

# **A GUIDE**

## TO THE FORMATION AND CONDUCT OF ECCLESIAS

IN THE CHARACTERISTIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF AN AGE WHEN THE TRUTH AS APOSTOLICALLY DELIVERED HAS BEEN REVIVED IN THE WAYS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, WITHOUT THE CO-OPERATION AND LIVING GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS ENJOYED IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE.

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### **Formation and Conduct of Ecclesias**

The object of the Gospel, as apostolically promulgated in the first century, was to take out a people for the Lord's use, in the age that he will inaugurate at his coming. The mode in which the taking out was effected, was by the preaching of the Gospel. Whoever believed this Gospel, and yielded obedience in baptism, was, by that belief and obedience, called to the kingdom and glory of God. But all the called are not to be chosen. The choice is to be made at the Lord's return. The reason of the choice will be faithfulness in the chosen, exhibited during life, subsequent to their taking of the name of Christ in baptism. These things are all known to those who know the truth.

#### **Part 1**

1. -- The Term "Ecclesia"
2. -- The Name "Christadelphian"
3. -- The Apostolic Ministry
4. -- Revival of the Apostolic Faith
5. -- Problems of the Modern Situation

#### **Part 2**

6. -- What is the Solitary Man To Do?
7. -- The Administration of Baptism
8. -- Form of Procedure

9. -- Baptismal Formula
10. -- Course After Baptism Alone

### **Part 3**

11. -- After Baptism (in Company)
12. -- Objects of Ecclesial Work
13. -- Rules and Modes
14. -- Absence of the Spirit's Appointments
15. -- The Necessities of the Present Situation

### **Part 4**

16. -- Mutual Consent the Basis of Order
17. -- Exercise of Authority out of the Question
18. -- Serving Brethren, not Rulers
19. -- Suitable Qualifications
20. -- Ecclesial Control

### **Part 5**

21. -- Mode and Term of Appointment
22. -- Eligibility for Re-election
23. -- Arranging Brethren
24. -- Arranging Meetings Open to All
25. -- Presiding Brethren

### **Part 6**

26. -- Recording Brother -- (usually called Secretary)
27. -- Finance Brother (usually called Treasurer)
28. -- Exclusion of Business from Sunday Meetings
29. -- Fraternal Announcements
30. -- Mode of Conducting the Meetings

### **Part 7**

31. -- Introduction of New Brethren
32. -- Cases of Sin and Withdrawal
33. -- Examination of Applicants for Immersion
34. -- Basis of Fellowship
35. -- Disputes

### **Part 8**

36. -- Individual Offences

- 37. -- Ecclesial Differences
- 38. -- Dissatisfied Minority
- 39. -- Absence and Separate Meetings Unlawful
- 40. -- A Time to Separate, and How to go about it

### **Part 9**

- 41. -- Involved in another Ecclesia's trouble
- 42. -- Ecclesias in Relation One to Another
- 43. -- The True Secret of Success
- 44. -- Fraternal Gatherings from Various Places
- 45. -- Marriage
- 46. -- Sunday School

### **Part 10**

- A. System of Rules Embodying The Foregoing Suggestions
- B. A Statement of the Doctrines forming the Christadelphian Basis of Fellowship
- C. Doctrines to be Rejected
- D. The Commandments of Christ