



Churches Under Christ

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Special Information Notice

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and one and only head of **HIS** churches.

- Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**"
- Ephesians 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things to the church.**"

The Churches Under Christ Ministry is under the authority of Charity Baptist Tabernacle of Amarillo, Texas, and Pastor Ben Hickam. Churches Under Christ Website: jeraldfinney.com. Jerald Finney: jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net; 512-785-8445

DESTROYING THE BIBLE TRUST RELATIONSHIP: HOW A CHURCH CAN NULLIFY HER EFFORTS TO REMAIN UNDER CHRIST ONLY

More and more churches are seeking to exercise their Bible freedom to operate under the Lord Jesus Christ in all things. American churches who desire to do so are protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and corresponding state constitutional provisions. This short essay will give a simple explanation of the trust relationship used by churches in order to remain under Christ and Christ alone. Then, it will explain some ways those churches nullify that attempt to honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

The "common law" or "Bible" trust is a fiduciary relationship with money and/or property recognized but not created by man's law. This relationship is created by an agreement between a trustor and trustee, is private, creates no contract with the state (the state is not a party), and is not subject to control by civil government and its courts. Trust documents, if any, are never required to be filed in man's legal system through any of its courts or agencies. This type of trust is not a legal entity. The trust relationship can be established orally or in writing; a properly drafted writing is better. If not in writing, and if the facts show the intent to establish a relationship with property and/or money to be held by a trustee for the benefit of the true owner of the money and/or property then a trust relationship has been established. This is so no matter the terms used. It is not necessary to use the terms "trust," "trustor," "trustee," "trust estate," or "beneficiary" for a trust relationship to come into existence.

The trustor creates the relationship and names a trustee who agrees to administer a trust estate funded by the trustor (and others, if any, who wish to contribute to the trust estate) solely for the benefit of another, the true owner of the trust estate, the beneficiary. The trustor merely establishes the trust relationship. The trustee administers the trust estate solely for the benefit of the owner of the trust estate. Once assets are placed in the trust estate, those assets permanently belong to the beneficiary, not to the trustor.

An inactive trust is no trust at all. The elements of such a trust are: trustor, trustee, beneficiary, and **trust estate**. If an element is missing, there is no trust. If there is no trustor, trustee, beneficiary, and **trust estate** there is no trust. Without a **trust estate**, there is no trust. If there is no **trust estate**, there can be no trust. For a trust relationship to exist, all elements of the trust must exist. One cannot establish a fiduciary relationship with property if there is no property.

Some churches have properly drafted and executed documents establishing a proper trust relationship in order to remain under the Lord Jesus Christ only; but they have nullified their efforts by never listing trust property to the trust estate in the appendix to the documents. All property and assets in the trust estate should be listed in the appendix to the document establishing the trust relationship. Again, if no property is listed in the trust estate the trust is non-existent. Any property not in the appendix is not in the trust estate. The appendix should list everything held by the trust estate. The appendix should list all personal property (song books, pews, musical instruments, etc.), real property, motor vehicles, and bank accounts held in trust estate.

Another way churches who have set up a trust relationship with money and property whether written (Declaration of Trust, Procedures, or whatever the document is titled) or unwritten nullify their efforts to remain under Christ only is to act legally. When a church acts legally, she is a legal entity subject to the jurisdiction of civil government.

What is a legal entity? A legal entity is an entity that can sue, can be sued, can be charged with a crime, enters into contracts or acts legally in any way. When a church acts legally, she has declared herself to be a legal entity.

How can a church act legally? She can, for example, hold deed to real property, open a bank account, hold title to motor vehicle(s), hold insurance, contract, borrow money, incorporate and/or get Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) or § 508 status for the church or a ministry of the church, or do any other act which declares that she is acting in or subject to man's legal system. A church who holds insurance is admits that she is a legal worldly entity who can be sued. Doing anything is man's system makes a church a legal entity subject to man's law.

A properly implemented trust relationship with money and/or property keeps a church entirely out of man's earthly legal systems and under the Lord Jesus Christ in America in all things. That is, if the church does not misstep and declare herself to be a legal entity subject to the law of man in some other way. And thank the Lord and *[The Trail of Blood of the Martyrs of Jesus](#)* who in giving their all paid the price that gave all Americans freedom of religion and soul liberty as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and corresponding state constitutional provisions.

"... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ... For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." (Ephesians 5.25-27, 30).

Note. This is also being published as an essay at: [DESTROYING THE BIBLE TRUST RELATIONSHIP: HOW A CHURCH CAN NULLIFY HER EFFORTS TO REMAIN UNDER CHRIST ONLY](#)

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME FOR ANY REASON.

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