Holy Spirit moves on one of the lower ranks in the pyramid system, it is clear that, by definition, the pyramid leader is not the one in control. The Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit is then a competing person for the authority in the church. The fire of the Holy Spirit is quenched at first sight.

Many preach much on the gifts of the Spirit and how to set them free. But in reality, the leaders do not want it, for they want the control themselves. This is one of the reasons we see so little of God's power among the people of God.

Before we leave this topic, there is a further perversion of the anointing. The anointing is to flow to and serve the needy. In the pyramid system, the apex leader demands that the anointing flows from the anointed and through him before reaching the needy. This occurs when the anointed submits himself and his function to the church leader. In practical terms: when someone in a pyramid starts a ministry, and the ministry appears to be showing fruit, you can be sure the pyramid leader will demand that the new ministry be a sub-ministry under the heading of the pyramid. In this way, the pyramid leader grows in prestige.

This misappropriation of anointing has three main effects. One, the anointed is falsified and colored such that the needy do not receive from God as they should. Second, the anointed one is never free to develop and strengthen his gift, to the detriment of the needy, for a leader is always hovering above him, tapping off the anointing the minute it begins to flow. Three, the adulteration turns the church leader into a pimp, allowing the customer to receive their trick only after the lord of the manor takes his cut. One may take offense at this analogy, but one should take more offense at the reality. The church leader, by demanding that all servants submit to his authority and by this method steal their anointing, becomes then the source and the focal point of spiritual interaction.

This should not be. God is light, and we are crystal. As the light flows through us, the light is colored and bent as God has formed the crystal. It should not be filtered again through another crystal, regardless of how big that crystal thinks he is.

God wants a flowing, dynamic submission, authority and ministry. Man wants a stagnant, fixed one.

The One-Man-Show

Leaders have a tendency to not appreciate the view Jesus had about the order of things. Jesus is head, and the Holy Spirit leads. All of God's sons are led by the Spirit of God, and they are all brothers and sisters on one level. Submission occurs in respect for the punctual anointing, not with respect for the general calling.

Leaders don't like the Holy Spirit's way, if only because they cannot control Him. Leaders by nature are tempted to become control freaks; but control freaks are unusable in the Kingdom of God. The down side to the Holy Spirit's way is that it does not work without the Holy Spirit. When the congregation is not - or refuses to be - sensitive to His leading, you have chaos, and then the tendency to look for the "strong

leader", or the "one-man-show", or the "anointed one". The "one man show" is not chaotic in the world sense, but it is by no means orderly in the spirit sense. More than that, it is dead.

Part of the argument to support a one-man-show scheme is as follows: "Someone has to make the decision. If there is not a leader, sometimes no decision can be made." There are multiple problems with this view. Just because a decision is made does not mean it is the right one.

The one-man leader may think, "God is big enough to cover bad decisions, and in any case He blesses "order", even if the order runs in the wrong direction".

- (1) Their particular "order" is not God's order, but man's, and will therefore not be blessed as if it were of God.
- (2) Sometimes it is better to make no decision, than to make one. It may very well be that God has not yet given direction. Sometimes the pillar of fire moved, sometimes it did not. "Moving" is not necessarily advancing forward.
- (3) If God can, in His grace, cover bad decisions in man's order (which He does not), how much more can He cover wrong decisions in His order!

Sheep don't like this method either. They want a king they can touch, feel, who will lead them into battle, take their best daughters & sons, extract the tithe and so forth. So they reject God as King. The nebulous God in the sky is too much. A relationship with God is seen as impossible, or too difficult; so they choose to "relate" through a "holy man". The sheep want the guru to take responsibility for their actions. If the sheep do what the king says, God is happy. Life is very simple. As an added benefit, no effort in truly seeking God's perfect will for one's own life is required.

To the degree that all decisions come from an apex leader determines the degree that the congregation is a pyramid.

Do not forsake the Assembly of the Saints

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds, not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we deliberately continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but only the terrifying prospect of Judgment, of raging fire that will consume the enemies.

The call into the pyramid is substantiated often by Hebrews 10:24b, all the while disregarding the framework in which true fellowship occurs. The bold face in the text above provides the clue: true fellowship is

the fabric of *all* encouraging *all*, and *all* paying attention to *all*. "Our own" in Hebrews 10 indicates that *all*, not just one, has taken ownership of the congregational meetings. *Let us do this, not let one do this!*

In the pyramid, fellowship is dominated by *all* sheep paying attention to the one, and the one encouraging the *all*. The congregational meeting is owned and directed by the one, not by the *all*. The problem with this latter mode of operations is that it does not work. It is doubtful that the one is in fact exhorting the *all*. The meeting has all the appearances of being a "download of information" on what the one deems important. Those who forsake not the assembly of the pyramid, are in fact neglecting real congregational meetings; for they might be part of a congregation where *all* actively edify *all*.

The goal of the congregational meetings is twofold: (1) is to spur each other to love and good deeds, and (2) is to refrain from sinning so that we might escape the prospect of Judgment. Again, if the "fellowship" does not deal with sin, it is then not a messianic congregation in the spirit of the book of Hebrews. The verses 28-31 continue with the idea that those who continue to sin will find themselves falling into the hands of the living God as an enemy.

These two points are what the "fellowshippers" are trying to detour by flocking to the pyramid. "I will fellowship, but don't tell me about sin!" Any discussions of substance shall not be tolerated. Those who are bold enough to attempt living by Hebrews 10 will be treated as if they had the plague. These Hebrew people are too extreme, somewhat demanding and downright judgmental, likely legalistic. The pyramid members would rather be told that Love is God, and be downloaded with many other nuggets of wisdom, filling their heads with knowledge. As long as the congregation does not spur the hearer into sacrificing his time to do good, and abstain from evil, we will fellowship.

*Hebrews 3:12-14 Watch out, brothers, so that there will not be in any one of you an evil heart lacking trust, which could lead you to apostatize from the living God! Instead, keep **exhorting each other** every day, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you will become hardened by the deceit of sin. For we have become sharers in the Messiah, provided, however, that we hold firmly to the conviction we began with, right through until the goal is reached.*

This text is nothing more than a confirmation in short form of the above. *All exhort all to love, do good, shun sin, so that we reach the goal!*

Last but not least we make mention of the fact that "congregational meetings" does not render the Greek correctly. A more exact translation is a substantiated verb phrase such as "the assembling of yourselves". This then takes away the mental picture of fellowship as a "thing" we

attend and passively observe, to be replaced with the accurate visualization of an activity we actively participate in. Love is a verb.

To the degree that all in a congregation are edifying all marks the degree of true fellowship.

Chain of Command & Authority

Matthew 8:5-11 and Luke 7:1-10

The pyramid requires a chain of command, like in the military. The generals at the top have direct access to the "King" who has the plans, whereas the privates are at the bottom of the totem-pole awaiting orders. They receive no orders direct from the King, for he works in order, through the *chain of command*.

Likewise, delegation is essential for the pyramid power structure. All authority is delegated by the King to the generals, generals to the colonels, and on down through the ranks. This requires that all authority is dependent upon the higher ranking official in your chain of command.

Of course, everyone can be a General, but first, you have to prove yourself a faithful private. This requires careful obedience to the existing establishment. This rule keeps the pyramid advancing from one generation to the next.

