

# 16—Church Relationship

“What We Believe”

Pastor Mike Cooke

“We believe that having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and King, and having thus been born into the family and invisible body or church of the Lord,<sup>1</sup> it is the sacred duty of the believer, whenever this lies within his power, to identify himself with, and labor most earnestly for the up-building of God’s kingdom with the visible church of Christ upon the earth;<sup>2</sup> and that such visible church is a congregation of believers, who have associated themselves together in Christian fellowship and in the unity of the Spirit,<sup>3</sup> observing the ordinances of Christ, worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness, speaking to each other in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs,<sup>4</sup> reading and proclaiming His Word, laboring for the salvation of souls, giving their temporal means to carry on His work, edifying, encouraging, establishing one another in the most holy faith,<sup>5</sup> and working harmoniously together as dear children who are many members but one body of which Christ is head.”<sup>6</sup>—*Compiled by A. S. McPherson*

1. 1 Corinthians 12:27

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

2. Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.*

3. Ephesians 4:3-5

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.*

4. Colossians 3:16

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

5. Jude 20-21

*But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

6. Ephesians 4:15

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

## **17—Civil Government**

"We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment,<sup>1</sup> for the interests and good order of human society; and that governors and rulers should be prayed for, obeyed, and upheld,<sup>2</sup> at all times except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>3</sup> who is the ruler of the conscience of His people, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords."<sup>4</sup>

1. Romans 13:1

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

2. Titus 3:1-2

*Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.*

3. Acts 5:29

*Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"*

4. 1 Peter 2:16-17

*Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*