

# Examples

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**Example #5: In the familiar Acts 15 meeting, the members were involved all the way through.**

In Acts 15:4, Paul and Barnabas were received by the church, and the apostles and elders. Verse 7 says Peter addressed "men and brethren". Verse 12 says "then all the multitude kept silence". In verse 13 James says "men and brethren". Verse 22 says "then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church". The letter they wrote in Verse 23 starts out "The apostles and elders and brethren". Verses 24-25 then go on to use the words we, us, and to send, indicating the "sheep" were involved in the decision and in the sending. Verse 27 says "we have sent".

**Example #6: Two or three witnesses are not to go to the ministry.**

Christ himself gives us instruction in Matthew 18 of how to handle a brother who has trespassed against us. In verse 17 we are told to first go alone to our brother, next Christ says we go with two or three witnesses, then, if still not settled,... we go to the ministry? NO! We are instructed to go next to the whole, church, to the collective body. "Then if the man who has trespasses refuses to hear the church, then let him be as a heathen man".

Christ in these very clear instructions does not indicate a two-class system or that the members are inferior. Instead we can see the responsibility and power given here to the collective body.

**Example #7: When an elder sins, the matter goes to the congregation, not the ministry.**

1 Timothy 5:19-20 says "them" (the subject is elders) that sin rebuke before all. How many Churches of God follow this simple and clear instruction? It is interesting to note that Paul followed this instruction in Gal. 2:14 when he rebuked Peter before all. We again see the responsibility given to the collective body.

**Example #8: The Corinthian church, not the ministry, was told to put out the adulterer.**

1 Corinthians is addressed to the church at Corinth-to the saints. In chapter 5:4 the collective body is told when "you are gathered together" to put out the fornicator. The point again is the collective body, not the ministry, was given this responsibility.

**Example #9: It is NOT the ministry that is told to Judge two or three inspired speakers.**

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul gives some instruction to the church. Verse 29 says "Let the prophets speak (two or three), and let the others judge". To make the point again, it is not the elders who are to judge, but the collective body; all of the members.

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