All of the above teaching is gleaned from Matthew 8. Or is it?

We must not lose sight of the fact that a Roman officer had approached Jesus for assistance. His comments concerning authority were, according to Jesus, proof of great faith. The officer recognized that Jesus was one with authority, and indeed over sickness. When Jesus tells the infirmity to go, then it goes. Noting that the most straightforward meaning of faith is trust, we realized that this great faith was nothing more than the officer's trust that Jesus would use His authority on the ailment by telling it to go, thereby healing his servant.

We see that no orders were given to the officer, or to another through the officer. We see that no authority is delegated from Jesus to the officer, or from the officer to another. We are not told that the officer would increase in rank should he obey supposed orders - for as far as we know, there weren't any.

Now, in the military rank and file system we currently observe, we have no idea why the general feels he is a general, or the sheep feels he is a sheep. The whole sham is circular reasoning. The privates could just as well pretend they are the real generals and that the supposed generals are the real privates. We are left with bickering and complaining about who is the greatest.

Using the carrot, some have conned others into false submission on premises of a false chain of command, delegation teachings and the hopes of one day becoming a general. We must ask what the motive of serving really is: to one day be great in the eyes of men?

When we regard the anointing of the kings, the prophets were the indicating voice. They made known who was to be the authority in the kingdom, and have the power to rule and reign over others as king. The prophet, however, never had this position. So it is clear that the prophet did not *transfer* authority, or otherwise *delegate* it. Nor was the king *dependent* upon the prophet to keep his position. The prophet only publicly *recognized* the person chosen by God to be king.

I follow Pastor Bob

1 Corinthians 1:11 - 12 For some of Chloe's people have made it known to me, my brothers, that there are quarrels among you. I say this because one of you says, "I follow Paul"; another says, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Peter"; while still another says, "I follow the Messiah!".

*1 Corinthians 1:13-15 Has the Messiah been split in pieces? Was it Paul who was put to death on a stake for you? Were you immersed into the name of Paul? I thank God that I didn't immerse any of you except Crispus and Gaius - **otherwise someone might say that you were indeed immersed into my name.***

*1 Corinthians 3:21-23 So let no one boast about human beings, for all things are yours - whether Paul or Apollos or Peter or the world or life or death or the present or the future: they all belong to you, **and you belong to the Messiah,** and the Messiah belongs to God.*

In the pyramid system, church-goers follow a pastor, have a pastor, and the pastor reciprocates by claiming to have followers. "My Pastor" and "my sheep" are phrases commonly heard. The flesh has a tendency to gravitate toward this, and this has not changed over the past 2,000 odd years.

Paul warns against the fleshly nature of man by saying that we should not be following a man, and a man should not have us; for then we are a slave to him, and not to Him. Paul went out of the way to ensure that he had no followers. This a 180 degree turn from what we observe in christian city.

The "Messenger" in Revelations 2 & 3

As recorded in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelations, John is commanded to "write to the messenger of the messianic community in ...". The question is, who is the "messenger"?; usually translated as "angel". The Greek is ambiguous in this case - it could either be (1) a man-messenger or (2) a spirit-messenger.

Here we have two options, when only one can be correct. The messenger - to whom John is commanded to write - is either flesh and blood, or a spirit being.

Angel means spiritual messenger. It is a spirit sent with a message from God to a recipient. The man-messenger has the same duty. At the time of the writing of Revelations, messengers had a much more important role to play, as they were the only means of communications. They were usually sent in the name of an authority, such as a king, and while on the job enjoyed the protection of the authority. Rejecting the word of the messenger, or mishandling him, was equal to doing the same to the king himself. Whether Jesus is referring to a man-messenger, or a spirit-messenger, one thing is clear: in every case a messenger stands between John and the recipient, the Messianic Communities.

Likewise in every case, the messenger himself is not important, but rather the message and the origin of the message. The messenger is - in today's terms - an errand boy, a mailman, or an email server. The messenger has zero authority, rights or duties; except to deliver the message accurately and timely. He has no other job apart from delivering the message. His authority is the same as the cook in the king's palace, who has no other task but to whip up a good meal.

This is not to say that messengers sometimes do not go astray, or turn into traitors. We need not search further than Satan, a messenger who decided to take an authority upon himself, which did not belong to him. Look where it got him - literally in hot water (lake of fire).

One last point before we dive into the analysis - chapter 1 verse 10 shows us that John - his spirit - was taken out of his body while receiving the revelation.

The man-messenger

As an example of a clear, cut case we offer Luke 7:24. Aggelos [reference 32 in Strong's Greek Dictionary - possibly derived from 71 "ago" meaning to go, pass (time), drive, bring, carry, lead away] is translated as man-messenger. In this case, it is unambiguous that John the Baptist did not send a spirit-messenger to Jesus.

Those who assume that a man-messenger is meant in Revelations commonly base their tack by asking the question, "Why would John write to a spirit-messenger?" and "Does it not only make sense that he would write to a man-messenger?".

Looking at this a little closer, if it were a man-messenger, who would it be? We have only a few reasonable options - elders, deacons, apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors and evangelists.

The first seven possibilities

The evangelist seems to be a bad candidate, if only because the message is speaking to Christians. The evangelist mainly serves non-Christians.

The *elders* could also be scratched from the list for two reasons.

- (1) Elders remain in place, in the city in which they are elders. They don't move from location to location, as a messenger must do.
- (2) The word "Elders" always occurs in the plural in the bible, where as "messenger" in Revelations 2 and 3 is always singular.

The *teacher* can be neglected, for he concerns himself with the written word, not new revelation.

The *pastor* certainly has no good reason to claim to be the messenger.

The *apostle* is without a doubt a candidate - it would not be the first time that an apostle receives a revelation and then passes it on to other apostles for delivery.

The *prophet* strongly comes into the running. This type of message is exactly his "ball of wax". The entire book sounds more like a prophet than an apostle, if one had to choose between the two.

Considering that the messenger just carries the message, the above comments about the apostle and prophet could all be without merit. An unsaved (possible scenario) *Roman soldier* could physically carry the message and not have any negative effect. Granted, the chances that an unbelieving Roman soldier could be the star of the Church is slim (see "The meaning of the stars" below), but the point is made - a messenger must only deliver.

In this light, the *deacon*, the servant for menial and practical jobs, is highly recommended; especially when one considers that the "messenger" has little leadership or authority qualities. The same cannot be held for the other six functions mentioned above.

Keeping with Church history according to the Bible, it seems fitting that the elders would receive the message from the messenger (whoever that may be), and then present it to the Messianic Community themselves. They are the ones having an explicit responsibility for the Community in their jurisdiction; deacons do not have that type of authority, and the other 5 ministries are not bound to location, but are rather given to the Body, which is scattered across the globe. Since the message was directed to the Messianic Community bound by a defined region, only the elders come into question; only they have the right to present the message to the Messianic Community.

The spirit-messenger

Acts 10:3, Acts 12:7, Acts 12:23 and Revelations 1:2 furnish prime examples of the spirit-messenger. There can be no doubt as to this fact. But now we shift back to the messengers in Revelations chapter 2 & 3.

