

High Jacking a Congregation

This chapter taken from the book *When Faith Came* by Franklin Whittenburg © 1998-2006

The information contained in this document may be used for personal study, but not altered or sold. It must stay in its original context and form. Any correspondence or questions concerning content should be directed to contact@christiannewbirth.com Copyright © 1998 –2006 by Franklin Whittenburg. All Rights Reserved. www.christiannewbirth.com. *All scripture taken from the King James Version Bible*

I would like to take a moment here and describe what I see as another problem in religion today. I see pastors that are “high jacking” whole congregations. They are taking over whole churches and setting themselves up, as absolute rulers of the congregation, just like the Old Testament high priest. To question their doctrine or office is considered the same as questioning the authority and Word of God. How do they do this? It is basically very simply done. I have purposefully stayed out of organized church polity and focused on exhorting and serving other believers because of my personal relationship with Jesus, but I see abuses coming because many people do not understand the true role of a pastor. Let me explain.

If I were going to “highjack” a local congregation, the first thing that I would do is gradually change the reference term used for the local congregation. Example: I would start referring to **Green Pastures Baptist** as **Franklin Whittenburg Ministries**.

By making this simple reference, I take a whole congregation that is ministering to the community and make it “MY” ministry to the community, but now I have the congregation helping and supporting me and my vision for ministry. In effect I set myself up as the “head” of the congregation instead of Jesus Christ. I can then operate it like a business to win souls; only now I become the president of the company, the “One Set Man”. Since Green Pastures Baptist is now Franklin Whittenburg Ministries, I can wipe out any “authority” of the deacons or elders to sit in oversight. What right do the deacons have to tell me what to do or preach; after all, it’s now MY ministry? Just like in any business, what employee has the right to question how the president of a company runs his business? In like manner, no one in the congregation is allowed to question the pastor on his doctrine. The only recourse a member of that congregation has is to submit or leave. Hearin lays a trap. If they do not submit to the authority and question the pastor’s doctrine, then they are usually accused of having the spirit of rebellion, which the Bible says is the same as witchcraft. If they try and stay and correct it they are accused of “sowing discord among the brethren”. When they leave the congregation, then they are told they are out from under “the covering” and protection from God. If you actually believe that that local congregation or ministry is your “covering” then I can see where the thought of leaving could cause great emotional distress.

Please visit www.christiannewbirth.com for access to my other Bible studies by clicking on these links *below*. Watch for new studies to be posted at ChristianNewbirth.com also. To God be the Glory...(John3:27 KJV).

Free Bible studies:

[Encouragement](#)
[Born Again?](#)
[When Faith Came \(chapter only\)](#)
[How I messed up the Sinner's Prayer?](#)
[Understanding Circumcision](#)
[My Prayer Life](#)
[Gift of Belief](#)
[My Testimony](#)
[Decision Time](#)
[WHO ARE YOU? Spiritual wisdom, knowledge , and understanding](#)
[The Christian Experience: From Seed to Saint](#)
[Understanding Eternal Life](#)
[Understanding the Kingdom of God](#)
[The Spiritual World](#)
[The Perfecting of the Saints](#)
[Bible Study Tips](#)
[Law or Grace?](#)
[The Ten Commandments Explained!](#)
[The Old Testament Church](#)
[The Lord's Supper](#)
[Baptism of Fire](#)
[Freewill vs. God's Sovereignty](#)
[Marriage: Till Death Do Us Part?](#)
[The Rapture](#)
[Who is the Antichrist](#)
[Five Fold Ministry](#)
[One Set Man](#)
[The Covering Doctrine](#)
[Highjacking a Congregation](#)
[A Word Of Warning](#)
[Emergent Behavior?](#)

All my personal Bible study material and pdf's on www.christiannewbirth.com are copyrighted, but **free to download and use for your personal studies**, but not altered or sold. **The gospel is free.** These are just my personal Bible studies, that as a born again Christian, I am happy to share the Good News with the world. If any of these studies have blessed you and you feel led to support this ministry, I will accept them and I thank you for your generosity. Since I am an individual and **NOT** a non-profit organization **any monetary gifts** would be considered **a tip and non tax-deductable**, but I will still pray to God for your prosperity. If you still wish to give support to this ministry if these studies have blessed you, I thank you, and I will give God the Glory for it. If you cannot, that is fine also, please enjoy these studies, but please say a prayer instead for me and this ministry. Any tips or support can be mailed to:

Franklin Whittenburg

**160 Fourth Way Drive
Whitwell, Tn 37397**