

**Attacks on the Local Church; the Authority of the Pastor-Teacher; Policies for Conduct in the GDC Assembly; Resolve Problems from Biblical Solutions**

5. Distortion of the message, emphasis on emotionalism, and reversionism by believers sets the stage for the lie to infiltrate the culture and ultimately the client nation itself.
6. To maintain its rightful place as the guidon for freedom and prosperity in a client nation, order in the local church must be maintained by discipline and authority.
7. The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ, the representative for Christ in shepherding His sheep is the pastor-teacher, and his authority for doing so is the Word of God.
8. **PRINCIPLE:** In the Church Age, it is the pastor-teacher who receives from God the only authority that is not in any way related to the devil's world.
9. Therefore, the guardianship of the local church carries the highest authority in the Angelic Conflict.
10. Thus, I am giving you fair warning. This is our oasis in *cosmos diabolicus*. We have a base of operations by which we may grow in grace and through which we can better serve God.
11. To do this we must have order within the divine institution of Grace Doctrine Church, referred to by Paul as "the church of the living God."
12. The time for foolishness is over. There will be strict academic discipline in this congregation. This is not Starbuck's, McDonald's, an office, or home health care. It is the divine institution of the local church. Consumption of food or drink, the interference of cell phones, and the grooming of one's body are prohibited within this auditorium during Bible class.
13. The seating here brings us close together physically if not spiritually. It will be extremely easy to pester your neighbor. Be aware of otherwise insignificant noises that could break another's concentration.
14. Example: It is not uncommon for the climate to cause throat problems and many combat this with cough drops or lozenges. This will be the lone exception to edibles in the auditorium. But! You must shuck them before entering the room. No unwrapping of cough drops. It sounds like a forest fire to the person sitting beside you. No leaving of wrappings on the floor. This is not a garbage can. No chewing them up. The very function of the medication is lost when you do this. Each of these things is a distraction to those sitting beside you or in earshot.

15. On a personal level there are several personality conflicts among some in the congregation. You will begin today correcting this. You are to get over it. If you have been wronged then it is an unfairness test. It's time to pass it. I have been told by several that during the interim they enjoyed the *Royal Family Honor Code* study. It's time we all started applying it.
16. We were told at the beginning of our search for Our Own Place that building a church would cause unrest in the congregation and potentially divide it. The building of the church, except for weather delays, went without a significant hitch. It's the people in a church that cause problems.
17. If you have a problem with someone in this church the Scripture says to go to them in private and in the spirit of fellowship and unconditional love make every effort to resolve the problem as adults. Otherwise, you are out of fellowship and your spiritual growth is stymied, you are in carnality and you are headed toward reversionism.
18. It is such things as these that enable Lucifer to get a leg up on destroying the client nation and we do not need to be held accountable of contributing to its demise. We should be better than this.
19. With these things in mind, some principles on the local church are important to note.