The "messenger" was the explanation for a previous "thing" John had seen. In Revelations 1:20, Jesus says that the seven "stars" are the "messengers" of the seven Messianic Communities. The "messengers" first appeared as "stars" in Revelations 1:16. This puts a serious dent into the opinion that the messenger is flesh and blood. We are told to shine like stars (Philippians 2:15), but we are not stars.

The verses in 1 Corinthians 15:38-49 mention the fact that there exist different kinds of heavenly matter (Sun, moon, stars) and earthly matter (man, animal). But when man dies, he is raised in the image of the heavenly (Sun, moon, stars). One must be careful with analogies, and transporting their meaning between contexts, even if ever so similar. But we are dealing with the difference between flesh-messengers and spiritual-messengers - and conveniently the word "star" works its way into the analogy. It seems unmistakable that man, alive in the flesh, is not a star; at least not until he dies and turns into the image of the heavens (stars are commonly found in the heavens). We can say then that stars are symbols of spiritual beings.

And more opportunely and suitably, we find stars elsewhere, no further away than in the same book where we started - Revelations chapter 12. In verses 4 we see a reference to stars. The stars are an obvious reference to demons - fallen angels. Verse 7 and 9 are confirmations that the stars are angels, and specifically fallen ones.

Passages both exterior to and inside of the book of Revelations provide clear evidence that stars refer to spiritual bodies, not earthly. And here we can ask the question, why would Jesus confuse the issue by using stars to mean flesh and blood in one instance, but angels in another? Jesus is not the god of chaos.

It is not enough to show "what is", but rather why "what is not" is incorrect. We must address the statement, "It is absurd to think that John would write to a spirit-messenger". We have a few facts left to uncover.

(1) John was having an out-of-body experience. Our three dimensional thinking, rational and logic is limited to in-body experiences; but even so, it is certainly not out of the question that John, in "spirit-form" outside of the body, could, would, and even should, write to another spiritual-being. The same "absurdity" thinking would judge the experience made by the prophet Ezekiel as absurd. He experienced the spirit world as it is, which cannot be correctly described in our world

limited by three dimensions. Besides, who are we to say that the commandments made by Jesus are absurd, just because we, in our ignorance, do not understand why, or how.

In chapter 11 verse 1 John was given a measuring rod. So apparently objects exist, and are passed from one to another. Chapter 10 verse 10 speaks of John taking a scroll and eating it. Not only does John receive a written document, he eats it. One may come to the conclusion that John eating a scroll is "absurd", but at the same time he would judge happenings in a spirit world from the perspective of a relatively limited earthly world.

(2) In Daniel 10:13 we read about the prince of the Kingdom of Persia, who is a fallen angel. We note that he was an angel responsible for a particular region. Daniel 12:21 says that the angel Michael is Daniel's prince. It is hard to believe Michael would be Daniel's personal angel. Michael - as one of the chief princes (Daniel 10:13) - must be then a prince of the peoples of Israel. Furthermore, a "chief" prince assumes a "non-chief", or "lesser than chief" prince. The "normal" prince would then be responsible over a part of a region belonging to the chief prince. With this information we can say then that the world is split into territories, where angels and fallen angels act as princes over said territories. It only seems natural then to conclude that the Messianic Communities in the seven named regions also had angels over those regions, chief angles or otherwise.

That an angel should be aware of Jesus' opinion and requirements of the Messianic Community in his jurisdiction does not come across as "absurdly" far fetched at all.

Some theories are offered as to how this transfer took place:

- (1) Taking the literal interpretation, John writing (in whatever form it takes in the spirit world) to the spirit-messenger does not mutually exclude the writing a physical letter to the physical Church, carried by a Deacon.
- (2) The Spirit-Angel could have revealed it personally to the Messianic Community after receiving it from John (in the spirit).
- (3) John could have written a physical letter, whereupon the spirit-messengers of the respective regions picked them up.

This is all to say that the pastor is not the "star" of the church, through whom Jesus gives his most important messages as some have proposed.

The Lords

This term is used in the negative sense, for lords puff themselves up in order to make themselves important in the eyes of onlookers.

1 Peter 5:3 also not as lords domineering over those in your care, but as people who become examples to the flock.

In the texts provided to us by the Old Testament, especially the historical accounts in Judges, 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles, an important lesson is given. Those judges and kings who were hand picked by God were usually humble, and had a "who me?" response. When we throw in Moses for good measure, it becomes clear that the best leaders were the ones who saw themselves as small and insignificant for such an important task; that is leading God's people in justice. The more they resisted the calling it seems, the better they were at the job. The people came to the leaders, for the most part, and sought them out. Once established, they went quietly about their business, doing God's work.

On the other side of the spectrum, we have numerous stories of "Lords", surrounded by loud trumpets, much fan-fare and support instigated by themselves, which always amounted to a grouping of no-good, rebellious thugs paid in cash for their parading. They consistently created circumstances by their own hand in order to catapult themselves into positions of authority; often in a bloody coup d'état. And after they arrived, they continued with this practice, for their kingdom was not of God, but of mischief. This type of "authority" always brought destruction to not only themselves, but on the people as well.

When you see someone vying for positioning in the spotlight, constantly reminding others of his place as an authority, you can rest assured that he is not one. The real authority has no need for all this. Does he continually occupy the spot behind the pulpit, make all the decisions, determines who does this and who does that?

Probably the quickest way to spot a lord is to ask the hypothetical question, "Would this group survive in tact if the lord were to suddenly be taken away?". If the answer is "no", then the lord is building his own kingdom; for God's (local) kingdom cannot, will not, shall not, depend on a single person, since these are much too vulnerable to destruction and manipulation.

In God's eyes, success is when one did and said what God required of him. The false authority sees success in how many followers he has, how often they obey his commands, and if he can destroy his enemies. It is obvious from this truth that where the true authority minds his own business, the false *must* turn to manipulation and control. The four forms of manipulation are clear: intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual. The worst thing a sheep can do is submit to a manipulating authority - the lord.

Vines, Branches and the Gardener

John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets, 'They will all be taught by ADONAI. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

John 15:1-2 I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

In the pyramid system, it is important to make the spiritual leader the source of spiritual health. Common phrases to support this are, "be plugged in, stick to one pastor, no church hopping" and so on. Without being "connected" to one (main) spiritual leader, one dries out.

Jesus, keeping to his style, has a different story. He says, "I am the vine, and you are the branches". What the spiritual leaders have done is pretended that they are the vines, and presumably Jesus is the root. But in any and every case, the nourishment comes not directly from Jesus, but through the leader. This breeds trouble.

The vulnerability and defenselessness created by this vine replacement is real. It is the road to serfdom. Once you are reliant on another, he can do with you what he likes, and he almost without exception does. Egyptian style slavery does not exist without dependency on a monopoly.

One is either plugged into Jesus, or one is not; and a spiritual leader is not an acceptable replacement in God's eyes. If one is plugged into a spiritual head, he is not plugged into Jesus, and therefore is unable to bear fruit. He most certainly will bear stuff that is considered to be fruit, but...

The guru also claims to do the pruning (correcting and maturing). But here again, the Great Teacher testifies something different. God does it Himself.

With that said, God may use another to bring us closer to Jesus, but never will He use someone to take the place of the Vine. And likewise, God may use another to prune us, but he will use many, not just one - for this leads to guruism.

