

A SELF PERPETUATING CHURCH?

“Who would make this up” is a common theme in a basic belief of Christ and God. Many of the points of birth in a manger to death on a cross would not have been written by human creators. They are a proof that someone was in control of the First Century activities other than men.



In like manner, the organization of the church is illogical. Typical human church organizations lead to a single person as CEO of the organization. Would you invest in a company which has all decisions to be made by a group with no particular qualifications to run a business? Any group which intends to be sustained over a period of time needs centralized control and direction.

The church is not designed that way. It has local autonomy of congregations to be controlled by a multiplicity of elders. Elders are appointed primarily for spiritual reasons. He must “manage his household well” and “must have a good reputation with those outside the church” so it implies that he must be able to do something well.

A church can grow to be a multi-million dollar operation and the elders had have responsibility for hundreds of souls. Well meaning elders with little talent for management can become responsible for large organizations.

The expected will likely happen at that time. The under qualified (physically) elders will go into bunker mode and hold on. The result will be lack of church growth.

No man would make up a system like that. The question is why would God make up such a system? We cannot know what was in the mind of God, but we can appreciate some of the benefits of the system.

First, it leaves everyone with an equal position for being judged. **A first set of Christians start with nothing and build a successful church.** They have paid the price and have done a good thing.



THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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A SELF PERPETUATING CHURCH?

A second generation of Christians accepts control and simply rides herd on the established congregation. They are the policemen who make sure that nothing goes wrong. **Should they not be as responsible as the first group?** How does the second generation of leaders come up with the idea that going flatline is going to be acceptable?

Frequently a third generation of leaders leads the congregation into actual decline. They frequently retain the position of leadership and feel completely justified. It is someone or something else's fault.



Imagine that we consider the business model in that when the first generation (Mom and Pop) get the business started, it moves on into a corporate structure. It becomes ever more complex with more and more levels of management.

That sounds a lot like the Catholic Church, or the Methodists, or the Episcopalians, or the Baptists, or most other denomination. **These organizations clearly shown the wisdom of men.**

The choice of God to have local autonomy of congregations is in stark contrast with the organizational structure of most religious groups. It is likely not the optimum organization to have the maximum number of members in the church. It is probably the optimum organization to keep all Christians and Christian leaders responsible for results.

Clearly the autonomous organization of the congregations does not show the wisdom of men, it shows the wisdom of God.

That being said, we need to fulfill our obligation and help the church grow scripturally in our generation.



Houston Area Churches of Christ Welcome You!

For directory
www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org

Brothers in Christ,

How much do you think it would cost to advertise on 10 highway billboards in the Greater Houston Area? Try \$20,000 - \$40,000 a month. One billboard costs \$3000 - \$8000, depending on the location.

What if we could advertise on 10 billboards for \$1000, \$500, or even as low as \$250 a month?

Impossible! You might say. Not so! The answer is really quite simple, **NUMBERS & UNITY.**

There are over one hundred Churches of Christ in the greater Houston area. If every church contributed to the effort, we could expose our message to over 27 million views (looks) a month for \$250 a month. Wow! Have we ever unified and made a bold statement to the city of Houston that the Lord's church is alive and well? You know the answer, don't you? Everyone else is making statements. We have the truth. Let's make a statement, a **BOLD** statement. We are God's vehicle to save the world.

What can we accomplish with a Billboard Campaign?

- Revive our members
- Give positive exposure to Churches of Christ
- Attract non-members
- Drive traffic to our websites
- Create more opportunities for conversations about Christ and his church
- Bring more unity & fellowship to our brotherhood
- Save Souls

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Proposal:

Though 100% participation is ideal, 50 % participation would be fabulous.

100 churches - \$250 month for 4 months

50 churches - \$500 month for 4 months

30 churches - \$850 month for 4 months

25 churches - \$1000 month for 4 months

20 churches - \$1250 month for 4 months

- Every church of Christ in the Greater Houston area will be listed on the directory (www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org) with a link to your church website.
- The billboards will be located on major highways (59 north & south, 45 north & south, I-10 east and west, 290, Beltway 8, 610 loop, 225), and would rotate to new high traffic locations every 60 days.
- The pricing requires a four month commitment.

We are aware that the timing of this proposal may not be favorable for some. Please pray that God will bless our efforts. We want to avoid debating the merits of the proposal at this time, and if you choose not to participate, we fully understand. If we do not receive at least a 25% commitment of participation from all of the churches, we will not move forward.

With 25% or more participation, we will include **all** of the Greater Houston Area Churches of Christ in the directory unless exclusion is requested.

Who is the originator of this idea?

Brothers in Christ concerned about the Church of Christ, with no hidden agendas or financial motivation.

Questions may be directed to:

