
Church or Denomination

**Are they the same thing or
something different?**

What Is The Difference?

- **If someone asks you “What church do you go to?” – are they asking what church or what denomination?**
 - » **What does “church” mean?**
 - » **What does “denomination” mean?**
 - » **Does the Bible talk about “denominations”?**
 - » **What Are We Members Of?**

What Does “Church” Mean?

- Greek -- “*ekklesia*”
- 1] a regularly summoned legislative body, *assembly*, as generally understood in the Greek-Roman world ~ Acts 19:39
- 2] a casual gathering of people, *an assemblage, gathering* ~ Acts 19:32, 40
- 3] people with shared belief, *community, congregation*
 - » A) of OT Israelites ~ Ac 7:38; Heb 2:12
 - » B) of Christians in a specific place or area ~ 1Cor 1:2; 1Cor 11:18
 - » C) the global community of Christians, ~ Matt 16:18
– (BDAG)

What Does “Denomination” Mean?

- **de·nom·i·na·tion (dî-nòm´e-nâ¹shen) noun**
 - » 1. A large group of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy.
 - » 2. One of a series of kinds, values, or sizes, as in a system of currency or weights: Cash registers have compartments for bills of different denominations. The stamps come in 25¢ and 45¢ denominations. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language
- **One thing about denominations is they don't exist without other denominations. (i.e. money or stamps)**

Does the Bible mention “denominations”?

● Yes!

- » They are called sects, heresies, or divisions
 - 1) a body of men following their own tenets (sect or party)
 - 2) dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims
- » The Sect of the Sadducees ~ Acts 5:17
- » Set against the sect of the Pharisees ~ Acts 26:5
- » Sects among Christians always condemned ~ 1Cor 11:19; Gal 5:20; 2Pet 2:1
- » Divisions condemned as well ~ 1 Cor 1:10

What Are We Members Of?

- **Jesus Added Us to His Church ~ Acts 2:47**
- **The One Body ~ Ephesians 4:4**
- **Which is His Church ~ Colossians 1:18**
- **Which is His House ~ 1 Timothy 3:15**
- **And Therefore Heirs of God ~ Galatians 4:7**
- **Made Kings and Priests ~ Revelation 5:9-10**

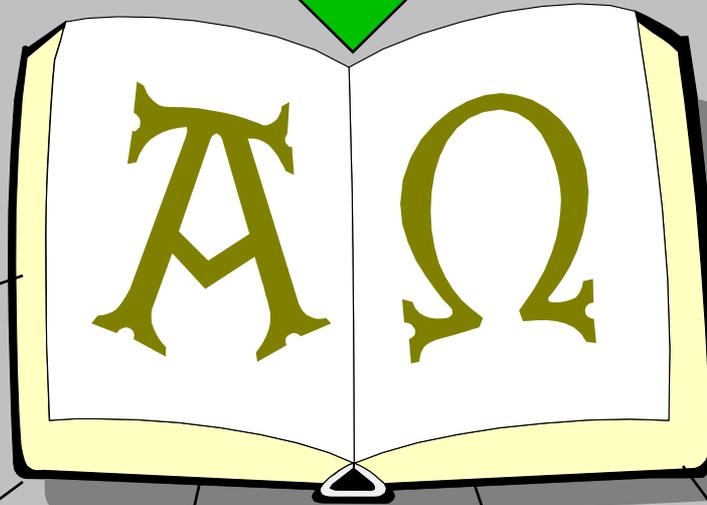
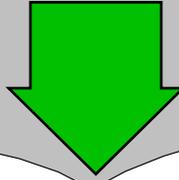
What Does a Local Church Look Like?

- **Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Body of Christ**
 - » Eph 4:11-12 *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,"*
- **Elders, Deacons and Saints ~ Phil 1:1**
 - » Elders, Bishops, or Pastors ~ Acts 20:17, 28
 - » Deacons ~ 1 Timothy 3:8
 - » Saints ~ 1Corinthians 1:2

Local Churches With Christ As Our Head

[Ephesians 1:22](#) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Jesus Christ

