

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES  
Between  
FISH HOUSE AND TYPICAL INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

A. Ritual

1. No liturgy \* (Not mentioned principle - Is. 29:13; Mt. 6:7, etc.)
2. No Sunday worship #
3. Less traditional music #
4. Communion & baptism practiced, but not emphasized #
5. Little religious calendar observation \* (Col. 2:16 & 17; Gal. 4:9 & 10)

B. Polity

1. Plurality of eldership \* (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; I Pet. 5:1 & 2)
2. No membership \* (Not specifically mentioned, but refuted by Universal Church principle)
3. Church discipline practiced \* (Mt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5; II Thess. 3:6-15; Rom. 12:5)
4. No rule book \* (Mt. 15:6)
5. No national structure?
6. Not democratic \* (Heb. 13:17)
7. Requirements for eldership & deacons followed \* (I Tim. 3; Tit. 1)

C. Financial

1. No building owned #
2. No tithe taught \* (II Cor. 9:7 - tithe not taught in the N.T.)
3. No pledges \* (James 5:12)
4. Spiritual & financial leaders = same \* (Acts 4:34, 35 & 11:30)
5. Less giving (unbiblical)

D. Ministry

1. No professional credentials needed \* (I Tim. 3:1-13 - no such thing in N.T. - Spiritual credentials only)
2. Over 150 ministers for 950 people \* (Eph. 4:11 & 12; I Cor. 12)
3. Bible emphasized by 1 hour teachings at meetings \* (I Tim. 4:13; II Tim. 4:2-4)
4. In-depth course work offered yearly # (II Tim. 2:2)
5. Personal discipleship practiced by most people \* (Matt. 28:19 & 20; II Tim. 2:2)
6. More women in spiritually responsible positions \* (Gal. 3:28; Rom. 16:1-5)
7. Live-in discipleship widely practiced #
8. Indigenous ministers \* (Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23)
9. Home Church ministry - most worship, fellowship, shepherding & discipline practiced at this level \* (Acts 2:46 & 20:20)
10. No weekly central meeting for whole church #
11. Few evangelistic projects - handled by "laity" in usual meetings #

\* scripturally justified

# strategically desirable - neither example, principle, or precept