



The denomination to which I have the honor to belong, holds the true fundamental principles of the gospel of Christ. These are, the sovereignty of God in the provision and application of the plan of salvation, the supreme authority of the scriptures, the right of each individual to judge for himself in his views of truth as taught in the scriptures, the independent, democratical Christocratic form of church government, the profession of religion by conscious subjects only, and other principles of scripture truth growing out of these or intimately connected with them.

William Bullein Johnson, *The Gospel Developed*

Dramatic Distinctives

Lessons from Our Baptist Heritage



Dr. William Bullein Johnson
(b. 1782, d. 1862)

Our High Calling!
The Priesthood of Believers

Dr. William Bullein Johnson

Hometown: Georgetown, SC
Home Church: Beaufort Baptist

Graduate

Brown College Law School
South Carolina College

Service

Pastor, Euhaw Baptist Church, SC
Chaplain, South Carolina College
Pastor, Savannah Baptist Church, GA
President, co-founder, Triennial Convention
1st President, co-founder SBC
President, 27 yrs, SC Baptist Convention
Principle, Greenville Female Academy
Pastor, Edgefield Baptist Church, SC
Co-founder, Furman University

The Priesthood of Believers

Some Supporting Scriptures cited by Johnson

All members of a church of Christ meet as equals, for they are “fellow-citizens with the saints and the household of faith,” “where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” Whatever distinctions that exist between these members in society, (and distinctions there must necessarily exist,) they are not known in the church relation, for the members of this body “are all one in Christ Jesus,” having equal rights and equal privileges.

William Bullein Johnson, *The Gospel Developed Through The Government and Order of the Churches of Jesus Christ*

As an individual body, independent of the control of every other body on earth, great responsibility rests on the church. Each in her respective sphere is thus charged with a solemn duty. She is the moral guardian of that sphere, and is therefore, bound to let her light shine before others, that they, seeing her good works, may glorify God in Heaven. To her, therefore, these look. In her conduct, they expect to see not only her immediate character of that Gospel, in which she professes to believe--the power and efficacy of that Redeemer, in whom she professes to place all her hope of happiness, here, and hereafter. How important the relation, that she bears to those around her. Through her, many may be saved, and through her, many may be lost. How awful her responsibility! Let her take heed to her duty.

William Bullein Johnson, *A church of Christ, with her officers, laws, duties, & form of government. A sermon, delivered Lord's Day, September 22, 1844, at Gilead meeting house, Union dist., S. Carolina*