



Churches Under Christ Newsletter

The Churches Under Christ Ministry is under the authority of Charity Baptist Tabernacle of Amarillo TX, Ben Hickham Pastor

April 1, 2021

The Newsletter for churches who choose to glorify God by remaining under the sole authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; as opposed to those churches who choose to place themselves under the authority of man through incorporation (corporation sole or aggregate), Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) or § 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt status, unincorporated association status, charitable trust status business trust status, etc.

- 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.**"
- Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

A church in America can organize so as to glorify both God and man without persecution because of the highest law of the land concerning church state relationship, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. That alone cancels the false Romans 13 argument given by many churches (that believers and churches should obey every law of man) for betraying God through incorporation, 501(c)(3), 508(c)(1)(A) or other "legal" status which places a church under man's laws. What about limiting liability of church members and other arguments? See [Separation of Church and State/God's Churches: Spiritual or Legal Entities?](https://jeraldfinney.com/god-betrayed/books/separation-of-church-and-state-gods-churches-spiritual-or-legal-entities/) (https://jeraldfinney.com/god-betrayed/books/separation-of-church-and-state-gods-churches-spiritual-or-legal-entities/)

Short Answers to Some Important Questions (https://jeraldfinney.com/2018/12/07/short-course-important-questions-answered/). Questions such as "What Does Church, Inc. Mean?," "Who Is Head of the Incorporated Church?," "What is 501(3)?," Etc.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THIS MINISTRY IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS A RESOURCE IN THE NEWSLETTER OR FOR ANY REASON. YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. Brother Jerald Finney, 512-785-8445; E-mail: jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net

CONTENTS

- 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH 2021: Pages 2-4.** If you are interested in a more detailed log of ministry activities, please feel free to contact me at Jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net or 512-785-8445. God bless.
 - 2. BASICS OF THE LOVE STORY BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCHES, THE COMMON LAW BIBLE TRUST AND FALSE REASONS FOR CHURCH LEGAL ENTITY STATUS: HOW A CHURCH CAN ESTABLISH A COMMON LAW TRUST: Page 4.**
 - 3. FEATURED SERMONS, ESSAYS, AND BOOKS Page 5.**
 - 4. MORE DETAILED LOG OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES DURING AUGUST 2021. Page 5.** If you are interested in a more detailed log of ministry activities, please feel free to contact me at Jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net or 512-785-8445. God bless.
-

1. A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH 2021

(For a more complete report, see the Activity Log at the end, starting on page __. Of course, the less important matters and some matters not related to the work this ministry does are not included here.)

Mar. 1: Prepared and emailed docs (without name of church, since they have not selected a name yet), to Bro. Jack Tackett:

Mar. 1-31: Worked with a Pastor and church in preparations for establishing a common law trust, dissolving the church corp., rescinding the 501c3 status, and other matters so as to place the church under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. On March 20, we did a conference call with the Pastor and other church members.

Mar 2-15: Received a voice mail on March 2 from a pastor who wishes to start the process of organizing a church under Christ alone. I emailed him and we talked on March 5. Emailed the Questionnaire 1. Obviously, when they starting filling out Q1, other matters were brought to their attention. The pastor emailed me that they started a ministry in 2020 for which they applied for an EIN, etc. They had questions about that. Also wanted to know if the church could be under the ministry. I replied via email and asked that they call me and asked a couple of questions: "Why did you not tell me about this?" and "Give me your Bible reasoning for putting a church under a ministry." I also stated, "Your email brings up many other concerns which we must discuss before determining if this ministry can be of help to you." I have not heard back from them since.

Mar. 2-3: Talked with Pastor of a church which established the trust 20 or so years ago. He is stepping down as pastor and wanted to know how to change trustees. Called him and discussed the transition to a new pastor and trustee

Mar. 2-19: VM, on March 2, from a pastor who is completing Questionnaire 1. He said he does not believe in women deacons, officers or women in authority over men for any reason, but that he believes that it is OK for a woman, well versed in Scriptures to teach men. That was the only matter of concern raised in Q1. Called Bro. Rensink. Read him from 1 Timothy 2. Told him that the provisions for no women leading, teaching men, being officers, etc. will be in the docs. He agreed and agreed that women should not teach men, according to the Word of God. Sent him Q2 on March 19.

