

## **Article XIV. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

We believe in cooperation for the expansion of God's glory and His kingdom.

1. We believe in cooperation for the sake of the mission of the church
2. We believe in cooperation for the sake of the equipping of the church
3. We believe in cooperation for the sake of serving and ministering to those in need

We maintain the autonomy of each local church in our associations and cooperation

1. Christ is the head of the church and rules by His Word.
2. God gives pastors to shepherd the church
3. God gives deacons to serve the church
4. God gives the Holy Spirit to lead the church to accomplish God's will and be faithful to the Word.

We believe that some beliefs and doctrines are significant enough to divide over.

1. Our cooperation should be justified by the end
2. Our cooperation should never require us to compromise our conscience
3. Our cooperation should never require us to compromise obedience to the Word.