

## Prayer Opening Comments

**Slide 1:** I will try to put the cookies on the bottom shelf for the kiddies. Some of you are more advanced, but you are not the only one here. I speak to you in love, the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians, from which the above verses were taken, was written to a local NT church, the church at Ephesus. Nonetheless, it can be applied to every local autonomous NT church. God entrusts every pastor and elder here with his church, not the churches of others. I ask you to consider, in love, what I say, using the standard as the Word of God. What you do with it is between you and God. May God be glorified as we search for truth.

**Slide 2:** This is an accurate definition of the trust BLC uses. It is from the 1828 Webster's Dictionary. Law in America recognizes this type of trust in the church context. Churches in America have been using it for a long time as will be pointed out in the Second Session.

**Slide 3:** Not going to cover this in detail, but just let me say that God ordained or established the concept and it is still in force. Who created all things? Who created man. Did God own all things? Does He still own all things? Whom did God entrust the earth and all that is in it? Is the earth and all that is in it still entrusted to man? For whose benefit is it all to be used? Trustor, trustee, beneficiary, duty? This is all explained in this article which is available online at no cost.

**Slide 4:** I am doing in depth studies of the doctrine of the church, which include studies of the relationship of church and state. I have already done a lot of study on this. I had to in order to glorify God in this ministry He called me into. With increased study comes increased understanding. I am coming across nothing in these more in depth studies which contradicts my conclusions: God desires total separation of "church and state" (not separation of God and state). I explain what this means in some detail in some of my writings (give examples, perhaps). Maybe elaborate a little on the importance of understanding this if time permits, etc. Make comments as I go through the pages on this slide.

**Slide 5:** -

**Slide 6:**

**Slide 7:** Go to my books for answers. But before that or along with that, you should first do some things which I will mention later in this presentation. Check everyone out before believing and following them. Everyone includes me.

**Slide 8:** All my books are free. Some can be bought, if you so desire. However, you can get them free in online form or PDF. Here is the page to go to where you can get access to all books in whatever form. God's website, "Separation of Church and State Law," also has many other resources such as articles, links to sermons, and so forth. [Jeraldfinney.wordpress.com](http://Jeraldfinney.wordpress.com).

**Slide 9:** -

**Slide 10:** -

**Slide 11:** I explain why not to go here in [go to slide 12].

**Slide 12:** This is from *Approved by God*, p. 149-150. The ELC does not do a Declaration of Trust for individual churches. Nonetheless, the ELC creates trusts orally and effectively, and the ELC has declared their trust arrangement publicly, in *Approved by God*. If an ELC church buys property, the church holds the property through the pastor (p. 149, 150). Although the terms trust, trustee, beneficiary, etc. are not used, the concepts are there and court cases make clear that an agreement to hold property for the benefit of another has been created. The law I will go through later makes clear that courts identify this arrangement as a "trust." I will deal with some court cases in Session 2. The ELC church (the "trustor") holds the money and property (the trust estate) for the benefit of the Lord Jesus Christ; a court would call the Lord Jesus Christ a beneficiary (the true, equitable, beneficial owner of the property). The way they do the trust arrangement makes a church a legal entity since the church holds the money/property through a trustee.

ELC leaders once were members of IBT. While there in the 1980s, they talked at length with attorney Al Cunningham and picked his brain. Brother Cunningham had begun to use the concept of "trust" for use by churches. They learned all about the concept from him. Then, they contrived a scheme to use the concept, but eliminated the identifying terms and said that they had come up with a Bible, not a legal, solution. In fact, they adopted Al Cunningham's solution, which was a Bible solution, if properly implemented. Their criticism of the BLC method is totally discredited in the online book I mentioned in a prior slide. They don't know that they are doing.

One more thing about this. They are very unwise in not doing a Resolution and Declaration of Trust for churches. I explain why in the article I pointed to earlier.

**Slide 13:** It says among other things, “An overview of the pros and cons of revocable trusts versus wills.” Not applicable to the trust we do. However, I would be glad to discuss the concept of revocable versus irrevocable trust in the context of the trust BLC recommends.

**Slide 14:** It says, among other things, “A trust is an estate planning tool created by an individual to manage his assets prior to his death, ....” Not applicable to the BLC recommended trust relationship.