Parts of the Body

1 Corinthians 12:27-29 Now you together constitute the body of the Messiah, and individually you are parts of it. And God has placed in the Messianic Community first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then those who work miracles; then those with gifts of healing; those with ability to help; those skilled in administration; and those who speak in various tongues. Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? or teachers? or miracle-workers?

This topic begins in verse 1, so one may wish to start there. But the point made is that there are many parts of the body that work together. The foot does little good without the shin, and the shin does little

good without the knee. In that aspect, the foot is not only dependent upon the shin, but also by extension the knee, while at the same time, the shin and the knee are useless without the foot. Taking this further, the foot and knee must work in coordinated unison to be effective.

The commands for the foot do not come "through" the knee as some suppose, but rather directly from the head through the nervous system. The knee does not hear from the head what the foot should do, who then informs the foot. Both the knee and the foot are directly submitted and connected to the head via the Holy Spirit, and both have to be synchronized for the intended action to be successful. Consider walking: should the knee, hip, back or ankle decide to be disobedient, walking becomes awkward, or unworkable.

The harmonized effort by the head is unfeasible with a pyramid, one-man-show system. The pyramid system ensures that the head, Jesus, cannot control the body. This is the aim of the pyramid system. The true body is to be directly controlled by the head through the nervous system, which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit bringing to us the necessary commands.

Guruism

The entire idea behind Christianity, which separates it from all other religions, is that a sheep can have a personal relationship with God. All other religions require some middle-man to bridge the gap. There is a reason for this.

The middle-man always presents himself as the wise humble teacher, who will show the path to truth. The truth cannot be found directly. He, of course, receives payment for his services. And strangely enough, the training is never complete - the student, for years on end, is told he is making good progress, but has not yet met the requirements. Long term business relationships ensure future cash flow. In addition to the mammon, the ego is fed - a sense of being better than the other guy. This is also worth a few tokens.

These have a standard name: guru and/or spiritual guide. Sadly, the gurus have found their way into the church. They don't call themselves gurus, for that packaging would not sell well. So they usurp the existing language and twist the meaning. They assume the names pastor, teacher, elder, and so on.

The guru status is also reworded to make it more appealing, and to make sure all shields are down. His main task is to cajole the victim that the victim is not able to correctly learn from the Bible, nor can he receive direction from Him, but that the guru can, and is willing to do it for him. A certain amount of submission to and acceptance of the guru's authority is in the fine print of the contract. And presto, the victim is captivated.

The Bible is very clear that His sheep hear His voice, and that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. Everyone is obliged to study for himself, and to verify what the teachers say. If one does not hunt for the personal relationship with God, and/or does not research himself for the truth, he is, by default, left with guruism with a christian packaging.

Guruism leads to immaturity for the sheep. He doesn't learn, change or think. Under the false leadership, the sheep wanders the desert looking for the promised land. The pastors, of course, lament the immaturity of "their" sheep, and the time & effort it costs to microwave milk bottles. But the expense of giving up the guru status is simply too high. The pastors could save themselves a lot of stress by allowing Jesus to be the Head Pastor.

Dependency is the key. The guru must make the sheep dependent upon him. Spiritual maturity, health, wealth and good standing with God hinges entirely (or to a great degree) upon following the orders of the guru. If the sheep believe it, they become dependent. These are easy to control and shear. It takes courage to think outside of the box. It takes more to jump out of the confines.

For the sheep, guruism is a good deal. He does not need to exert himself, his conscience is soothed, and in the end, he has no responsibility. He gets to remain a baby; for whenever the stomach is empty, he just cries and has a bottle stuck into his mouth. Again, this sounds harsh; but it is the reality. Anyone that has been a pastor knows it.

What separates the genuine minister from the guru? The absolutely most telling sign is the insistence that you have one (or a small group led mainly by one) leader. If this one leader balks at the idea that you require input from many others outside of his pastoral oversight, then he is involved in guruism with christian wrappings. The faithful minister realizes that he himself (including his organization if he has one) cannot possibly meet all of your spiritual needs. He encourages looking up others for additional support, and doesn't have the, "every Sunday you must be here" and "being fed elsewhere is forsaking the family" attitude. Another big indicator is the stance that all (or by far the most) money given to God must go to him (or his organization).

Guruism is just about everywhere, to some degree or another. I suspect that God does not like it, and He is calling his sheep out of guruism and into an intimate relationship leading to maturity. Don't allow anyone to drive a wedge between you and God, hammered in with false senses of security.

Maturity vs. Anointing

There is a lot of talk about the importance of maturity when holding a prime function in the Body of Christ. But this is often overrated. A quick hypothetical situation can be used to shed light onto the issue.

Suppose one is sick. Should he track down the person who has the anointing to heal, or someone who is "mature in the Lord"? This author is sure he knows where he would go. Experience, however long and deep, is simply no match for the authority of God in action.

Hebrews 13:7 and 17

The word commonly translated into "leaders" is in fact incorrect. The original Greek uses the verb form, as in "those leading you".

Young's Literal Translation gets this right.

*Be obedient to those **leading you**, and be subject, for these do watch for your souls, as about to give account, that with joy they may do this, and not sighing, for this is unprofitable to you.*

Green's Literal Translation is correct as well.

*Yield to those **taking the lead of you**, and submit, for they watch for your souls, giving an account, that they may do this with joy, and not with groaning; for this would be no profit to you.*

Notice that the citations above are both literal translations. The true verb form confirms the attitude the Bible takes toward leaders as explained on these pages. Due to the fact that the wording is very awkward, one seems justified in saying that the writer went out of his way to avoid the term "leader" as a noun. There is a reason for this.

Leaders are not 100% of the time leaders. They are only leaders when the Holy Spirit moves on them. In this way, we "remember those *leading us*". This falls in line with what Jesus Himself said, "Do not allow yourselves to be called *leaders*" Mt 23:8-12, 16, 24. God's leadership is *dynamic*, always changing and reforming to match the circumstances. The pyramid structure cannot do this, and is therefore very ineffective in the body reaching maturity.

Spiritual Manipulation

Ownership over a person gives control over that person - physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The anointing of the servant is given for the benefit of the served. But in the pyramid system, the servant is served with money, attention and fame. Manipulation is the result.

We must not forget. When one is vying for spiritual authority in a way that God does not provide, one will assuredly find authority, but it will be from the devil. This unlatches the portal for much mischief. This leads to christian witchcraft.

Abba Father and Leaders

In the pyramid system, the leader takes the place of the Father.

Romans 8:14 - 16 All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!"). The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God;

Imagine that. In this verse we find a comparison between two worlds. On one hand we have the house of slavery based on fear, and on the other we have the house of the father based on sonship. This fits very well into our pyramid-slavery theme. Either we are living in one house, or the other. Another point is the mentioning of those being "led by God's Spirit, are God's sons". In the pyramid system, the pharaoh is the leader. The pharaoh wants to lead us, not have God lead us; for God will not use our talents to build the his pyramids.

Galatians 4:6 Now because you are sons, God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!"). So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son you are also an heir.

In a repetition, we see again the contrast between the slavery of Egypt's pyramid system, and sonship.

In both of these passages is the mentioning of the sons being a "heir". This is what the leaders of pyramids are vying for, the inheritance. Everyone of us must ensure that he does not lose it. Adding insult to injury, the pharaohs require that we not only give up our inheritance, but that we should also slave for them.

