



THE
CENTER
FOR
CLERGY & CHURCH SUPPORT

**The Authority of the
Scriptures**

The Center for Clergy and Church Support, Inc.

“Strengthening Communities By Strengthening Churches”

www.clergycenter.org



"Equipping Believers to Transform the World"

Welcome



By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Wise warriors are mightier than strong ones, and those who have knowledge than those who have strength, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. (Proverbs 24:3-6, NRSV)

Dear Church and Nonprofit Leaders,

We are indeed living in most challenging times, and it even appears as if the church is being bombarded from the left and from the right. However, I believe, without one doubt, that the Rock of Gibraltar will crumble before the church is conquered. She is inevitable, invincible, inescapable, incredible, enduring, overcoming, and unbeatable. She is endued with power, entrusted with redemption, encouraged by the Holy Spirit, engaged in a winning warfare, and equipped for every good work.

It is with that holy excitement and passion that I greet you and introduce you to our organization, **The Center for Clergy and Church Support**. Established in 1996, our overarching mission is to **"strengthen communities by strengthening Churches"**. As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, parachurch organization, we strive to serve as a cornerstone of support for the Christian community by delivering innovative and holistic services. We feel that one of the best ways to reduce crime, eradicate poverty, empower the disenfranchised, impact the lives of individuals, and build strong, vibrant neighborhoods and communities is through the local church. An investment in CCCS results in stronger, better managed, more connected and community engaged, need-meeting churches and faith-based organizations.

Simply put, we're here to help you do what GOD has purposed and called you to accomplish.

We do this by helping leaders discern if they have the gifts and calling to plant a church, ministry or nonprofit organization (**Assessment**), understand the best principles and practices to plant successfully (**Training**), make good decisions or, at least, keep from making the big mistakes (**Coaching**), and figure out how to grow and strengthen what they've planted (**Strategic Planning**). **Our deepest desire is to help Christian leaders plant and grow the churches, nonprofit organizations, and ministries they envision in their heart of hearts, impact lives, and transform communities.**

It is our prayer that you will find the services that we provide to be of value to you and your organization and that you will choose to invest in all we have to offer.

GOD's overcoming power is ours for the taking. Together, we can change the world as we unite our hearts. GOD has guaranteed our complete triumph against our hellish foe. **Though the signs of the time are dark and foreboding, the greatest hour for the church is at hand.** Let the church be the church!!

Please take time to visit our website, clergycenter.org to see all that we do or contact our office at (980) 866-1212.

One of my favorite poems says it best, **"the woods are lovely, dark and deep....but you have many promises to keep. ...and miles to go before you sleep. ...and miles to go before you sleep"**.

Kingdom Blessings,
Robert N. Andrews, II, CNC, CFRE, M.Div.
President/CEO

9900 Poplar Tent Road, Suite 115-407
Concord, North Carolina 28027-3808
Office: (980) 866-1212 • Fax: (704) 946-6082
Email: randrews@clergycenter.org • www.clergycenter.org



“Strengthening Communities by Strengthening Churches”

The Authority of the Scriptures

I know the
scriptures
are **true**

What do we mean by authority? We mean that Scripture has claim to our life and that we submit ourselves to Scripture’s authority. Three aspects of authority – we can see that Scripture is authoritative over personal experience. We don’t allow our human experience to determine what we believe or the behaviors we practice, we submit to Scripture’s commands, Scripture’s authoritative statements.

Not just authoritative over our experience, Scripture is also authoritative over reason. What do I mean by that? It does not mean that we leave our brains at the door when we read Scripture. We mean by that, that it’s authoritative over rationalism or over naturalism. We assume the supernatural, we assume the existence of God and the fact that God engages in human history and God intervenes in human history. Another thing we mean by the authority of Scripture over reason is that unresolved issues or apparent contradictions that we find in Scripture do not negate Scripture’s authority, instead we accept a wait and see attitude if we cannot resolve a particular issue in Scripture. I believe that God is a God of reason and that his Scripture will stand up under historical and scientific scrutiny.

So, authoritative over experience, authoritative over reason, and third, authoritative over tradition or dogma. Church traditions are good. The ancient creeds of the church are good. They help us to understand who God is and what his word means but ultimately all church tradition must be subordinated to the authority of Scripture. So, Scripture is authoritative over all church tradition or dogma. The rallying cry of the Protestant reformation was **Sola Scriptura**, that is that ultimately Scripture has the final authority. Now sometimes we think of certain groups as placing tradition over Scripture. Maybe we think of the Roman Catholic Church, for example, as placing tradition over Scripture, but, in fact, we all have a tendency to do that, because all of us, whether Pentecostal/Apostolic, Holiness, Baptist, Methodist, or Presbyterians, have church traditions that in many ways govern the way we think and the way we believe and so ultimately we are to submit those traditions to the authority of Scripture.

9900 Poplar Tent Road, Suite 115-407
Concord, North Carolina 28027-3808
Office: (980) 866-1212 • Fax: (704) 946-6082
Email: randrews@clergycenter.org • www.clergycenter.org