**Slide 15:** [Brief comments on this page and corporation sole] E.g. A corporation sole is just another type of non-profit corporation. The one and only difference is that it has only one officer. It says right in the law, quoted in this free online booklet, exactly that. [Comments on Church Establishment Affidavit which is examined in the booklet.] These people, like the others, are excellent con artists who deceive those who are without knowledge on these matters. They are a disgrace to the cause of Christ.

**Slide 16:** This article is free online at:

<https://jeraldfinney.wordpress.com/2012/09/12/the-false-and-misleading-teachings-and-advertisements-of-startchurch-another-spiritual-and-legal-deceiver/>

**Slide 17:** -

**Slide 18:** Get a valid education that will teach you how to research and apply man’s law. Never forget that the standard is the Word of God or you may be misled and are many “Christian” lawyers and law firms about many matters. People say things like, “Lawyers are officers of the court.” What does this mean? It means that they are to know the law and the rules of the court. One who goes into court *pro se* can find himself at a severe disadvantage. A preacher years ago called me after he had already been through an agency process, to trial court, and then to appeal court. He briefed me on the church matter he was dealing with, all that he had done and sent me his briefs and other documents in the case. Without knowing it, he had made a total mess of everything, but wanted my help. For example, he had not got the evidence into the record that he needed in the record (at the trial and also at agency level). It was too late to get that evidence in. He had made poor legal arguments (to be generous). I had to decline for those reasons and also because he and I did not agree on what the Bible teaches about the Doctrine of the Church (and how it interrelates to the law), etc. He ultimately lost. All along I was praying that he would succeed, because I loved him and his church.

After it was over, he would proclaim, when speaking at seminars that you don't need a lawyer, do it yourself. Do so if you want to do what he did – spend thousands of hours trying to figure out all the intricacies of the law (procedural, legal, and factual) and how to apply it in litigation (in his case simultaneously).

As soon as I got my license, I started the real application and study. For example, I learned of a man, an expert in Evidence Law, who held weekly meetings free and open to anyone teaching what he had learned after 35-40 years of intense study of Evidence law. I went every week for years. I went to many seminars every year given by experienced lawyers to glean from them on the law, etc. I also received all the cases coming out of all the courts of appeal in Texas and went to a weekly class where 2 longtime lawyers discussed those cases. Etc. That is what it takes to properly practice law.

I will go over a case which discusses the *pro se* issue in Session 2.

**Slide 19:** Go to the law library once you learn how to do legal research. This pictures some resources. Those at the top left are AmJur 2d, a legal encyclopedia. This is just one starting point for legal research on an issue. There are many more starting points. It is just a starting point and will lead you to many other resources.

**Slide 20:** This is a closer view of some volumes of AmJur 2<sup>nd</sup>. Again, I know I am putting the cookies on the bottom shelf for the kiddies. Some of you are more advanced, but you are not the only one here.

**Slide 21:** You need to know where to start. You don't start with volume 13 "business trusts" or volume 15, "charitable trusts." Ben Townsend mixes up all kind of trusts in his writings. He says "A dog is a dog." Yes, but a poodle is not a German Shepherd. Business and charitable trusts are very distinct from each other and from "trusts."

**Slide 22:** This is the volume you need to go to for an understanding of "trusts" as opposed to "business trusts," "charitable trusts," etc.

**Slide 23:** [Read from some of these pages from 76 AmJur 2d *Trusts*. Explain some of the concepts while going through the slides. [E.g.:They can hold the position that they are the trustees of a trust, an oral trust. A trust can be created and operated without a writing. However, how do they explain the trust. Thus, the wisdom of a writing, a Resolution and a Declaration of Trust, properly worded and properly executed. Such a document will answer all their questions.]

**Slide 24:** They can hold the position that they are the trustees of a trust, an oral trust. A trust can be created and operated without a writing. However, how do they explain the trust? Thus, the wisdom of a writing, a Resolution and a Declaration of Trust, properly worded and properly executed. Such a document will answer all their questions. See the article for more on the wisdom of a DOT.

**Slide 25:** -

**Slide 26:** -

**Slide 27:** -