Mar 2-31: March 2 email from a gentleman who, along with others in the church, is interested in getting the church out of corporate 501c3 status. I sent him the link to the Need Help website page and asked him to review that and

let me know if the church wants to begin the process with the initial mailing. Instead, he began to ask questions about retaining the church property if they make the change. Again, I referred him to the Need Help page and asked him to follow the procedures. I stated, "All questions will be answered in order when those procedures are followed. I cannot take questions out of order, including retaining property. Every situation is different. Much time goes into figuring out the answer to that question. The answer depends upon numerous facts."

Mar. 5-16: Call from a pastor who had done the trust documents in 2017, but never used them because of a trouble making deacon who had substantially taken over the church, the checkbook, etc.. That deacon kept the only copy of the docs and would not let the church have access. He would not work with the pastor. Etc. Now, the deacon has left the church, and there is harmony in the church body. They now want to start in a new way, get their priorities right. We discussed matters concerning establishing the trust. This church never stopped having services during COVID. He preached on why. That the church was the Lord's work. He preached hard on incorporation, etc. We agreed that the trust was never effective and that we should start all over. On March 5, I prepared and emailed initial mailing. I received completed Q1, which we discussed on April 1, today. I asked him to redo it and email me the corrected copy, since some of the questions had incorrect answers. We cleared up his misunderstandings. I also emailed him Questionnaire 2 earlier today.

Mar. 4-10: Emails and calls with a young businessman with a family. He is interested in learning how to organize a church the Bible way. He heard about the ministry from Mark Taylor. He is an active member of an incorporated 501c3 church.

Mar. 11: Email from a gentleman who intends to purchase land etc. He wishes to hold the property for the benefit of the Lord Jesus Christ and His church, as he put it. He wants to use the property to establish a house of worship and for outreach to the local community. Etc. He wanted a template for the common law trust. He also had various questions. I replied: "I regret that this ministry will not be able to help you. This ministry helps churches organize according to the principles of the New Testament. There is a lot of material on the website which explains the common law (ordinary) trust. One can implement the concept for various purposes. You can go to a law library to learn more about it. The common law trust is recognized by American law; American law did not create or originate the concept. I have essays online which explain this. The family is a God-ordained institution. The church is a God-ordained institution made up of local churches. As to the template for the common law trust, I referred him to [Question and Answer: "Do you have a template for a 'common law' or 'Bible' trust...?"](#)"

Mar. 17-18: Email from a gentleman who is meeting with others. They wish to explore the possibility of starting a common law trust. I replied: "Dear Brother _____, The ministry has procedures. Go to the following webpage for more on those procedures: [Need Help?](#) I believe that you should take a look at Questionnaire 1, which is one of 3 documents sent in the initial mailing. If you wish ministry help, lease copy and paste it, answer the questions, and email the completed document to me. The link to Questionnaire 1 is on the above page, in bold colored font...."

Mar. 18-19: Email from another gentlemen with whom this ministry has communicated over the years. They are interested in the trust. I replied, "Dear Brother _____, The ministry has procedures. For those procedures, see: [Need Help?](#) Included in the initial mailing is Questionnaire 1. Please go to the link to that Questionnaire which is on the above webpage. Please copy and paste that or download it, fill it out, and email it to me. That will speed things up." He responded on March 19: Thank you for responding. Just so I'm clear; your services are not available unless we join your ministry? Is that correct?" I responded, "Dear Brother, Where did you get that? You do not join this ministry. This ministry helps churches. God bless...."

