

THE SIGNS OF THE TRUE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1. AN ALTAR:

MAT 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

MAT 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

ISA 19:19 In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.

ISA 19:21 And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it.

HEB 13:10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

2. INCENSE:

MAL 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts.

3. LITURGY:

ACT 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

ACT 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Note: The word which is translated "ministered", is *Liturgein* in Greek, accordingly, the proper translation of this verse should read, "As they were engaged in the Liturgy of the Lord, while fasting ..."

4. OBLIGATORY FASTS:

ACT 27:9 Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

5. OBLIGATORY FEASTS:

ACT 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

ACT 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

1CO 16:8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

6. CANONICAL HOURS (APPOINTED TIMES FOR PRAYER):

ACT 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

ACT 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

ACT 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

1CO 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

7. MYSTERIES: (SACRAMENTS):

1CO 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

EPH 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The Lord commanded the Apostles to **perform the Sacraments**. On Maundy Thursday, the Lord established the **Sacrament of the Eucharist**, then He ordered them to do the same, "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do** in remembrance of me." (LUK 22:19)

He ordered them to perform the **Sacrament of anointing the sick**, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (MAT 10:8) "And they anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them" (Mar 6:13). The practice became standard in the church as St. James tells us,

JAM 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

JAM 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

He gave them authority to bind people together in the **Sacrament of Matrimony**, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (MAT 18:18). As proof of this the Lord told the Pharisees, "What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder." (MAT 19:6).

He gave them the authority to forgive sins through the **Sacrament of Confession**, " And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. (JOH 20:22-23).

The sacrament of Holy Chrismation is mentioned 3 times in the New Testament:

2CO 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

GAL 6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

1JO 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

8. PRIESTHOOD:

ROM 15:16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Note: The Greek equivalent to "minister" is "*oekonomos*", the word used here is "*liturgos*", which means "PRIEST!"

9. ORDINATIONS:

ACT 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Note: The word "elder" is translated from the Greek "*presbyteros*", the root word for the English "priest".

ACT 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (Gr. *Episkopoi-Bishops*), to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

PHI 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Phi-lip'-pi, with the bishops and deacons.

1TI 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

TIT 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

10. FATHERS IN CHRIST:

1CO 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

LUK 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

11. AUTHORITY OF THE CLERGY:

2CO 10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

TIT 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

TIT 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Jesus told His Apostles, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21). "He that heareth you heareth me, and he that despithes you despithes me, and he that despithes me despithes Him that sent me." (Luk 10:16). Jesus even instructed His disciples, "And whosoever shall not

receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. (MAR 6:11).

The same authority was passed on from the Apostles to their successors through:

12. APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION:

The Apostles went on to preach the Gospel, and wherever they went, they ordained **Bishops, Priests, and Deacons**. They did this by **laying their hands** on them. The Bible has many examples of this ordination by the laying-on of hands of the Apostles. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have **called** them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and **laid their hands on them**, they sent them away." (ACT 13:2-3). Paul and Barnabas were **ordained by the laying-on of the hands** after they were **called** by the Holy Spirit to the ministry. Later on, Paul and Barnabas would do the same, ordaining **Priests** (called Elders in KJV) by **laying on their hands on them**. "And when they had **ordained** them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." (ACT 14:23).

St. Paul ordained two of his disciples as **Bishops**, these are Timothy and Titus. He reminds Timothy of this saying, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." (2TI 1:6). He admonishes Timothy to do the same by choosing persons that are suitable for ordination, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2TI 2:2). He warns him however not to ordain any person hastily, since he will be responsible for the actions of those on whom he lays his hands, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." (1TI 5:22).

He writes to Titus, his disciple, and now Bishop of the Mediterranean Island of Crete, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee." (TIT 1:5).

The same happened with the other Apostles, they ordained Bishops and Priests and gave the Bishops authority to ordain other Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In a very short time, this three tiered system of the clergy was established in every Apostolic church through the tradition of **Apostolic Succession**. This is obvious in many passages in the Bible, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." (PHI 1:1).

First Timothy has concrete rules for the ordination of Bishops and Deacons (1Ti 3:1-13), as well as rules for rewarding and disciplining Elders (Priests) (Chapter 5).

13. THE APOSTOLIC KISS:

ROM 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

1CO 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

2CO 13:12 Greet one another with an holy kiss.

1PE 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.
Amen.