

# FOLLOWING GOD'S PATTERN

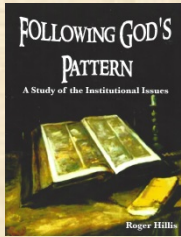
A Study of the Institutional Issues



Roger Hillis

## Lesson 1

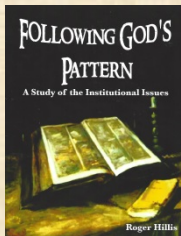
Why Are  
We  
Divided?



## Lesson 1 - Why Are We Divided?

# Is Division Necessarily Bad?

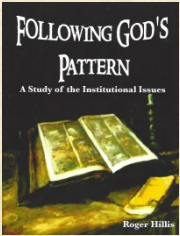
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- Called Out – a *called out group or assembly* - translated “church”
- Christians are *called out* – but called out from what?
- **Col 1:13**  
13 For He *delivered us* from the domain of darkness, and *transferred us* to the kingdom of His beloved Son
- **1 Peter 2:9**  
9 But you are a *chosen race*,



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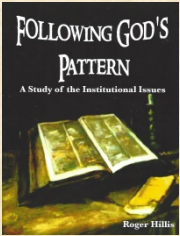
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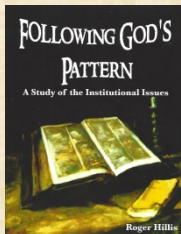
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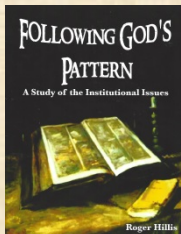
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9 But you are a *chosen race*, a *royal priesthood*, a *holy nation*, a people for *God's own* possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies *of Him* who has *called you out* of darkness into His marvelous light; NAS



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# Is Division Necessarily Bad?

1. A stand for the Truth may result in family division

*Luke 12:51-53; Matt 10:34-37*

### **Luke 12:51-53**

*51 "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;*

*52 for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two, and two against three.*

*53 "They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."*

### **Matt 10:34-37**

*34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.*

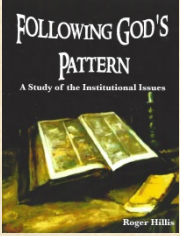
*35 "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;*

*36 and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.*

*37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

**NAS**





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1. A stand for the Truth may result in family division

Luke 12:51-53; Matt 10:34-37

2. God authorizes separation of the pure and the impure within the church

1 Cor 5:1,4-5,13; 2 Thess 3:6

### **1 Cor 5:1, 4-5, 13**

*1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.*

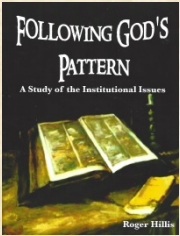
*4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,*

*5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

*13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*

### **2 Thess 3:6**

*6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.*



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3. Those who teach false doctrine must not be tolerated

Rom 6:17; 1 Jno 4:1; 2 Jno 9:9-11

## **Rom 6:17**

*17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,*

## **1 John 4:1**

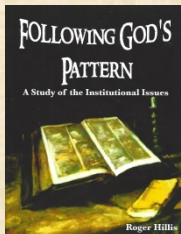
*4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

## **2 John 9-11**

*9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.*

*10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting;*

*11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*



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### **1 Cor 1:10**

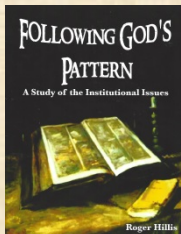
*10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

### **Eph 4:1-3**

*1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,*

*2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,*

*3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*



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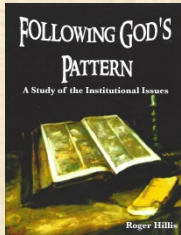
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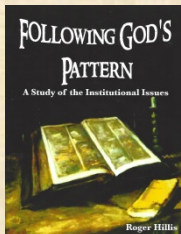
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# Identifying the Real Issue

## The Issue is Not

- Opposition to Missionary Work
- The feeling that Orphans should not be provided a home
- Opposition to church cooperation
- Opposition to preaching on radio or television
- How much good is being done





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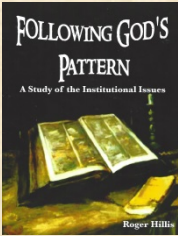
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## Some Key Questions

- What kind of organization will be used to carry out these activities?
- How can churches cooperate scripturally?
- Can the church have someone else do its work?
- What is the work of the church and what is not the work of the church



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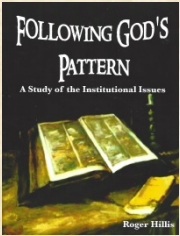
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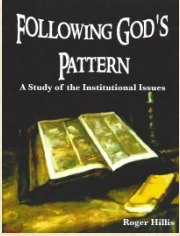
***The REAL ISSUE involves the kind of arrangement and organization through which these activities should be fulfilled.***



## **Lesson 1 - Why Are We Divided?**

# **Avoiding Side Issues that Cloud the Real Issues**

- Personal likes or dislikes
- Personality conflicts
  - Anger or ego
  - Emotions



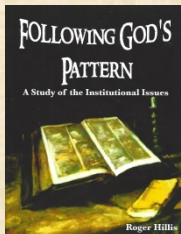
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### **Extremists On Both Sides**

We cannot allow these side issues and problems to hide the real issue



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# Who Caused the Division?

- ✓ When brethren of any stripe introduce doctrines (teachings) and practices *that are contrary to the New Testament pattern* for teaching, preaching and practice, whether in or out of the worship assembly, *these are those* who cause divisions.
- ✓ The current division among churches of Christ over these issues is not an argument over “*methods*” used to evangelize the world. It is a division over the basic issues of the *organization of the Lord’s church*.
- ✓ As we progress in this study, we shall see that the basic problem actually lies in *an attitude toward Bible authority*.