

SERMON NOTES

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Nansemond River Baptist Church
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“ORDER IN THE CHURCH”

*God is not the author of confusion but of peace . . .
Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)*

God’s Pattern for Church Government: “The Golden Rule”

During the past two weeks, we have seen that God has a plan for His church. He expects *all things to be done “decently and in order.”*¹ The Church is called the *Body of Christ* on Earth,² so, His Church ought to reflect His character, and He is “*not the Author of confusion but of peace!*”³

We have also seen that through the ages, God has gifted and raised up men whom He has called to lead His people. From Adam to Noah, from Abraham to David, and from the Prophets to the Apostle Paul, those men have led with the unmistakable calling of God upon their lives. They were often questioned and criticized, but they never stood alone, for God was leading through them!

Then, when He birthed the Church, He again provided leadership, Elders and Deacons, so that we could carry out our mission on Earth *decently, peaceably, and in order*. In doing so, we reflect God’s character before the world, and lost humanity sees Jesus through the *mirror* of His Church.

But, how does that play out in everyday life? If the Church is not brick and mortar, but flesh and blood; if we are the church, then what is the pattern for living that brings order and productivity to our lives?

In this final message, we will examine Jesus’ *Order of Conduct* for all who follow Him. His command is the foundation for church government, because it directs how the church should conduct itself at the foundational level; the way each member governs *himself!*

Matthew 7:7-12

In governing ourselves, we must consider . . .

I. What we _____.

II. What we _____.

III. What we _____.