# Prayer Decrees Ekklesia Convocation

## Position Paper #1: "An Overview of Jesus' Declaration of 'I will Build My Church"

When Jesus declared that He would build His church, or His called out people, He was setting His proclamation into the historical background of another called out people. His listeners would have known that the Hebrew nation was called out from among other nations to be a nation of priests (Ex. 19:3-6) and called out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses to build a godly civilization. This called out status gave the Israelites the unique position of being God's covenantal people and His kingdom managers. Jesus, the servant who was likened to Moses and who God promised to send (Deut. 18:15, 19; Acts 7:37), was calling His twelve apostles instead of Moses' twelve sons of Jacob into His new nation of priests (I Pet. 2:9) and giving them authority to manage His kingdom. His called out would differ from the called out under Moses because the doors of death, that death sentence imposed upon all humanity due to Adam's transgression, would have no power to prevail against Christ's substitutionary work and His resurrection. Once Jesus identified the resurrected nature of His called out, He gave them the keys. His church, made of people of faith from the Jews and the Gentiles, would announce God's legal and illegal dictates into the nations and systems of men. Jesus authorized them to manage or steward His victorious and advancing kingdom in the earth.

As a representative ekklesia, we loose:

- Recognition that Christ has delegated His authority to His church
- The opening of the eyes of our understanding in order that we might know the hope of His calling and the rich inheritance that is His in the saints
- An acceptance of the call to manage the earth
- Faith that the keys of the kingdom are effective in the heavenlies and in the earth

As a representative ekklesia, we bind:

- Ignorance or shortsightedness about the purposes of the church
- Lack of faith in the power of the resurrection to change the church and change history
- Every theology of defeatism

### Position Paper #2: "The Nature of Ekklesia Authority"

Authority rises from being in Christ. Unlike God's authority, man's authority is limited. The boundaries of man's authority are defined within the context of placement. An individual's placement includes, first, one's position as a believer or a joint-heir with Christ. Secondly, each believer has been set into a local body and that local body functions to govern a territory. Next, one's calling or office within the body of Christ carries a level of authority commensurate to the calling. Finally, every believer is a minister set into some sphere of culture to advance the kingdom in that sphere; therefore, the level of expertise and level of promotion in the given sphere determines one's level of authority within that cultural mountain. Another kind of authority is earned authority. Authority that is derived from placement and delegation can grow or gain higher levels of power through fidelity and consistency. Promotion comes to those who have merited advancement.

# Prayer Decrees Ekklesia Convocation

The collective authority and power needed for any convened ekklesia is determined by the set agenda. The delegation of each convocation should include members who possess church authority commensurate to the topic, territorial authority in proportion to the area that will be influenced by the work of the convocation, those with sufficient power or influence in the cultural sphere under consideration, and those with earned authority from a tested record. Delegates with none of the above qualification but who are believers can participate by being in unity and in agreement with other representatives.

### As a representative ekklesia, we loose:

- A recognition that Jesus has was granted all authority and that we are His joint-heirs
- Honor for each person's placement within the body and within the culture
- Strength to persevere through the preparation
- The spirit of unity in the ekklesia of Illinois

#### As a representative ekklesia, we bind:

- False humility, apathy, and immaturity
- Pride and self-promotion
- Competition and strife
- Illegitimate and demonically-structured authority

### Position Paper #3: "Convening for a Set Agenda"

The set agenda is the issue or topic that will be addressed by the ekklesia. The agenda is often determined by a need, a cry for help, or a problem that requires an answer. The agenda gives direction to the convocation, sets limits on the issues that will be considered during the legislative session, and determines the delegates called to the gathering. Those in authority set the agenda and issue the call (*kaleo*). Those called out (*ek-kaleo*) and into session (*ekklesia*) must labor to obtain knowledge of the issue and be willing to seek God through the Holy Ghost for guidance and revelation.