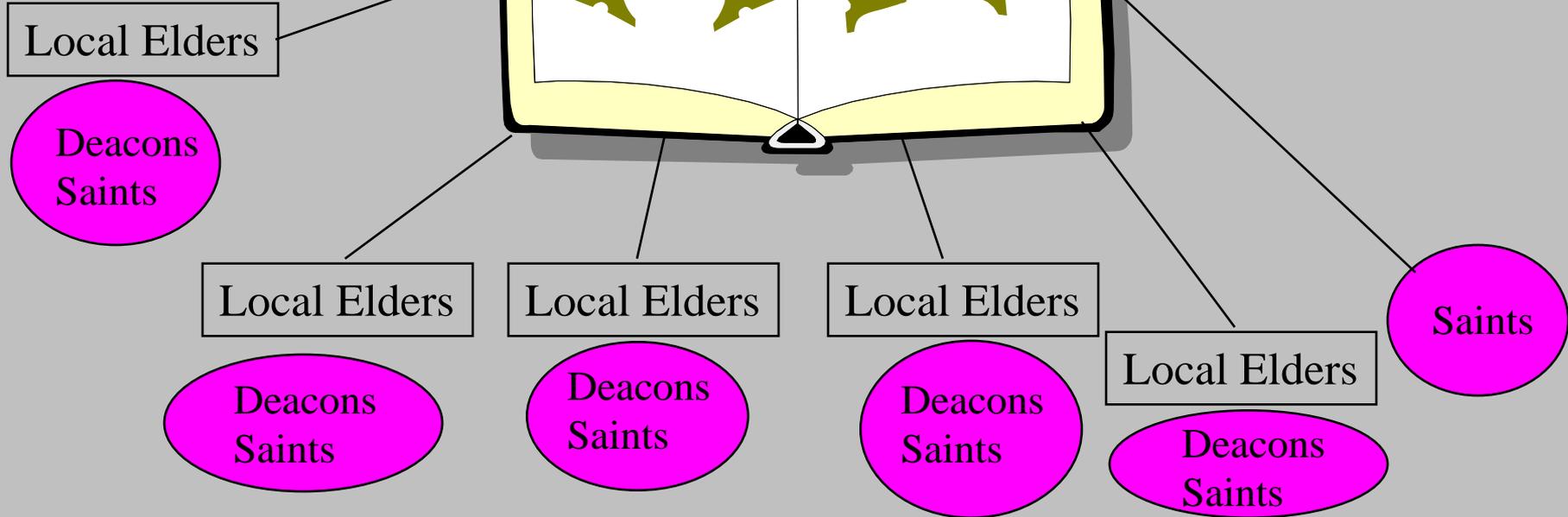


[Revelation 2:1](#) "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ' These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

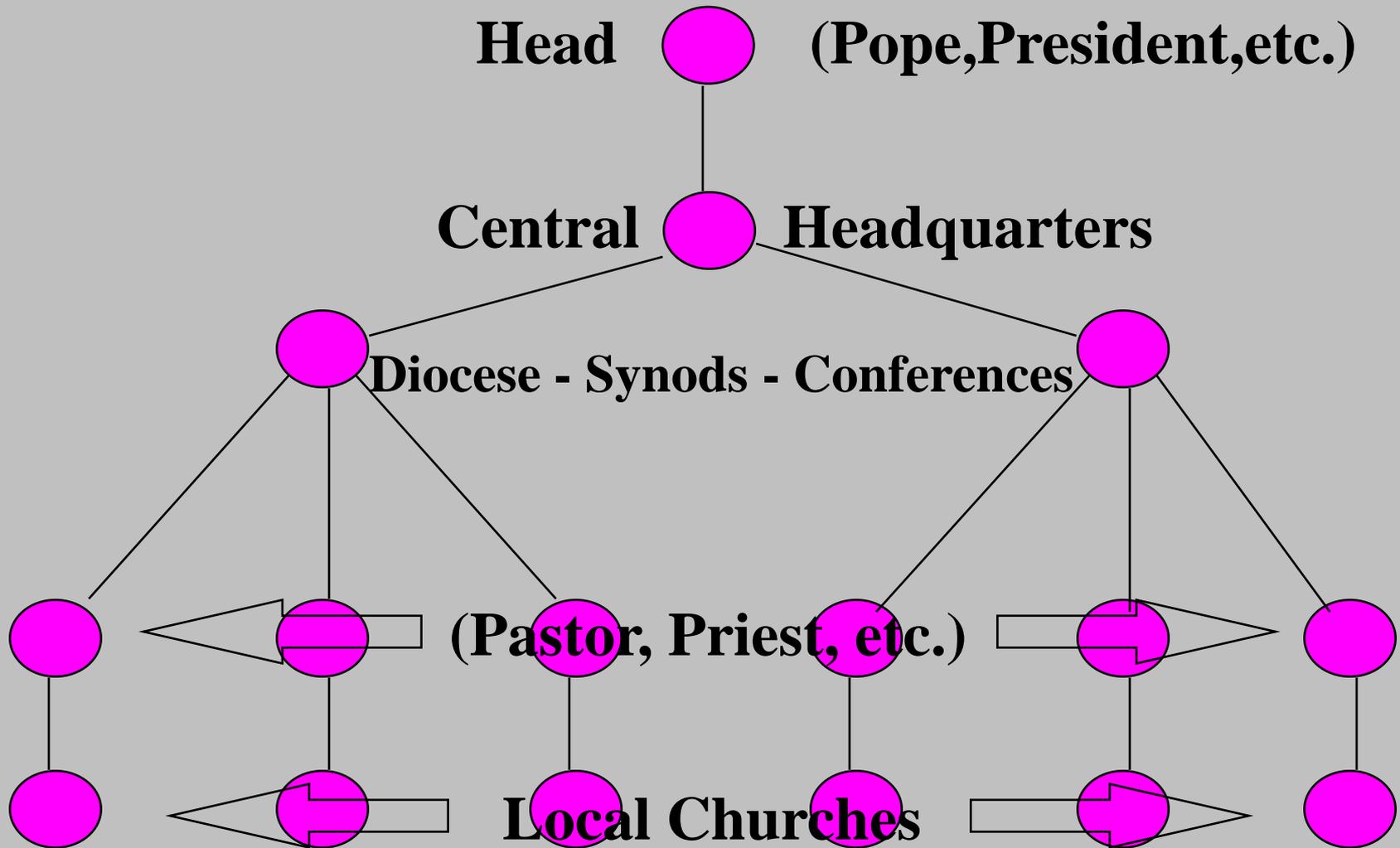
Local Elders

Deacons
Saints

Saints



Denominations are similar to business structures



In Conclusion

- What do you want to be part of?
 - » The Lord's Church
 - » Or one of man's denominations
- If we want to be part of the Lord's Church, we must reject human divisions over man's ideas, philosophies, and commandments.
- Let us rather commit ourselves to Jesus word's:
- *"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."* Jn 12:26