Fathers and Children

There are multiple verses in the Bible where the author refers to himself as the father, and the receivers of his epistle as children. This suggests an authoritative position, does it not?

One should not forget, however, that the father labored to bring the children to salvation. Unless the person commanding your obedience - an observance corresponding to that of a father - is the one who brought you to salvation, then he has no legal right. Furthermore, it is the father's responsibility to ensure that the father-child relationship over time evolves into an adult-adult relationship, where the responsibility and authority over the child slowly, but surely, is transferred to the child as he matures.

The "fathers" of the system are not looking forward to the day when children leave the nest, unless it is to plant a church in the name of the parent church. They are also not seeking our maturity, for then they lose jurisdiction. This is a quintessential scheme creating an ambiance where Christians remain babies. The way to maturity is bared for them by the pyramid chief.

Part of this reason is repute among men. But most certainly not letting loose has to do with money. In a healthy relationship, the father financially supports the children, whereas in the depraved pyramid system, it is the children who financially nourish the fathers. Imagine a father shipping his son off to work to provide for the family. In the world such an act would be frowned upon with utmost contempt mixed with disgust, but in "church" it is not just tolerated, but also highly encouraged! It is stealing from God Almighty not to do so! We live in an age where black is white, and white is black, where good is evil and evil is good.

1 Corinthians 4:12 we exhaust ourselves working with our own hands for our living. When we are cursed, we keep on blessing; when we are persecuted, we go on putting up with it;

*2 Corinthians 11:11 **Why won't I ever accept your support? Is it that I don't love you? God knows I do!***

*2 Corinthians 11:12 **No, I do it – and will go on doing it – in order to cut the ground from under those who want an excuse to boast that they work the same way we do.***

*2 Corinthians 11:13 **The fact is that such men are pseudo-apostles: they tell lies about their work and masquerade as apostles of the Messiah.***

*2 Corinthians 11:14 **There is nothing surprising in that, for the Adversary himself masquerades as an angel of light;***

*2 Corinthians 12:14 **Look, I am ready this third time to come and visit you; and I will not be a burden to you; for it is not what you own that I want, but you! Children are not supposed to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.***

*2 Corinthians 12:15 **And as for me, I will most gladly spend everything I have and be spent myself too for your sakes. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?***

Does the preacher demanding your money have the heart of a father?

Fathers and Teachers

*1 Corinthians 4:6-7 **Now in what I have said here, brothers, I have used myself and Apollos as examples to teach you not to go beyond what the law says, proudly taking the side of one leader against another. After all, what makes you so special? What do you have that you didn't receive as a gift? And if in fact it was a gift, why do you boast as if it weren't?***

1 Corinthians 4:8-9 You are gluttoned already? You are rich already? You have become kings, even though we are not? Well, I wish you really were kings, so that we might share the kingship with you! For I think God has been placing us apostles on display at the tail of the parade, like men condemned to die in the public arena: we have become a spectacle before the whole universe, angels as well as men.

1 Corinthians 4:10-11 For the Messiah's sake we are fools, but united with the Messiah you are wise! We are weak, but you are strong; you are honored, but we are dishonored. Till this very moment we go hungry and thirsty, we are dressed in rags, we are treated roughly, we wander from place to place,

1 Corinthians 4:12-3 we exhaust ourselves working with our own hands for our living. When we are cursed, we keep on blessing; when we are persecuted, we go on putting up with it; when we are slandered, we continue making our appeal. We are the world's garbage, the scum of the earth – yes, to this moment!

1 Corinthians 4:14 I am not writing you this to make you feel ashamed, but, as my dear children, to confront you and get you to change.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 For even **if you have ten thousand trainers** in connection with the Messiah, **you do not have many fathers**; for in connection with the Messiah Jesus it was I who became your father by means of the Good News. **Therefore I urge you to imitate me.**

1 Corinthians 4:17-18 This is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lord. He will **remind you of the way of life I follow** in union with the Messiah Jesus and teach everywhere in every congregation. When I didn't come to visit you, some of you became arrogant.

1 Corinthians 4:19-21 But I am coming to you soon, if the Lord wills; and I will take cognizance not of the talk of these arrogant people but of their power. For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power. **Which do you prefer – should I come to you with a stick? or with love in a spirit of gentleness?**

Depending on the attitude in Corinth City, Paul has stated he will roll into town with a stick. This is something modern wisdom will not allow. But it certainly follows that periodically, a stick is what the doctor ordered, whether we like it or not.

The other major difference we discern in this text between reality and churchanity is that of the role of the standard Pastor. Paul said I am a father, imitate me. Before one can imitate, one has to see the imitated in action. I dare say that any person warming the standard pew sees the pastor not, save for behind the pulpit. Hence, the pastor, if lived according to the standard job description, cannot be a father. At best he is a teacher. If we cannot see his daily lifestyle, he cannot be a father to us.

John 6:45 "They will all be taught by Adonai

Commanding and Obedience

The following verses all indicate a command or place of authority by the author: Romans 15:18, 16:19; 1 Corinthians 4:21, 5:3, 9:2, 16:1; 2 Corinthians 2:9, 7:15; Philippians 2:12; 1 Timothy 4:11, 5:7, 7:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:4, 3:6, 3:12; Philemon 21.

While this *may imply* a hierarchal system, it does not demand it. If a prophet commands a king, is the king no longer the king? No! Everyone has their place of responsibility. The king is king in his responsibility, and the prophet is prophet in his. We must not lose sight of God's dynamic leadership style.

It is simple to explain these verses in the context of a messenger with the Word of the Lord. The letter-bearer has no authority in himself, but only passes along what the Lord has deemed correct.

The Bible indicates that we are a family by utilizing the label "brothers" - there are too many citations to mention. Even in the context of the references above the author utilizes the term "brothers", an idea that explicitly precludes the pyramid system. In light of this, the mailman messenger view fits superbly.

The descriptor "brother" is categorically not a relationship that is compatible with a pyramid structure. It simply does not work. And the designation "servant" can irrefutably not be used to describe the apex of a command system.

Leaven of the establishment

Mark 8:11-12 The Pharisees came and began arguing with him; they wanted him to give them a sign from Heaven, because they were out to trap him. With a sigh that came straight from his heart, he said, "Why does this generation want a sign? Yes! I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation!"

Mark 8:13-15 With that, he left them, got into the boat again and went off to the other side of the lake. Now the disciples had forgotten to bring bread and had with them in the boat only one loaf. So when Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourselves from the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod,"

Jesus throws the religious establishment and the secular government into one pot. The only other section of the Gospels referring to secular government is found here:

*Luke 3:12-13 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, **Exact no more than that which is appointed you.***

*Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, **Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.***

Might the leaven of Herod have to do with exacting more than appointed, doing violence, accusing falsely and being discontent with his wages? The reader is asked to connect the dots back to the structured church modeled after civil government.

Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

Luke 22:25-27 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luke 22:28-30 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

While God's Kingdom is certainly a kingdom, the government is structured dissimilar to an earthly kingdom - otherwise Jesus would have let the quibbling about being the greatest proceed, and would have fostered it! My, how nice it is that everyone wants to be great. If only everyone had that passion! The leaven of the hierarchy has infiltrated the Church. Everyone is trying to be great, so as to be served, and this leads to the antics described in Luke 3.