#### As a representative ekklesia, we loose:

- Love for God that creates a desire for His will to be done on earth and in issues
- Love for our neighbor that inclines our hearts to hear their cry and share their burdens
- The voice of God's appointed leadership to set forth a call that will be heeded
- Clarity on the complexity of issues
- Holy Ghost insight into His logos (His logic)

### As a representative ekklesia, we bind:

- Ignorance or hopelessness that leads to inactivity
- Hardness of heart towards God or our neighbors
- Self-serving agendas that misdirect the cries
- Humanism and Pragmatism superseding the transcendent values of the scriptures

# Prayer Decrees Ekklesia Convocation

## Position Paper #4: "Legislative Decrees"

Christ's ekklesia has a priestly function, which serves God by presenting acceptable offerings to Him and tending to ecumenical duties and which serves people by offering them reconciliation to God and serving them through charitable deeds. Christ's ekklesia also has a kingly function, which is to serve God as His ambassadors by making kingdom disciples and by guarding the integrity of God's word and applying that Word as the pillar and ground of truth for every sphere of culture. Kingdom truth is discovered though study of God's Word and then established through proclamation of and obedience to that Word. At various times, issues arise in the church or in the culture that require the gathering of representatives to seek God and His precepts in order to discover God's will and heaven's pattern for the earth. The gatherings, ekklesia convocations, are called meetings for the purpose of finding, establishing, and decreeing God's will on a subject. The goal of ekklesia convocation is to set law, precepts, and ordinances. Ekklesia gatherings are legislative in function and serve the kingly or ruling mandate. The ekklesia employs the delegated power of the keys of the kingdom to bind and to loose, or to release the decree of that which is legal and that which is illegal. The ekklesia may set policy for the church and for any area of culture. The transcendent document around which every legislative decree is based is the Word of God, which functions as the Constitution of the Kingdom.

As a representative ekklesia, we loose:

- The governing or kingly function of the church
- Affirmation that the transcendent constitution of the ekklesia is the Word of God
- Acceptance of the authority to use the keys of the kingdom, which is the Word of God
- Acknowledgement that ekklesia rulings proceed from authoritative scripture
- The validity of God's Word to provide truth and guidance in all spheres of culture
- The binding nature of the legislative rulings of the Illinois ekklesia

As a representative ekklesia, we bind:

- Escapist religion and abdication of responsibility
- Autonomy and every humanistic source of law
- Greek Gnosticism and dualism that prioritizes heaven's ethereal bliss over earthly management
- Satanic manipulation of policy makers in all cultural mountains

#### Position Paper #5: "The Reformation Power of Legislation"

The word reformation means to re-form or to form over. Raw materials may take on a number of forms. Elements of the earth can be de-created, which means torn apart from their current form, and then re-created, which means put together in a new form. To get the raw materials or the de-created parts into a new form, a different template must be applied. New patterns often come in the form of laws. For example, if a parent wishes the child to change a behavior, the parent will legislate what is allowed and what is not allowed. Parents know that a new template must be applied or there will be no re-creation. All forms of governments make laws for the purpose of re-creating or re-forming. The most basic form of government is self-government.

# Prayer Decrees Ekklesia Convocation

Every person has, at one time or another, put himself or herself under some form of resolution; and if the resolution is carried out, the results are re-formation. During the Acts 15 Council at Jerusalem, church authorities gathered to consider what to do with the new Gentile converts. Formerly, under the Abrahamic covenant and the Law of Moses, Jewish men underwent the rite of circumcision, meaning that the male organ was reformed because of a law. With the influx of non-circumcised, non-Jewish converts, the church had to decide what to do concerning this rite. After inquiring with one another and with the scriptures, the ekklesia wrote a new law. No circumcision would be required. The findings of the ekklesia were published in all the churches. The church underwent a re-formation because of the legal action taken by the Jerusalem ekklesia. Law always provides the pattern of earthly and cultural formation!

As a representative ekklesia, we loose:

- The binding nature of God's eternal precepts for every age and every situation
- An increase in faith for both church and cultural reformation
- Wisdom in discovering answers from God's Word for the areas in need of reformation
- Networking within the body to aid in communication, dissemination, and compliance to legislative decrees

As a representative ekklesia, we bind:

- Any attempt of the church to build a theocracy in lieu of providing truth to the other cultural jurisdictions
- Fear that biblical law leads only to bondage
- Inaccurate and inadequate understanding of biblical law