

New Testament Church

Lesson 13 (Final Lesson)

(1) Elder Preparation

(2) Institutionalism

(3) The Sponsoring Church Arrangement

Elder Preparation

- What do we tell men to prepare them to become elders?
 - Develop the character of a Christian, including genuine concern for the souls of others.
 - Things of this world vs. things of the Lord (1 Cor. 7:32–34).
 - Leadership begins in the home.
 - Develop a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, especially those matters which pertain to the collective works of a local church, receiving members, discipline, etc.
 - Know what constitutes good preaching (substance over style, careful proof of points made, willingness to be corrected, etc.).
 - Don't be afraid to ask questions, specifically of the elders.

Institutionalism

- As seen in previous studies, local churches have some God-given responsibilities—teach the lost; teach and encourage the members; aid those in need (we'll cover the limitations of this shortly).
- Do local churches have the authority to turn any of that work over to other organizations (institutions)?
 - Build or support a care facility to handle benevolent needs?
 - Build or support a college or school to teach the gospel?
 - What's the difference between the above and paying Minuteman Press to print postcards for a meeting?

Institutionalism

- Did God equip local churches to do their work, without the aid of outside organizations and institutions?
 - Ephesians 4:11–16 certainly makes that case.
 - Elders must not relinquish oversight.
 - Local churches in the N.T. managed splendidly without such organizations.
 - The needs of many Christians were relieved, and the gospel marched from Jerusalem throughout all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:23).
 - Who dares look at God's arrangement and say, "I don't think we've got the tools to pull this off"?

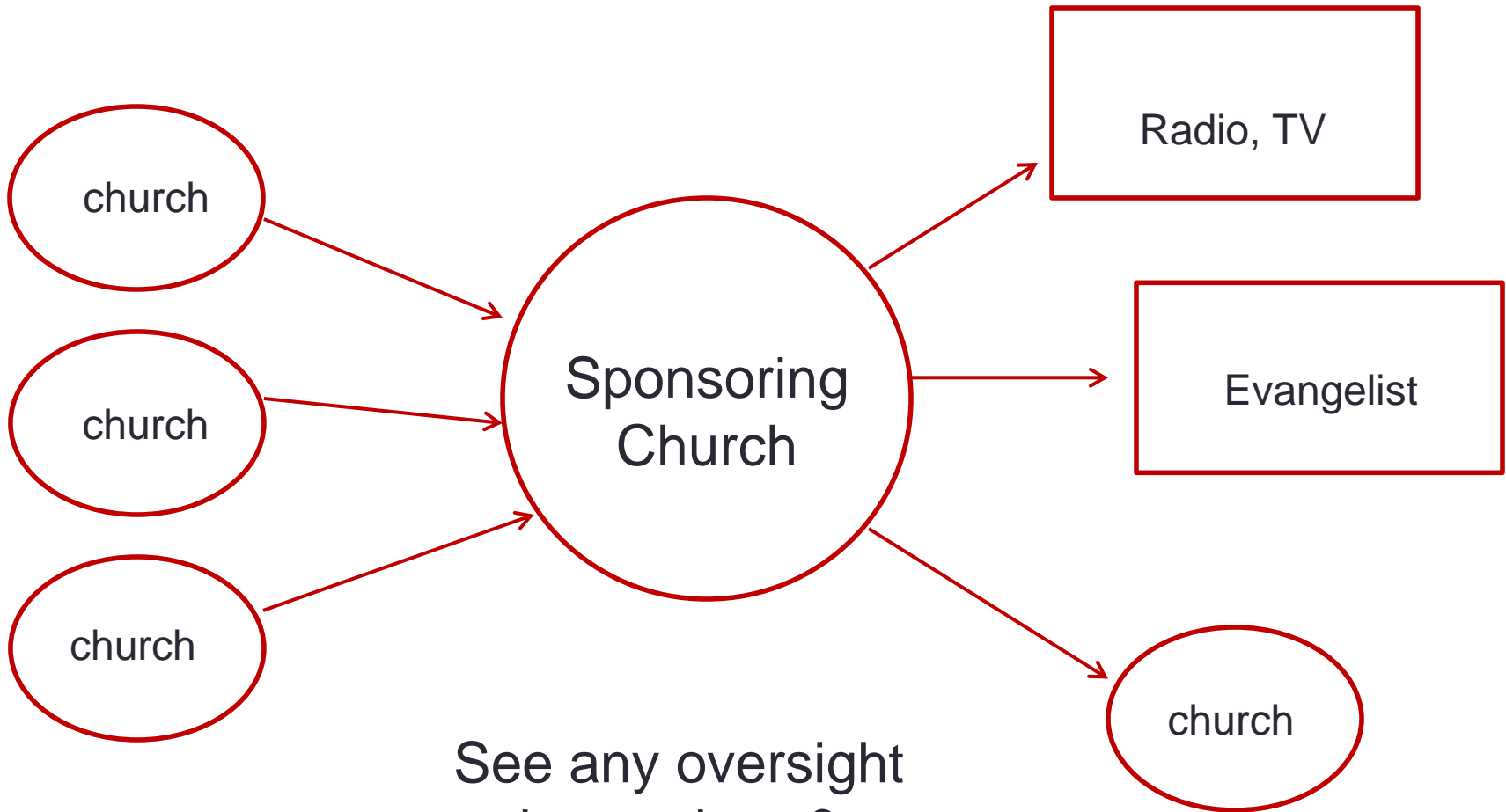
Benevolence

- Did local churches in the N.T. use any “middleman” organization to do their benevolent work?
 - Church at Jerusalem cared for its own (Acts 2, 4, 6) without such.
 - When the church at Antioch relieved the needs of those in Judea, they sent funds directly to the elders of the various churches in Judea (Acts 11:27–30).
 - Local churches in Macedonia, Achaia, and Galatia chose their own messengers and sent their own gift directly to the brethren in the church at Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25–33; 1 Cor. 16:1–4; 2 Cor. 8–9).

