

Parliamentary Rules for a Christian Organization

General Roberts (original author of Robert's Rules of Order) was super active wherever he was stationed. By "active", that is he found himself serving the local community by serving on various boards and committees for the betterment of the community. As a devoted Christian he stood firm on Godly principles to maintain order in any group he was a part of. Eventually, he wrote a set of Rules-of-Order to better serve the groups he was often apart of. These Rules evolved into the modern Robert's Rules of Order.

Try2Help (T2H), as a fledgling organization, will soon (CALL for its first Board meeting, in January) attempt to adopt its Bylaws (which include establishing RONR as its basic parliamentary guide) once adopted T2H will officially exist. Please look over the Bylaws, especially the section your involved with, if you have any questions or suggestions you can call me.

Some have questioned the need or even the Biblical legitimacy of adopting Rules, which give directions and have an Executive Director (a Boss or Head Honcho) to manager (IMO you can't run any type of organization with out these structures) in between Board Meeting. Being ever sensitive to any concerns I inquired "ChatGPT" about the Biblical legitimacy of such Rules.

"The Bible does not explicitly mention **parliamentary rules** or modern **parliamentary procedures** (such as Robert's Rules of Order). However, it does emphasize principles of **order, structure, leadership, and fair decision-making** that can support the use of structured organizational methods like parliamentary rules within Christian communities and organizations. Below are several biblical principles and examples that provide **supportive foundations** for using parliamentary-style organization:

1. Emphasis on Order and Structure

Scripture References:

- **1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV):**

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."

- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV):**

"We ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish

you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."

Explanation: The Bible encourages **orderliness** in both worship and community interactions. Structured procedures help maintain this order by providing clear guidelines for conduct, decision-making, and conflict resolution. Parliamentary rules offer a framework that can ensure meetings are conducted respectfully, efficiently, and transparently, aligning with the biblical call for orderly conduct.

2. Leadership and Governance

Scripture References:

- **1 Timothy 3:1-13 (NIV):** Outlines the qualifications for **elders** and **deacons**, emphasizing **orderly leadership**.
- **Acts 6:1-7 (NIV):** Describes the selection of the first deacons to manage the distribution to widows, demonstrating **organizational delegation**.

Explanation: Effective leadership is a recurring theme in the Bible. Structured organizational methods like parliamentary rules can aid leaders in managing responsibilities, ensuring that decisions are made **collectively** and **fairly**. This aligns with the biblical model where leadership involves **servant leadership**, **accountability**, and **collaboration**.

3. Collective Decision-Making and Accountability

Scripture References:

- **Acts 15:6-21:** The **Jerusalem Council** demonstrates collective decision-making where apostles and elders discuss and reach a consensus on important matters.
- **Proverbs 15:22 (NIV):**

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."

Explanation: Parliamentary procedures facilitate **collective decision-making**, allowing for **open discussion**, **debate**, and

consensus-building. This mirrors biblical instances where councils and assemblies collaborate to make decisions, ensuring that multiple perspectives are considered and that decisions are **wise** and **just**.

4. Fairness and Equality

Scripture References:

- **Galatians 3:28 (NIV):**

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

- **James 2:1-4 (NIV):** Warns against **partiality**, encouraging **fair treatment** of all members.

Explanation: Parliamentary rules promote **fairness**, **equity**, and **equal participation** among members. This supports the biblical principle that all individuals are valued equally in the community, fostering an environment where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and be heard.

5. Conflict Resolution and Peace

Scripture References:

- **Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV):** Provides a process for addressing **conflicts** within the community.
- **Romans 12:18 (NIV):**

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Explanation: Structured procedures help manage and resolve conflicts in a **peaceful** and **constructive** manner. Parliamentary rules offer defined steps for addressing disagreements, ensuring that conflicts are handled **respectfully** and **effectively**, which aligns with the biblical pursuit of peace and reconciliation.

6. Accountability and Transparency

Scripture References:

- **Hebrews 13:17 (NIV):**

"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account."

- **Matthew 5:37 (NIV):**

"All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

Explanation: Parliamentary rules promote **accountability** by ensuring that leaders and members are **responsible** for their actions and decisions. Transparency in meetings and decision-making processes builds **trust** within the community, reflecting the biblical call for leaders to be accountable and honest.

7. Efficiency and Productivity

Scripture References:

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV):**

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

- **Colossians 3:23 (NIV):**

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Explanation: Structured organizational methods help maximize **efficiency** and **productivity**, ensuring that meetings and projects progress smoothly. This supports the biblical encouragement to work diligently and collaboratively, making the best use of time and resources.

Conclusion

While the Bible does not provide specific guidelines for parliamentary procedures, the underlying **principles of order, fairness, collective decision-making, accountability, and**

efficient governance found in scripture can support the adoption of structured organizational methods like parliamentary rules within Christian communities and organizations. These methods can help embody biblical values by fostering an environment where **all members are respected, decisions are made wisely,** and the community functions **harmoniously** and **effectively**.

If you're considering implementing parliamentary rules in a faith-based organization, you might find it helpful to:

1. **Review Biblical Principles:** Ensure that the rules align with the community's **values** and **beliefs**.
2. **Customize Procedures:** Adapt parliamentary procedures to fit the specific **needs** and **context** of your organization.
3. **Educate Members:** Provide training or resources to help members understand and effectively use the procedures.
4. **Pray and Seek Guidance:** Engage in **prayer** and seek **spiritual discernment** to guide the implementation of organizational structures."

In Christ

Robert Johnson