

What is a “Free Ministry of God”

A “**free ministry of God**” is a religious organization that is created and operated according to the established religious guidelines detailed throughout the Holy Bible, which we believe to be the inerrant, inspired Word of God, and (as such) this ministry’s ultimate Reference. This same free ministry is established by believers in God, who have experienced a calling from God to serve a need delineated in His Holy Word. For Light of Yeshua Fellowship, this call is to simply and directly teach and Model the Word of God (The Bible) to those seeking application of Biblical principles in their lives.

From a human, Operational perspective, we believe the Word of God (the Holy Bible) is clear regarding leadership within a ministry, assembly, or religious institution, (commonly called a “church”) that carries the identity of the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob (detailed in the Holy Bible):

- Yeshua (Jesus) is the head of the ministry, not any individual person nor ruling body of persons, and all who choose to be part of this ministry are part of Yeshua’s “Body of Believers”, under Yeshua’s headship. (See Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27, Ephesians 1:22, 5:23, 5:30, Colossians 1:18, 2:18-19). Therefore, a two-fold seeking of guidance in operational issues must occur daily:
 - Study of God’s Holy Word (Bible) for proper, Biblical examples, comparisons, and action.
 - Prayer for guidance in all issues facing the ministry, from the most minor to the critical.
- Individuals (male or female) called by God to ministry work, dedicated to serving God and His Son Yeshua (Jesus), with a proven record for seeking God’s Biblical direction in their daily lives may act as elder servants within the ministry, but still under the direct headship of Yeshua (Jesus).

From a Legal perspective, a “free ministry” in the United States is automatically afforded recognition as a “Church” by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The First Amendment guarantees that an association of like-minded believers, guided by the teachings of the Holy Bible, has the right to assemble for religious purposes, and may continue to so operate provided they do not deviate from those religious purposes. Further implied in the First Amendment is the fact that these truly religious ministries (formally or informally organized) need not seek local, state, or federal governmental permission / documentation to operate and be automatically considered “tax-immune”.

Therefore, a “Free Ministry” is one that is not incorporated and does not seek Internal Revenue Code recognition / permission to be exempt from federal taxation (that is, a “free ministry” does not seek nor

require IRS 501(c)(3) status). We firmly believe the founding fathers of this great nation understood both business and religious issues such that they provided for Churches and Ministry organization under the Headship of Yeshua (Jesus). They knew that the Church or Ministry of God is under the **sole jurisdiction of its Head (Yeshua/Jesus)**. When a Church or Ministry incorporates, it becomes:

- “... an artificial person or legal entity.”¹
- “... creature of the State”, “...subject to the corporate laws of that State”²
 - Therefore, “A corporation is created by and derives its existence and all of its powers from the State and, therefore, has only such powers as the State has conferred upon it, and under the control of the State.”³
 - “Every Corporation has obtained a charter from the State of Incorporation. This charter is simply permission to exist given to that corporation, without which, its operations would be considered illegal.”⁴

Since incorporation involves the creation of a new entity and since the **Church / Ministry of God is already created by God, no incorporation is necessary**, from a legal perspective, provided Biblical principles of operation are followed. Further, since the Church or Ministry of God’s ordained purpose is sharing the Word and Teachings of God, it is not considered illegal, **and therefore no special license is required from any State to so operate**.

Note also that the Internal Revenue Code, United States Code, Title 26, 508(c)(1)(A) states,

“... a church, it’s **integrated auxiliaries**, and **conventions** and **associations** of the church are excluded from taxation.”

Section 508(c) further states that churches are not required to apply for recognition of Section 501 (c)(3) status in order to be exempt from federal taxation or to receive tax deductible contributions. Therefore, since Churches and Ministries of God are automatically exempt from Federal income tax, and contributions to churches are deductible by donors (under Section 170), why would a church or ministry choose the constrictive, burdensome, costly, and unnecessary overhead of both incorporating and seeking IRS recognition? More importantly, why would one take an organization **ordained by God, under the Headship of His Son Yeshua**, and make it subservient to:

1. The State by incorporating OR
2. The IRS, by seeking 501(c)(3) recognition, and thereby agreeing to its limitations of Church / Ministry practice.

Yeshua (Jesus) Himself said, **“Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s”. (Matthew 22:15-21).**

¹ Black’s Law Dictionary, West Publishing Company, 1991, 6’t h Edition Page 340

² U.S. Supreme Court Ruling, Hale v. Henkel, 201 U.S. 43

³ Len Young Smith and G. Gale Roberson, “Smith and Roberson’s Business Law”, West Publishing Company, 1966, Page 796

⁴ “Smith and Roberson’s Business Law”, West Publishing Company, 1966, Page 789

We make no judgment on those Churches / Ministries of God that have sought incorporation and/or 501(c)(3) IRS recognition, or that organize as a profit-based entity. As for **Light of Yeshua Fellowship**, its integrated **auxiliaries, associations, schools,** and **conventions,** **we choose the freedom afforded this Ministry of God in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. May the God of all Creation guide our efforts daily.**