Mar. 20: The IRS told a trustee of a common law trust that he filled out the form SS-4 incorrectly. In fact, he did not. The IRS insisted that the trust was a business. I drafted a letter, which included my letterhead, to the IRS explaining in detail why the form was correct. The IRS is getting harder to deal with as time goes on concerning getting an EIN for banking purposes only. For a church established common law trust, when the documents are properly drafted, to get a number "for banking purposes only" does not compromise the trust as a non-legal entity, nor does it

compromise the non-legal entity status of the church. Other trusts have run into problems with the IRS after they got their EIN "for banking purposes only." In those few cases, the IRS sent letters stating that the trustee had to submit form 1041. In each case, I sent the IRS a letter explaining the trust and why form 1041 cannot be applied to the common law trust, and that ended the matter. If anyone wishes to discuss these matters in more detail, feel free to contact me. As the national atmosphere rapidly changes, the attacks will only get more severe.

Mar. 27-28: Drove to Clarksville TX and spoke to the church body of Temple Baptist Church on the 28th, in Sunday School hour, morning and afternoon services. Answered questions, fellowshiped, etc.

Mar. 31: Published [Sad that the State of the Church is the Church of the State](https://jeraldfinney.com/2021/03/31/sad-that-the-state-of-the-church-has-become-the-church-of-the-state/) (Pastor Arthur Neal, 033121)(<https://jeraldfinney.com/2021/03/31/sad-that-the-state-of-the-church-has-become-the-church-of-the-state/>)

2. IF YOU OPEN THIS DOC ONLINE, CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE BASICS OF THE LOVE STORY BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCHES, HOW A CHURCH CAN ESTABLISH A COMMON LAW (BIBLE) TRUST, PLUS FALSE REASONS FOR CHURCH LEGAL ENTITY STATUS

THE FOLLOWING WEBPAGES ARE LINKED TO AT: <https://jeraldfinney.com/>

(1-5):

1. Christ and *His* Local Visible Churches: A Love Story
2. One Church Under God
3. Common Law Bible Trust Explained - Resources
4. Bible Basics - The Trust Relationship of Churches under Christ
5. False Reasons of "Christian" Lawyers and Pastors for Corporate, 501(c)(3) Status or Legal Status of Any Kind

(6-11):

6. Need Help?
7. Initial Mailing
8. Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines of the Churches Under Christ Ministry
9. Questionnaire 1
10. Questionnaire 2
11. Documents Used To Establish a Church under Christ and Christ alone

3. FEATURED SERMONS, ESSAYS, AND BOOKS

New essays, articles and webpages added in February:

- [Sad that the State of the Church is the Church of the State](https://jeraldfinney.com/2021/03/31/sad-that-the-state-of-the-church-has-become-the-church-of-the-state/) (Pastor Arthur Neal, 033121)(<https://jeraldfinney.com/2021/03/31/sad-that-the-state-of-the-church-has-become-the-church-of-the-state/>)
- [Religious Organizations \(Apostasy\), the LGBTQ Agenda \(Gross Immorality\), and Civil Government Tyranny](#) (Webpage)

Featured Study: [First Amendment Protection of New Testament Churches/Federal Laws Protecting State Churches \(Religious Organizations\) \(022610\)](https://jeraldfinney.com/2010/02/26/laws-protecting-new-testament-churches-in-the-united-states-read-them-for-yourself/)(<https://jeraldfinney.com/2010/02/26/laws-protecting-new-testament-churches-in-the-united-states-read-them-for-yourself/>)

Links to short teachings on questions important to churches under Christ: [Short Answers to Some Important Questions](https://jeraldfinney.com/2018/12/07/short-course-important-questions-answered/) at <https://jeraldfinney.com/2018/12/07/short-course-important-questions-answered/>.

Books by Jerald Finney are free online in PDF, online form, and Kindle, and may be ordered. Go to the [free online, PDF and order page for books by Jerald Finney](https://jeraldfinney.com/god-betrayed/order-information/) (<https://jeraldfinney.com/god-betrayed/order-information/>).

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ANY REASON. YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. Brother Jerald Finney 512-785-8445; E-mail: jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net

4. MORE DETAILED LOG OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH 2021

If you are interested in a more detailed log of ministry activities, please feel free to contact me at Jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net or 512-785-8445. God bless.