The King

Genesis 3:9-10 ADONAI, God, called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

The innate reaction of man having the nature of sin is to squirrel himself away from God's presence. Man has invented the role of the pastor (as it is practiced, not as it is ment to be) to act as a buffer between themselves and God. The pastor is, in this capacity, a mediator between God and man. This is the devil's diabolical plan. Even if the pastor truly believes and teaches he is not the middle man, the sheep invariably consider him in this manner. In a pyramid system, it cannot be otherwise.

The most direct analogy employed in contending for the government structured church is that of the kingdoms. The government structure is the tool of enforcement. Pyramid directors want to enforce their commands, supposedly from God, for the good of the sheep. To this end, they turn to the devices and formalities the world employs to lord over their subjects. Even if the command is from God, the method is incorrect and leads to disaster.

The argument to transfer the governmental structure, such as the one headed by David the king, to the Church is fatally flawed. Using this analogy to prove the pyramid structure is self defeating, *for it is precisely this system that God rejected. God's vision for how His Children are to interact is explicitly anti-pyramidal.* The royal form of government categorically cannot be used as a prefigure or precedent for the Church.

We shall not neglect to remember that Israel is a family. It is a nation descended from Jacob. In this light, all Israelites are brothers. A family is irreconcilable with a pyramid system. But the family rebelled and demanded a pyramid system. Is today any different?

*1 Samuel 8:6-8 Samuel was not pleased to hear them say, "Give us a king to judge us"; so he prayed to ADONAI. ADONAI said to Samuel, "Listen to the people, to everything they say to you; for it is not you they are rejecting; **they are rejecting me; they don't want me to be king over them.** They are doing to you exactly what they have been doing to me, from the day I brought them out of Egypt until today, **by abandoning me and serving other gods.***

It is significant that the government headed by a king is as perfect a pyramid structure as they come. Before this time, there was no government in the secular sense, and therefore no pyramid edifice. As an aside, the priestly company was plainly a pyramid system in structure, but it had one major divergence from the customary pyramid. The priestly system had zero room for maneuvering, that is to say there were no decisions to be made, or authority delegated. All activities were predefined, meaning that the high priest was not the one calling the shots, for all the shots were hitherto made as written down in the law. The kingdom pyramid is the literal antithesis in this regard. The king decided, and he delegated. He promoted and demoted. Nothing transpired until he uttered his will.

Secondly, the entreaty for a king is a symptom of immaturity. It shows that the king-followers not only do not want to resolve life's situations for themselves, but have no intention of learning how to. The children of God had the chance, even in the Original Covenant, to have a direct relationship with their God-King, but they squandered it. It was too much of a burden. They wanted someone else to do it for them. The king will certainly accept the job of bossing others around, and he will unquestionably yearn to see remuneration.

*1 Samuel 8:11-13 He said, "Here is the kind of rulings your king will make: he will draft your sons and **assign them to take care of his chariots, be his horsemen and be bodyguards running ahead of his chariots.** He will appoint them to serve him as officers **in charge of a thousand or of fifty, plowing his fields, gathering his harvest, and making his weapons and the equipment for his chariots.** He will take your daughters and have them be perfume-makers, cooks and bakers.*

1 Samuel 8:17-19 He will expropriate your fields, vineyards and olive groves – the very best of them! – and hand them over to his servants. He will take the ten-percent tax of your crops and vineyards and give it to his officers and servants. He will take your male and female servants, your best young men and your donkeys, and make them work for him. He will take the ten-percent tax of your flocks, and you will become his servants. When that happens, you will cry out on account of your king, whom you yourselves chose. But when that happens, ADONAI will not answer you!"

God's chosen people wanted a king, and a king they got. They only wanted half the king, that is the positive part, but reality has a way of making itself felt. It should not escape us that the king will expropriate man-power, wealth and the means of production. He will be busy erecting, solidifying, fortifying and expanding his own kingdom. What else do kings do? When one is frank, one sees that this exactly illustrates the state of the church.

Another important aspect to appreciate is the fact that the people are the servants of the king, not the other way around. In the church, the leaders are supposed to be the ministers, the servants. But in the pyramid structure, the converse is the case.

1 Samuel 8:19-20 However, the people refused to listen to what Samuel told them, and they said, "No! We want a king over us, so that we can be like all the nations, with our king to judge us, lead us and fight our battles."

Two more reasons why the people chose a man-king over their God-King are exposed here.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that a one-on-one relationship with the Creator is not only viable, but even necessary. All bogus religions have gurus. And when the Christians vote for a man-king guru to lead the way, then they have elected to be like all others. This is very sad for it then becomes a religion.

The exposition continues. The people do not want to shoulder their own responsibility. They foist their own duties on another. This is why "church services" are spectator sports. The sports fans anticipate and insist that the "pastor" lead them into battle. The problem is, in all honesty, he cannot.

As long as the guru syndrome is prevalent in churches, the vast majority of Christians will be defeated, have no direct line with God and float through life without having taken out any of the enemy's positions. Additionally, the vast majority of church leaders will be seeking to amass resources to further their program. Even with the best of intentions, there is no other outcome of this game. The leader simply has no other choice when he demands to be the head swami, and the follower has no other option but to vegetate in the pew. Multiple

levels of fat in the form of middle managers are added. Members are garnered and mustered with the intent of ever expanding the numbers and geographical influence - world-wide if possible. This should not be.

The pastor king will contend to submitting to others, but this is bogus. No king installs a satrap unless the would-be satrap declares his unwavering belief that the king is the authority, and promises uncompromising submission to his word. The pyramid supervisors are very clear on this issue. The notion that the king obeys the satrap is preposterous. They do not, in reality, submit to anyone or anything except their own ideas, notwithstanding their public declaration.

And one must be clear enough to make the differentiation between *subservience to another*, or *obtaining consul from another*. A king without a doubt seeks wise advice, but this is decidedly not subjection, for then he would not be king. It is the same with the pyramid chief. When the pastor decides all things in a church, it is not a church, but a pyramid.

It may very well be true that one will find a David king, a man after God's own heart, among the myriad of pastors. But this does not change the fact that the kingdom of man is not God's best. We cannot use a David we *might* find as justification for fleshly wisdom.

This particular system did not just happen. It was an active decision of convenience by the sheep and pastors, and by the Israelites and the kings. It is my sincere hope that all Christians allow their lives to become a little more inconvenient. Preparing for and going into battle takes sweat, and sometimes blood. Following after a God who doesn't shy from raising his children with the rod often does not feel good. Being a *peculiar* people means being left out of the in-crowd. Serving other gods is much easier, for they, if we are to believe the marketing, are so undemanding. But the truth is the opposite.

Saul the Priest

1 Samuel 16:1-2 ADONAI said to Samuel, "How much longer are you going to go on grieving for Saul, now that I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and set out; I will send you to Jesse in Bethlehem, because I have chosen myself a king from among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will have me killed." ADONAI said, "Take a female cow with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to ADONAI.'

1 Samuel 13 and 15 are chapters showing how Saul was poor in following orders given by Samuel. In chapter 13 he assumed a role that is expressly reserved for the priests. In chapter 15 he declined to accept the task for exacting justice that was given him. This is the king that the people wanted and got.