Benevolence

- Any record in the N.T. of local churches sending money to non-Christians?
 - Acts 2, 4, 6—the church at Jerusalem aided those “who **believed**,” those who were among “the **disciples**.”
 - Acts 11:27–30—church at Antioch sent “relief to the **brethren**.”
 - Rom. 15; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8–9—churches in Macedonia, Achaia and Galatia sent to “**saints**” in Jerusalem.
- Are individual Christians limited in the same way? (Gal. 6:10).

What's wrong with this?

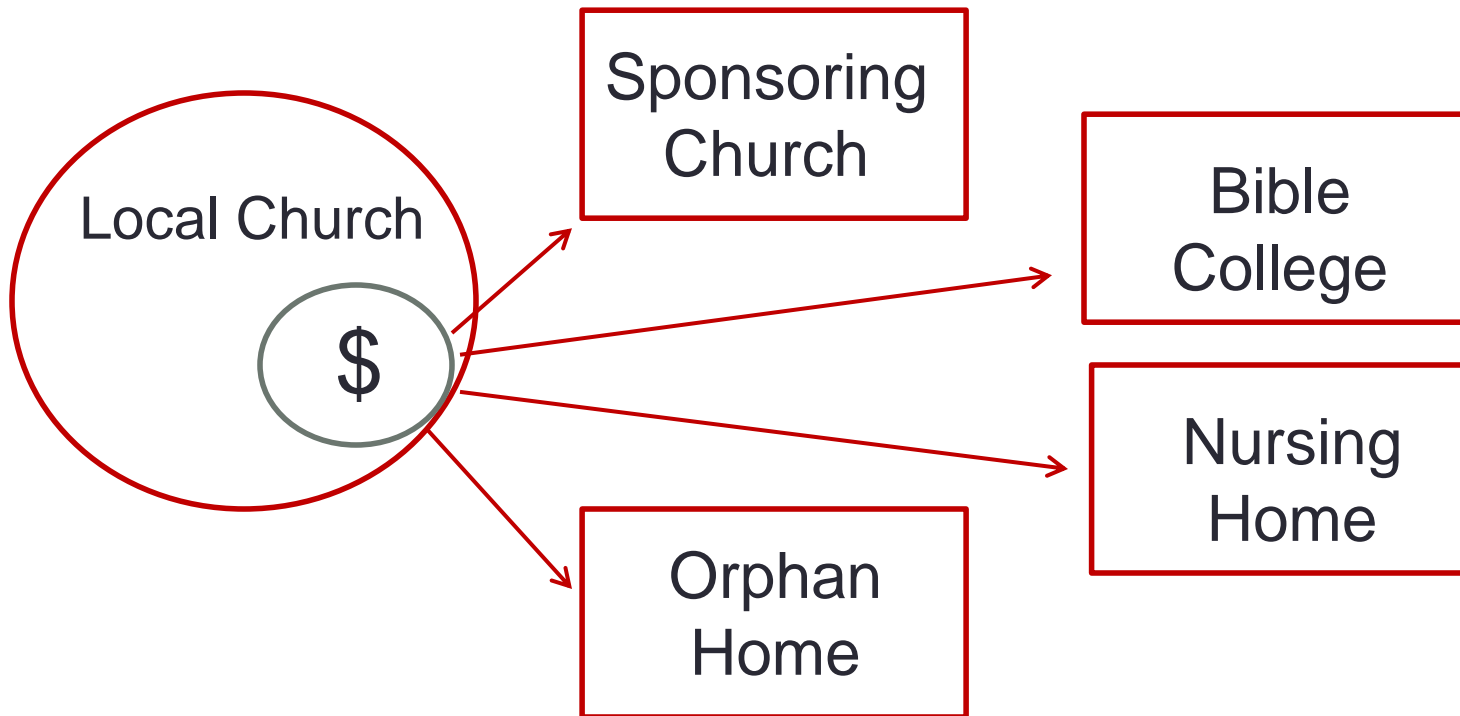


See any oversight
issues here?

Limited without a sponsoring church?

- We've reached a lot of people in this area (still need to reach more).
- Men from here have preached in Andalusia, Selma, Luverne, et al.
- The church here supported me to preach in Kenya; Joshua Carter in Sierra Leone; Kyle Gibson and Joshua Carter in the Philippines.
- We presently have fellowship with those preaching in Troy, AL; Andalusia, AL; Illinois; Maryland; India; and Kenya.

A Fund Raising Organization?



Can a local church surrender SOME of its work to another organization? If some, why not ALL? In that case, it becomes nothing but a fundraising organization.