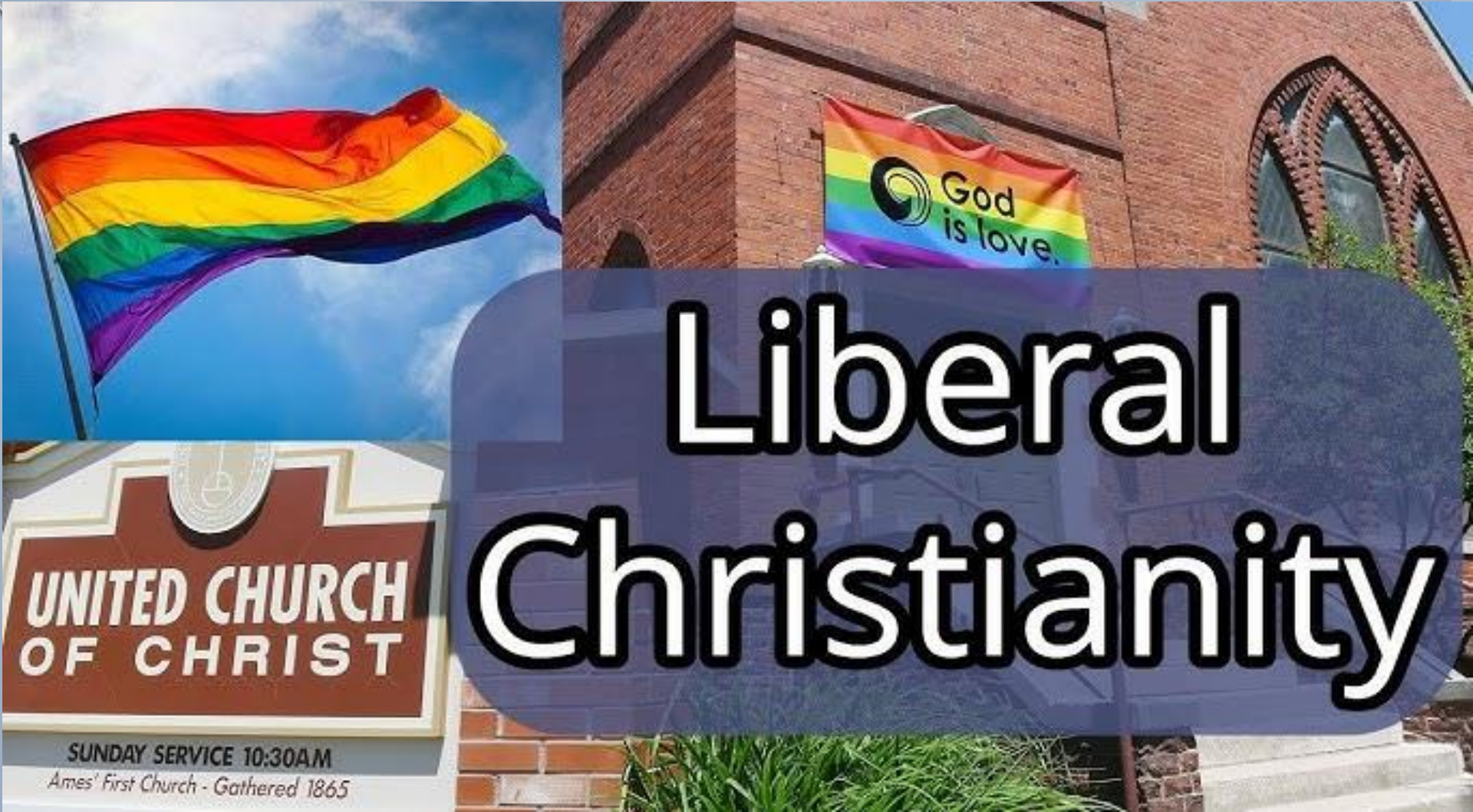


LESSON 1-INTRODUCTION TO INSTITUTIONALISM



**Liberal
Christianity**



The Church contribution

AUTHORITY-THE BASIC ISSUE

1. WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO GOVERN OUR LIVES (MATT. 28:18-20)?

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

2. WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH AND WHAT DOES HEADSHIP MEAN (EPH. 1:22-23; 5:23-24)?

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

3. WHAT MUST WE DO TO REMAIN IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (2 JOHN 9-10)?

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;”

- **QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE WORD "PATTERN" MEAN?**

5. WHAT WAS PAUL'S INSTRUCTION TO THE EVANGELIST TIMOTHY (2 TIM. 1:13)?

“Hold fast the **pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

6. DO THESE TEACHINGS CHANGE FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION (2 TIM. 2:2)?

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

7. IS THERE A PARTICULAR WAY THAT JESUS WANTS HIS CHURCH TO FUNCTION (1 TIM. 3:14- 15)?

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that **you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

1. The Mission of the Church:
2. The all-sufficiency of the local church:
3. Cooperation among local churches:
4. The work and mission of the local church:
5. Limited benevolence:
6. Individual action and local church action:
7. The autonomy and organization of the local church:
8. There is the universal church and the local church.
9. Bible authority:

CONCLUSION:

Brethren, institutionalism is not a "dead issue" as some would say. It is very much alive and it needs to be addressed with God's word. It was wrong when it was first introduced and it is still wrong today. Today's generation can know what the issues are, and can return to the New Testament pattern when necessary to find answers.