It should be no mystery or surprise to us to know that those claiming to be the apex of the pyramid are (1) performing jobs that do not belong to them and (2) not doing jobs that fall in their area of responsibility. It should be clear that the Church is not advancing under a plan B.

Throughout the Bible, we find enmity between the Prophets and Kings. God commands Samuel to lie in order to escape the king's wrath. Since modern day pastors have set themselves up as kings, we do not wonder in astonishment when we recognize that prophets and pastors do not mingle very well. Since the pastors rule churchanity, the real prophets have an uphill battle. And this has consistently been the case according to the historical books. The true prophets and true pastors will understand and appreciate each other professionally and in love, and not intrude on the other's area of responsibility.

One Leader to lead us into Christ

The culmination of the pyramid system is that all must submit to the one-man-leader. The reasoning is typically that only by devoting one's allegiance to a sole leader will the person be led into Christ, or a life pleasing to Him; and without this one leader, there is no way to find Christ. The leader is God's representative (God's chosen man to lead His people) on earth.

1 Timothy 2:4-5 He wants all humanity to be delivered and come to full knowledge of the truth. For God is one; and there is but one Mediator between God and humanity, Jesus the Messiah, himself human, ...

This argumentation shows a common misconception of the Heart of God. Jesus came to abolish every interface between God and Man, not to instill a new one. The commitment to a single person as the leader does not line up with the Word.

Ephesians 4:10 The one who went down is himself the one who also went up, far above all of heaven, in order to fill all things.

Ephesians 4:11-12 Furthermore, he gave some people as apostles, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers. Their task is to equip God's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah,

Ephesians 4:13 until we all arrive at the unity implied by trusting and knowing the Son of God, at full manhood, at the standard of maturity set by the Messiah's perfection.

Ephesians 4:14 We will then no longer be infants tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive.

Paul could not have been clearer than this. We are to know the Son directly, not the supposed mediator of the mediator. If we are to reach maturity set by the Messiah's perfection, it *must* be done by accepting *all* the gifts, which are represented in a plurality of persons. *Those who propagate that Paul's instructions do not work have not tried it!*

And those who allow themselves to be captivated by the "single leader" doctrine are destined to become the infants described in verse Ephesians 4:14 and miss out on 1 Timothy 2:4. They will be led astray. One of the reasons the gifts were split between a *plurality* of those who shall lead us is that the chances of many being deceived on any point is much less than the error by one.

This error issue is why the sole leader demands faithfulness only to him, and not to the plurality as demanded by the Bible. First, the errors he makes otherwise become plain to everyone, and he therefore loses his ability to rule as one. Second, this issue also requires that no one question him on matters of truth. Should one question him, this is "touching God's leader" to be repaid in full with God's unrelenting wrath. Searching the scriptures to test whether his teachings and actions are truth is not tolerated in practice, in-spite of lip service.

And please note there is a difference between official proclamations and actions. Not many will openly command, "Do not test my message." But wait for the reaction when you do! Or watch the reaction when you say that leader so-and-so has a different take on the matter, and that this other view point is valid!

We must say then that the one who claims to be leading us into maturity by his sole strong arm is certainly not. He is leading us into the ditch of falsehood, into dependence on man, into a false gospel. This is dangerous stuff indeed, not to be swept under the floor as simple hairsplitting or a sideline doctrine. Those who demand single loyalty from their followers will vehemently resist any movement toward a plurality of leaders led by the Holy Spirit. Your maturity is not his aim, but something else, regardless of his marketing and promises. You see, actions speak louder than words. They create laws and yokes. God does not want a new human mediator outside of his Son. If one were sufficient, Jesus' life on earth and His price are in vain.

We can pick our choices, but not the consequences of those choices. When we choose the plurality, we attain the maturity of the full man. When not, we obtain the immaturity of the infant. What choice the reader makes on this issue will determine his maturity, or lack of it! There is much at stake and explains why the devil is hell-bent on ensuring that all are herded into the one-man-led pyramid system - for then he can throw them around with every wind and wave of strange

teaching, always learning but never growing, and certainly not doing. Christians submitting to the one man are of no danger to him. As babes, they cannot ever be!

And since we have *all* received gifts, it stands to reason that we *all* lead and we *all* serve *all*! The idea that "one leads and all others follow" is not found in scripture - whether in the original covenant, or the new. Until the Church throws off these "allegiance to one" philosophies and one-way submission systems, we will never reach the maturity of Christ. Of this we can be certain. And this is the result of the pyramid system.

Probably the best foreshadowing of the leadership of the Church is the pillar of fire and cloud. Very telling is the fact that *Moses* did not lead the people into the promised land. The *Holy Spirit* did. No one proceeded, including the great *Moses*, until the pillar advanced. Everyone saw it, not just *Moses*. Many claim to be greater than *Moses* by assuming the leadership role reserved by God Almighty for the *Holy Spirit*. The one man leaders also claim that the sheep cannot see the moving of the *Holy Spirit*. When they believe this lie, it is no wonder they never become mature, not sensing which way the Wind is blowing!

*Proverbs 11:2 First comes **pride**, then disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom.*

*Proverbs 16:18 **Pride** goes before destruction, and **arrogance** before failure.*

Delegation Principle vs. Recognition Principle

The pyramid system works on the *delegation principle*, which is quite different than the example we find in the Bible. The delegation principle demands that all lower tier authorities are dependent upon the pyramid director. Should they not line up with the direction from the head, they are removed from *office*, and their ministry is nullified. When one understands that the Kingdom of God operates on the *recognition principle*, the pyramid structure ceases to exist. For one, there is no such thing as an *office*, and two, in this paradigm, the delegated authority has no real ministry, for they are following, by definition, man's direction, regardless of the pyramid director's claims of receiving "God's vision for the sheep". Anyone leading in this form may have God's vision, but he is pushing it in his own way, just like every Generation before us. Not much will come of it. Perhaps large land holdings, glossy pamphlets, books & CDs, Bible get-a-ways and massive edifices including the fancy colored glass will be the end result. They are building with wood and stubble, not gold and precious stones.

Many people (elders, co-pastors, worship leaders, cell group leaders, ushers, deacons ...) seeking to serve God are tied and bound by the false and demonically inspired *delegation principle*. Their anointing has been spotted by the pyramid leader, captured, chained, and bottled.

They are rowers in the galley pulling for their earthly master, and have no hope in fulfilling their calling to walk in the true power, full authority and the freeing power of the anointing. The devil likes it this way. He is not afraid of the 1% power that comes out of this.

It is high time the bottled up pop the cork, stand up and walk way from the world's way to become set apart for the Kingdom of God. Then we have a chance in seeing the power to tear down the strongholds of the enemy and see true progress in the advancement of the Kingdom.

We need to see success as God sees it, not as man sees it (buildings, followers, books and CD's).

Again we quote the following verse:

*Exodus 40:15 and anoint them as **you anointed** their father, so that they can serve me in the office of priest. **Their anointing** will signify that the office of priest is theirs through all their generations."*

Moses may have done the anointing, but the anointing belonged to the person anointed. Understanding this will set many free from the chains of hanging their ministry on the coattails of another.