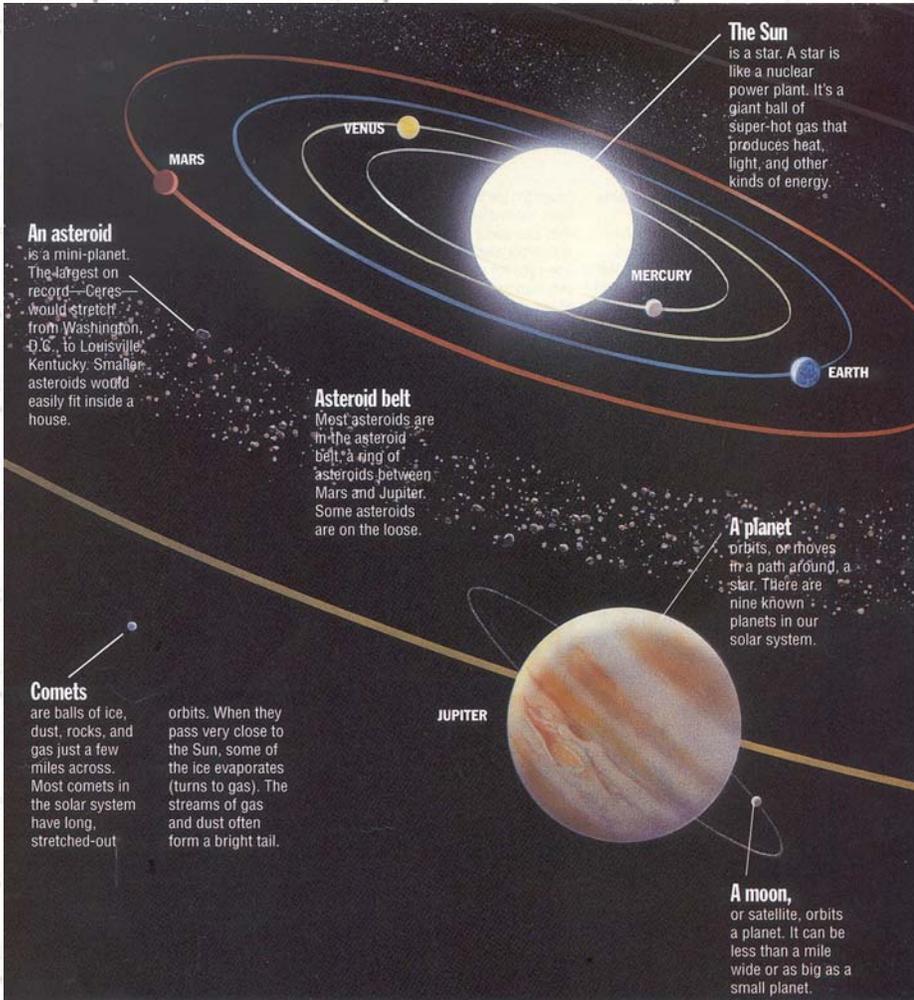
Gary Smith – Fifth Ward Church of Christ , 713-762-2654, garysmithdiscovery@yahoo.com

David Duncan – Memorial Church of Christ, 713-464-0271, dduncan@mcoc.org

John Tillman Jr. - Garden Oaks Church of Christ, call and get info to put in here.

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - THE "BIG BANG"



My favorite "Big Bang" is God spoke it and Bang, it happened.

If you put a bomb in you car, the hood may fly off rotating as it goes as it has a fixed surface area and non-uniform connections. Not so with the plasma of energy which was supposedly the "Big Bang".

The only motion available from the explosion of the "Big Bang" is pure radial motion.

The order of the universe is simply impossible to explain without God.

The Earth orbits around the Sun without falling. The Moon orbits around the Earth without falling. Many other planets orbit and rotate without falling.

We take this for granted. Scientific wisdom simply declares that this order is the result of an explosion—the "Big Bang". Is this logical. Is it even possible.

It is important to understand that the theory is that the "Big Bang" started at something like a point in space. Given this, in contrast to the incredible order of the universe, an explosion can only generate radial movement.

The classic demonstration of this complexity is to disassemble a watch and put it in a box. During a class period, let each member of the class shake the box. When the class is over, open the box and see if the watch reassembled itself during the shaking of the box.

It is appropriate to point out to the class that not only did the watch not reassemble itself, it did not do it when it was provided with finished parts. A more fair test would be to put sand in the box and expect it to make its own parts.

Does anyone expect the watch to reassemble itself?

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - "SPEED OF LIGHT"



In the September '09 issue of the newsletter under "Impossible for Evolution" we put an article titled "You Can Run Faster Than The Speed of Light". Conventional wisdom (the Theory of Relativity) says the speed of light in a vacuum is a constant, nothing can go faster than the speed of light, and as you approach the speed of light your mass becomes infinite.

The logic of the article was that your speed is simply relative to something else and that if your reference system is moving at the speed of light, then you are moving at the speed of light relative to it. It is hard or easy to understand. The article is attached to this newsletter also.

If one believes in the theory of relativity, this pretty much has to be an insult to you. To add to this, we have maintained a \$100 offer in this newsletter to anyone who can disprove this logic. A first thought to this is do those who believe in the religion of relativity actually read this small newsletter?

If you Google anything, you will recognize that there are criteria for being listed on the front page of a Google search. **Additionally on the right hand side of the Google page there are paid advertisements.** We have paid for the search words "theory of relativity" to validate the thesis of our article.

What is listed above is the results for the month of April 2010. Some of the numbers are difficult to understand, but what is easy to understand is that in April 395 people clicked on the article for an average cost of \$0.83 each for a total cost of \$329.39.

That is 329 unrestricted people of any background who saw this article. That is a measure of validation that the conventional teaching on relativity is not science, but rather simply a religion.

Three friends and I decided to hire a high level physics professor from a major university to discuss this and other topics. The professor accepted to spend 8 hours on May 6 for \$250.00 per hour, which we agreed to pay. The professor asked that we send him some questions that we would like to discuss and I agreed. I simply sent him the paper on "You Can Run Faster Than The Speed of Light". One day he e-mailed back that he was too busy to come.

You can conclude that he suddenly became busy, that he thought the article was stupid and not worth discussing (for \$2000), or he could not explain away the logic. You cannot be positive. I personally take it as validation that the premise of the article is reasonable.

MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the September 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.