

PLANTING ANABAPTIST CHURCHES

Homework

(adapted from Covell/Shelley*)

1. Find three examples (each) in the New Testament of clear commands of Christ and of the apostles; give the reference and a short summary of the command.

a. Commands of Christ

b. Commands of the Apostles

*2. Which of the following practices and commands mentioned in the New Testament are permanent, applying at all times and in all places? Which are temporary, intended for a particular time and particular place but may not necessarily be applicable at other times and in other places? Circle "P" if you think it is permanent and "T" if you think it is temporary. After each one circle "C" if you think it is a command or "E" if you think it is an example.

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| 1) Greet one another with a holy kiss. (Rom. 16:16) | P/T | C/E |
| 2) Abstain from meat that has been offered to idols. (Acts 15:29) | P/T | C/E |
| 3) Be baptized. (Acts 2:38) | P/T | C/E |
| 4) A woman ought to have long hair and cover her head. (I Cor. 11:4,5) | P/T | C/E |
| 5) Wash one another's feet. (Jn. 13:14,15) | P/T | C/E |
| 6) Extend the right hand of fellowship. (Gal. 2:9) | P/T | C/E |
| 7) Ordain by the laying on of hands. (Acts 13:3) | P/T | C/E |
| 8) It is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. (I Cor. 14:35) | P/T | C/E |
| 9) Have fixed hours of prayer. (Acts 3:1) | P/T | C/E |
| 10) Sing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Col. 3:16) | P/T | C/E |
| 11) Abstain from eating blood. (Acts 15:29) | P/T | C/E |
| 12) Slaves, obey your earthly masters. (Eph. 6:5) | P/T | C/E |
| 13) Observe the Lord's Supper. (I Cor. 11:24) | P/T | C/E |
| 14) Do not swear any oaths. (Jam. 5:12) | P/T | C/E |
| 15) Anoint the sick with oil. (Jam. 5:14) | P/T | C/E |
| 16) Do not permit women to have authority over or teach men. (I Tim. 2:12) | P/T | C/E |
| 17) Preach two by two. (Mrk. 6:7) | P/T | C/E |
| 18) Go into Jewish synagogues to preach. (Acts 14:1) | P/T | C/E |
| 19) Eat what is set before you without questions of conscience. (I Cor. 10:27) | P/T | C/E |
| 20) Prohibit women from wearing extravagant hair-do's, gold, pearls or expensive clothing (I Tim. 2:9) | P/T | C/E |
| 21) Abstain from fornication. (Acts 15:29) | P/T | C/E |
| 22) Do not seek marriage. (I Cor. 7:27) | P/T | C/E |
| 23) Be circumcised. (Acts 15:5) | P/T | C/E |

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| 24) Women should pray or prophesy with their heads covered. (I Cor. 11:4,5,10) | P/T | C/E |
| 25) Drink communion from a single cup. (Mrk. 14:23) | P/T | C/E |
| 26) Take formal religious vows. (Acts 18:18) | P/T | C/E |
| 27) Avoid praying in public. (Mat. 6:5,6) | P/T | C/E |
| 28) Speak in tongues and prophesy. (I Cor. 14:5) | P/T | C/E |
| 29) Meet in homes for church rather than church buildings. (Col. 4:15) | P/T | C/E |
| 30) Work with your hands. (I Thess. 4:11) | P/T | C/E |
| 31) Lift up your hands when praying. (I Tim. 2:8) | P/T | C/E |
| 32) Give to those who beg from you. (Matt. 5:42) | P/T | C/E |
| 33) Pray before meals. (Lk. 24:30) | P/T | C/E |
| 34) Support no widow under sixty years of age. (I Tim. 5:9) | P/T | C/E |
| 35) Say "Amen" at the end of prayers. (I Cor. 14:16) | P/T | C/E |
| 36) Fast in connection with ordination. (Acts 13:3) | P/T | C/E |
| 37) Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. (Mrk. 6:9) | P/T | C/E |
| 38) Wives, submit to your husbands. (Col. 3:18) | P/T | C/E |
| 39) Show no favoritism to the rich. (Jam. 2:1-7) | P/T | C/E |
| 40) Use unleavened bread for communion. (Lk. 22:13,19) | P/T | C/E |
| 41) Cast lots for church leaders. (Acts 1:26) | P/T | C/E |
| 42) Owe no man anything. (Rom. 13:8) | P/T | C/E |
| 43) Have seven deacons in the church. (Acts 6:3) | P/T | C/E |
| 44) Don't eat meat from animals killed by strangulation. (Acts 15:29) | P/T | C/E |
| 45) If anyone will not work, don't let him eat. (II Thess. 3:10) | P/T | C/E |
| 46) Worship on Saturday. (Acts 13:14,42-44) | P/T | C/E |
| 47) Give up personal property; have all things in common. (Acts 2:44-45) | P/T | C/E |
| 48) Have self-employed church leaders. (II Thess. 3:7,8) | P/T | C/E |
| 49) Take collections in the church meetings for the poor. (I Cor. 16:1) | P/T | C/E |
| 50) Long hair on a man is a disgrace. (I Cor. 11:14) | P/T | C/E |

Additions to the Covell/Shelley list:

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| 51) Love your enemy. (Mat. 5:44) | P/T | C/E |
| 52) Do not sue a Christian brother. (I Cor. 6:1-8) | P/T | C/E |
| 53) Pray aloud in unison in group prayers. (Acts 4:24) | P/T | C/E |
| 54) Meet daily as a church and serve the Lord's Supper in each meeting. (Acts 2:46) | P/T | C/E |
| 55) Baptize persons immediately upon confession of faith in Christ. (Acts 2:41; 8:38) | P/T | C/E |
| 56) Don't defend yourself when someone slaps or sues you. (Mat. 5:38-41) | P/T | C/E |
| 57) Kneel down for prayer. (Eph. 3:14) | P/T | C/E |

3. List the principles you used in making your decisions.

4. Evaluate the following activities. Which activities are non-negotiable (timeless and universal) and which are negotiable (temporary and local)? Indicate (below or on the back of the page) your evaluation, which Biblical passages you would use and how you would decide if the activity is permissible or not.

- 1) Tattoos, piercing and painting (“body art”)
- 2) Nail polish
- 3) Make-up (in moderation)
- 4) Corporate worship on Saturdays (among Jews) and on Fridays (among Muslims)
- 5) Wearing a beard and moustache
- 6) Wedding ring
- 7) Include the word “Mennonite” or “Anabaptist” in the church name
- 8) Wearing gold watches
- 9) Eating out on Sunday
- 10) Teach believers to tithe their income
- 11) Men wearing caps in church, while praying, teaching or preaching
- 12) Wearing wrist bands
- 13) A woman wearing pants
- 14) Men wearing shorts
- 15) Baptism by immersion
- 16) A man wearing a lungi (in Bangladesh or Myanmar)
- 17) Drinking alcohol (in moderation) in order not to offend locals
- 18) Baptism by pouring
- 19) Dancing
- 20) Saluting the flag
- 21) Savings accounts
- 22) Noncombatant military service where exemption is not an option
- 23) Women covering their heads for church services only
- 24) Cremation or burial
- 25) Voting in elections

--#2 adapted from Permanent or Temporary?, by Ralph Covell and Marshall Shelley in Encountering Missionary Life and Work, by Steffen/Douglas, pp. 210,211