Marriage Contract

The membership to a church, and the submission to a man, is often likened unto a marriage contract. "Just like the wife must obey the husband, you must obey your leaders." The author must here and now strongly suggest to run as fast as you can in the opposing direction. This is blatant adultery. We are to be married to Christ, not to any man or institution. This is a gross, spiritual, sexual perversion.

Commitment

God certainly calls us to accountability, not only to Him, but to the fellow brothers and sisters as well. The pyramid system is a artificial accountability system. It works mechanically upon the word of the apex. A much better system is the dynamic accountability. For the most part, this is the domain of the prophets operating in the gift of wisdom and knowledge. One sees this repeatedly when they challenged the kings of old.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 But if you all prophesy, and some unbeliever or uninstructed person enters, he is convicted of sin by all, he is brought under judgment by all, and the secrets of his heart are laid bare; so he falls on his face and worships God, saying, "God is really here among you!"

Analogy of Economics

God has ordained a dynamic, organic submission system. It is similar to the division of labor concept in economics. All individuals have a right to refine & use their skills in the service of his neighbor. No

one directs them what to do. That is not to say that the free market is not directed. Every member directs himself based upon his talents. It is a society based upon faith that all needs of a properly functioning body will be met. God Himself has dispensed the talents and guides the owner of the skills as He sees fit. Sure, there are always some who will burry their gift and refuse to serve society, but the redundancy built in will more than take care of that problematic.

On the opposite side of the spectrum we have socialism. This describes an economy engineered by an economic guru armed to the teeth with the violence of government. This is not to imply that the command market is directed in the organized or efficient meaning of the term. An economic command in itself does not guarantee that the needs of the body will be met. History proves that the planned economy fails miserably if for the only reason that man tries to maneuver things to his own benefit, and to the detriment of his fellow citizens. No matter how benevolent, wise or smart the economic director believes himself to be, it *without exception* ends in disaster. Maximilien Robespierre, a true child of the so-called "enlightenment", is perhaps the first modern socialist. He said all the right things, had all the right words, but all his claims were well-thought thorough fabrications as demonstrated by his deeds. Manipulation, demands for unconditional obedience & submission, destruction, theft and death is *unfailingly* the result. Socialism is a society based on anti-faith, or fear, that needs will not be met if the strong man does not intervene. It is a lie.

This is the pyramid system in all of its glory: domination by one in contrast to all actors living out their faculties as God has allocated.

The Focus

We have bounced around the subject until now. *The number one indication of the pyramid system is the focus on one person, the leader of the pyramid.* Mr. Pyramid director said this, Mr. pyramid director did that. He demands obedience to (1) himself, (2) his vision and (3) his word. If you don't like it, the door is behind you. While the motivation of this scheme is pride, its end is disaster. It makes many promises, promises it has no hope to fulfill.

The antithesis to the church is the Church. They have the same motos, but that is all. This author has struggled with the notion of how the bonafide Church is structured. There is nothing to mention found in the Word. We know very sporadic details of what some of the first Believers did.

The conclusion is profoundly simple. We come out of the quandary by saying that there is no structure. We need to stop trying to make it happen, and simply let it happen. Where two or three are gathered, He is there among them. In our world of "gotta do someth'n, and do it now", this solution may not cause the active person to find solace. But

it will cause peace if we grasp it. And it will save us from the christian version of the rat race. The only way to win the race, paradoxically, is to stop running the race.

The System

Soak in these reference texts.

Galatians 4:16 Have I now become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

Galatians 4:17 True, these teachers are zealous for you, but their motives are not good. They want to separate you from us so that you will become zealous for them.

Galatians 4:18 To be zealous is good, provided always that the cause is good. Indeed, whether I am present with you or not,

Galatians 4:19 my dear children, I am suffering the pains of giving birth to you all over again – and this will go on until the Messiah takes shape in you.

Galatians 4:20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone of voice. I don't know what to do with you.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be in subjection to the system that results from perverting the law into legalism, don't you hear what the Torah itself says?

Galatians 4:22 It says that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman.

Galatians 4:23 The one by the slave woman was born according to the limited capabilities of human beings, but the one by the free woman was born through the miracle-working power of God fulfilling his promise.

Galatians 4:24 Now, to make a allegory on these things: the two women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children for slavery – this is Hagar.

Galatians 4:25 Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she serves as a slave along with her children.

Galatians 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother;

Galatians 4:27 for the law says,

*"Rejoice, you barren woman who does not bear children!
Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor!
For the deserted wife will have more children
than the one whose husband is with her!"*

Galatians 4:28 You, brothers, like Isaac, are children referred to in a promise of God.

Galatians 4:29 But just as then the one born according to limited human capability persecuted the one born through the Spirit's supernatural power, so it is now.

Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless, what does the law say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for by no means will the son of the slave woman inherit along with the son of the free woman!"

Galatians 4:31 So, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Galatians 5:1 What the Messiah has freed us for is freedom! Therefore, stand firm, and don't let yourselves be tied up again to a yoke of slavery.

Cutting to the chase, there exist two lineages of Abraham. One consists of the religious folk, and the other of true sons. It is time for us to get with the program. We are called to freedom, not to fulfilling the rituals as handed to us by pyramid directors. They direct when the church doors are open, when the choir sings, when prayer teams meet, even when the Holy Spirit is supposed to show. Let us not be zealous for the "leaders" and their clubs, but rather for good works as we are lead by the Spirit. Do not let the slave woman persecute you for being free!

Where to we go from here?

For those called to be a pastor, for those who left the system by the leading of the spirit and did not know why, for those who are disturbed in your spirits about the church and do not know why: congratulations to him who has made it this far. This is not easy reading. It questions what those who have been serving in the system have been doing. Again:

*1 Corinthians 3:10-15: Using the grace God gave me, I laid a foundation, like a skilled master-builder; and another man is building on it. But let each one be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Yeshua the Messiah. **Some will use gold, silver or precious stones in building on this foundation; while others will use wood, grass or straw.** But each one's work will be shown for what it is; the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire – the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If the work someone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward; if it is burned up, he will have to bear the loss: he will still escape with his life, but it will be like escaping through a fire.*

Some readers may conclude they have been building with stubble. The good news is, now you know. And now you have a chance to build with gold and precious stones. Be aware that others will claim your gold is stubble and their stubble is gold. Understand that God has his value system. Get in line with that one! At some point, all works will be shown for what they are. In the end, God's opinion is the only one that matters.

For those who have decided they want to serve God, but not in the system, be careful not to reinvent the system! Be on your guard. The pyramid is the natural way of things. One really has to pay attention not to fall into that trap. It is the broad way.

If you are in a system and want to change it, here are some steps you can take:

- Invite others give testimony messages at the major gatherings as to what God may have done over the past week. This only takes 5 minutes usually, although it could be longer.
- Have others present prayer requests at the major gatherings. Ask those who wish to pray for the situation to do so.
- Coordinate others to give teachings at the major gatherings. Start small, say 10 minutes per speaker.
- Have people break into small groups at major gatherings for Bible discussion.

The goal is to turn the people from being spectators into players. God has made us to be doers, not watchers. You will find that as the people get used to the new format, God will move in beautiful ways.

Don't be surprised if the system does not want to change. If that is the case, at some point, you have to choose to leave, or become a part of the system again.