

## Can We Prove What This Congregation Is Doing Is Right?

Can we prove here locally (El Paso, TX), that what we do as a congregation is pleasing to God?

- We assemble together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7 and Hebrews 10:23-25).
- We come together in one place (I Corinthians 11:20 and I Corinthians 14:23).  
\*The Lord's funds (Acts 5:1-4) are not used for that place.
- We praise God together in song with our hearts and voices (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Romans 15:9, I Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16-17, and Hebrews 13:15).
- We use a book of songs, hymns, and spiritual song (Ephesians 5:19; cf. Psalms 1-150).
- Public prayers are offered in accordance to the will of God in a manner that all present can say amen (I Corinthians 14:15-16, James 4:3, and I John 5:14).
- We commune with one another every first day of the week in partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 10:16-17, and I Corinthians 11:23-33).
- We pray together in giving thanks to God (Ephesians 5:20 and I Thessalonians 5:18).
- There is a collection wherein members of the congregation, for the work of the congregation, give as they have prospered (I Corinthians 16:1-2). Such giving is purposed by each person, not set or inspected by anyone else (Matthew 6:1-4 and II Corinthians 9:7).
- In the preaching done on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), the word of God is preached (II Timothy 4:1-2) with great care in preparation not to wrongly divide the Scriptures (II Timothy 2:14-18 and II Peter 3:15-18). Each member takes upon him or herself to examine what is taught through the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11 and I Thessalonians 5:21). No "other doctrine" is accepted (I Timothy 1:3-7).
- Our worship assembly is decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40).
- The congregation works together in spiritual edification, comforting, exhorting, and correcting of one another (I Thessalonians 5:11-14).
- If correction is not received, the congregation has and will practice the situation specific form of instructed disciplinary action (Matthew 18:15-35, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 5:1-13, II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Titus 3:9-11, and Jude 1:3-4).
- With the funds collected on the first day of the week, the evangelist is financially supported (I Corinthians 9:1-14, II Corinthians 11:8, and Philippians 4:10-18). While we do not currently have a need, we also would/could care for faithful saints in need locally or not (Romans 15:25-27, I Corinthians 16:1-4, and II Corinthians 8:1-9:13), support qualified elders (I Timothy 5:17-18), and support widows indeed (I Timothy 5:3-16).
- Through the support of an evangelist that works to spread the word of God locally and abroad, the word of God is spread abroad and the congregation is reputable through that endeavor (I Thessalonians 1:8).
- We have a class, aside from worship, wherein brethren can learn; question; be edified; grow; etc. (Acts 20:20). This also provides us with the opportunities to

equip men to be teachers (Ephesians 4:11). There is clear authority for teaching outside of the first day of the week worship assembly (Acts 14:21-15:35).

- If necessary, opportunity is granted for someone to confess their faults to the entire congregation if the given situation dictates the need (James 5:16) and the work of restoration, forgiveness, etc. begins to take place (II Corinthians 2:1-11).  
\*Though, the whole congregation is not always or even often involved in these cases for not every member is capable (cf. Galatians 6:1-2).
- We are told to rejoice and weep together, thus information is shared with the congregation that is relative (Romans 12:15).
- There is structure and organization to the worship assembly so that all is done decently in and order (I Corinthians 14:40).
- Great effort is made, collectively (Ephesians 4:14-16), for true unity to be continually in place (John 17:20-23, I Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:2, and Philippians 3:16). Example, if questions arise they are collectively sorted out (again; Acts 15:1-35).
- Some of the above could be altered by events or circumstances. For example, if the whole congregation was in error; we'd have to fix that before we could do anything else as a congregation to please God (Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:10-19, Isaiah 59:1-3, John 9:31, I Corinthians 11:28-29, etc.).

\*Note: I was careful to only list the things here done by or involving the entire congregation here in El Paso, TX USA. There are many works going on in El Paso that are authorized on the individual level, but this class was about our collective works.