

How the Modern Church System Works

Step 1: What Many People Think “Church” Is

Most people grow up believing:

- Church = the house of the Most High
- Pastor = spiritual authority appointed directly by the Most High
- Tithing = mandatory 10% cash
- Bigger church = more blessing
- Giving money = proof of faith

That is the assumed model many inherit culturally.

But now we need to separate:

Biblical community
from
Modern institutional church structure.

Step 2: What Most Churches Legally Are (In America)

Most churches in the U.S. choose to register as:

- Nonprofit religious organizations
- Recognized under IRS 501(c)(3)

Important clarity:

A 501(c)(3) is:

- A tax-exempt status
- Not automatically corruption
- Not inherently evil
- A legal structure

What it means:

- The organization does not pay federal income tax
- Donors can deduct donations
- The organization must follow nonprofit regulations

- It cannot endorse political candidates
- It must operate for religious or charitable purposes

So when someone walks into many churches today, they are entering:

A spiritual gathering
inside a legally recognized nonprofit structure.

That's a legal fact not a conspiracy.

Step 3: What the Torah Actually Says About Tithing

Now let's go to Scripture.

In Torah:

- Tithes were agricultural (grain, livestock, produce)
- Tithes supported Levites (who had no land inheritance)
- Tithes were tied to the land of Israel
- There were multiple tithe cycles (Deut 14)
- Not every tithe was identical
- It was part of a national covenant system

It was not:

- A weekly cash transfer to a building
- A salary system for motivational speakers
- A fear-based collection system

That's important.

However:

Some New Testament communities did support teachers financially (1 Corinthians 9).
So the conversation is more complex than "money is wrong."

The real issue is context and application.

Step 4: How Large Churches Sustain Themselves

Here's how the nonprofit structure works legally:

1. Members donate.
2. The organization operates tax-exempt.
3. Leadership salaries are set internally (often by boards).
4. Financial transparency varies by denomination.

Important correction:

Churches are not legally required to publicly disclose financial details like other nonprofits are but many do voluntarily.

Mega-churches can generate millions per year.

That is true.

But:

Some use funds for:

- Missions
- Charity
- Staff
- Media production
- Facilities
- Community programs

Others may:

- Overspend on branding
- Prioritize expansion
- Build large campuses
- Pay high salaries

The system allows both integrity and abuse.

Structure does not guarantee righteousness.

Step 5: Where Abuse Can Happen

Abuse happens when:

- Tithing is framed as mandatory for blessing
- Fear is used (“You’re cursed if you don’t give”)
- Verses like Malachi 3 are removed from covenant context
- Leadership avoids accountability
- Members are discouraged from questioning

That is not Torah-based instruction.

That is institutional control behavior.

But again:

Not all churches operate that way.

Distinguish between system possibility and universal accusation.

Step 6: What Early Covenant Communities Looked Like

In the first century:

- Believers met in homes
- They shared resources voluntarily
- They supported the poor
- There were elders, not celebrity pastors
- There were no corporate registrations

But also remember:

They lived under Roman rule they had no option to incorporate.

Context matters.

Step 7: What a Beginner Truly Needs to Know

You do not need:

- A 501(c)(3)
- A building
- A stage
- A paid staff
- A weekly 10% requirement

To walk in obedience to YAHUAH.

Faith is covenant loyalty, not corporate membership.

Community can exist without corporate structure.

Corporate structure can exist without covenant faithfulness.

They are not the same thing.

The Balanced One-Sentence Summary

Many modern churches operate as tax-exempt nonprofit institutions, which is a legal structure — but that structure is not identical to the covenant system described in Torah.

That's clarity.

No rage.

No conspiracy.

No exaggeration.

Just structure.

Important Guidance For You (Strategic)

If your mission is awakening:

Avoid saying:

- “The church is a scam.”
- “All pastors are corrupt.”
- “It's all deception.”

Instead say:

- “Let's compare Scripture to structure.”
- “Let's examine how systems work.”
- “Let's separate covenant from corporation.”

That tone builds authority.