



Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
General Council of Pastors and Elders
Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court
P. O. Box 356
Douglasville, Georgia 30133-0356

Supt. Isaiah C. Grover, Chairman
General Council

Dr. Frederick D. Jenkins, Chairman / Chief Judge
Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court

February 21, 2012

Bishop Levi E. Willis, Prelate of 3rd Jurisdiction of Virginia
Sister Sateria Smith, Secretary-Spokes person
Brother Frank Batts, Trustee
Brother William C. Batts, Trustee
Brother William Jones, Trustee

Greetings

From a biblical and doctrinal perspective the Church Of God In Christ's culture, history, customs and tradition are to follow biblical mandates as set forth in the following scriptures: Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have rule over you...", I Samuel 15:22 "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...", Roman 13, Luke 20 and many other scriptures teaching the laity to honor and respect leadership in the Church; for as followers according to the Gospel of St. Matthew chapter 5 "Ye are the light of the world...".

The Bible has much to say about obedience. In fact, obedience is the essence of the Christian faith. Obedience is defined as "dutifully complying with the commands, orders, and/or instructions of one in authority." Using this definition, we see the elements of biblical obedience:

"Dutifully" means it is our obligation to obey, just as Jesus fulfilled His duty to the Father by dying on the cross for our sin.

"Commands, orders and/or instructions" speaks to the Scriptures in which God has clearly outlined His commandments and His will.

"One in authority" is God Himself, and those who have been placed in authority over us.

For the Church, obedience means complying with everything God has commanded because it is our duty to do so, which includes following leadership at all levels. It must be remembered and understood that Authority in the Church is very different from authority in the secular worldly.

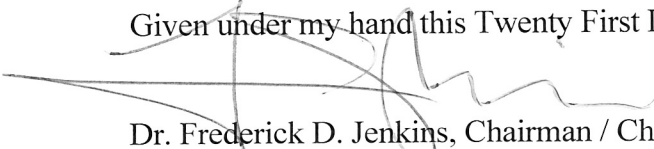
Yes, we know that many people have been and are led astray in their walk of faith by believing that obedience without question or common sense is what the Bible calls for,

that obeying without question can possibly and sometimes does lead to abuse of power from those in power; However, being obedient does not mean you should not think about what you are obeying or asked to obey. In the Church Of God In Christ there are procedures to address these concerns. In this case however, all available remedies and procedures were and are yet not exhausted. From your submitted Trustee Documents (the Church minutes of July 21, 2011 and the Chronology of events from September 2008 to October 17, 2011), clearly the Bishop's action and response raises questions. But before there is a rush to judgment we must consider the following contributing factors: He is a newly appointed Jurisdictional bishop who is yet mourning the passing of his father; he is yet evaluating the schism within his Ecclesiastical jurisdiction; and certainly the surprise appearance of a court reporter attending a meeting that he called combined with the actions and response of experienced local trustees have not help him in his new role as Jurisdictional Bishop. Your actions, response and behavior as Trustees relative to the culture, history, custom and traditions of the Church Of God In Christ based, on the documents you submitted, speaks for itself. You showed a lack of respect, honor and obedience to the "One in Authority". As you recall, you were elected and are under authority, and in the procedure of the Church Of God In Christ "may be removed for cause...". This failure to show respect, honor and obedience could and most certainly will lead to your removal from office.

The Court prays that you as lay members and clergy of the ST. Paul Church of God In Christ will gain and understanding of the Church Of God In Christ governance, develop an appreciation for the duties, responsibility, authority and latitude of those who serve in leadership in the Church Of God In Christ. Furthermore, we pray that the clarity of process and procedural guidance which has been afforded you through our findings, opinions, and position will be positively received.

This conclusion neither vindicates nor vilifies any one; it is an answer to the matter at hand.

Given under my hand this Twenty First Day of February 2012



Dr. Frederick D. Jenkins, Chairman / Chief Appeals Judge
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Explanation: For our purposes:

MATTER: Are issue/issues in dispute with substantial facts forming the basis for formal complaint or consideration.

CASE: A Judicial proceeding for the determination of contested issue, controversy or dispute between parties wherein rights are protected and wrongs are prevented or redressed.