

Capitalization of the Word "By-Law" in the Church Manual

Enforcement of By-Laws. SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of every member of The Mother Church, who is a First Reader in a Church of Christ, Scientist, to enforce the discipline and by-laws of the church in which he is Reader. (Page 33)

Pastor Emeritus to be Consulted. SECT. 18. The Mother Church shall not make a church By-law, nor enter into a business transaction with a Christian Scientist in the employ of Rev. Mary Baker Eddy, without first consulting her on said subject and adhering strictly to her advice thereon. (Page 70)

Mother Church Unique. SECT. 3. In its relation to other Christian Science churches, in its By-Laws and self-government, The Mother Church stands alone; it occupies a position that no other church can fill. Then for a branch church to assume such position would be disastrous to Christian Science. Therefore, no Church of Christ, Scientist, shall be considered loyal that has branch churches or adopts The Mother Church's form of government, except in such cases as are specially allowed and named in this Manual. (page 71) (emphasis added)

How did Mary Baker Eddy perceive the word "By-Law?"

Every use of the word By-Law in the *Manual* (88th edition) is in upper case except in two instances, as shown above. As the examples show, there are two exceptions. Once it is used with a lower case for "law," and in the other example it is lower case for both the "by" and the "law."

Are the variations of the word By-Law in the *Church Manual* patterned after the "Scientific Translation of Mortal Mind" as found in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, page 115? Could the lower case "by-law" on page 33 match the "Physical" – *The First Degree*? Does the upper and lower case "By-law" on page 70 represent the "Moral" – *The Second Degree*? And does the upper case "By-Law" on page 70 and elsewhere in the book present the "Spiritual" – *The Third Degree*? Are these the sacred secrets that our Leader left to us?

Was Mrs. Eddy "straining at gnats" or is this a case of "trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle?" Are we learning the "new tongue" that Mrs. Eddy referred to so often in her writings? That is for each one to decide through spiritual sense. Let us now turn to the Bible for the answer.

I Corinthians, 2

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**