

IS THE CHURCH BUILDING HOLY?

Michael Pickford

The above question is certainly a valid one and getting the wrong answer can potentially lead a local congregation to practices that aren't authorized in the New Testament (Colossians 3:17).

If we are asking whether there is something inherently and spiritually significant about the materials used to build the building (brick, mortar, siding, nails, carpet, windows, etc) then the answer is certainly "No." However, if we're discussing the existence and purpose of the church building, the answer is quite different.

The building is authorized for the purpose of carrying out the work of the local church (Hebrews 10:25). What does the word "Holy" mean? Simple. Something that is holy is something (or someone) that is set apart for God's use. Is the building set apart for God's use? If not, does the church have any business owning and maintaining it out of the Lord's treasury?

Since our building is owned and maintained by money from the Lord's treasury then the building itself should be regarded as part of the Lord's treasury. If not, why not? It's purpose is to carry out the work of the church. To use the building in ways that do not carry out the work of the church exclusively is a misuse of the building. Many "churches of Christ" use their buildings for social functions and gatherings that are nowhere described in the New Testament as being part of the work of the local church. I would exhort such churches to cease doing those things and strive to remain within the confines of the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9). ☞

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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MARRIAGE IS NOT A CHURCH SACRAMENT

Michael Pickford

Many people are aware of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Of course, this is not an arrangement set up by God, nor is the Catholic Church found in the Bible; however, the idea of marriage being some sort of "Church activity" goes beyond the Catholic Church. Many (If not most) protestant denominations associate marriage with the church and even among brethren the two seem to be necessarily connected in ways the Bible doesn't teach.

Paul did compare the husband/wife relationship with the Christ/church relationship (Ephesians 5:22-33); but, it's important not to take from the passage something that is not there. The lessons Paul taught there are essential and from them we understand more about both relationships. However, Paul never says anything about the two (marriage and church) being interconnected. He did not say anything about marriage being a work of the church and He certainly didn't say anything about marriage being a "Sacrament of the church." Yet, even some Christians feel that getting married in a church building somehow adds validity to the union. Does it?

Somewhere along the line many people have lost sight of one very clear and essential fact: **Marriage predates the church by thousands of years.** That's right. The church wasn't established until 33 AD. However, we can read about marriage at the very beginning of the Bible, near the beginning of time (Genesis 2:23-24). In fact, when the Pharisees of Jesus' day tried to appeal to Moses' law in order to discuss marriage, Jesus took them back to the beginning (Matthew 19:1-10). People were "*marrying and giving in marriage*" in Noah's day (Matt. 24:38) long before the Law of Moses or the church was established.

Jesus didn't establish the church for the purpose of sanctifying marriage and performing weddings; that was man's idea (Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:8). He established the church for the purpose of sounding forth the Gospel of Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Marriage is one divine institution that has been created by God. The church is another (different) divine institution established by God (Acts 20:28). Incidentally, the government is another one (Romans 13) - (Use the building for political rallies/voting, etc? It's a valid question/comparison).

The Catholic Church has made a mistake in making marriage a "church sacrament." Let's be careful that we don't make the same mistake. ☞

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Teaching the Lost

Weekly Memory Verse: Acts 8:4

Introduction: God could have chosen any method He wanted in order to get the good news (Gospel) about Christ's sacrifice for our sins to the world. He's God, He could have spoken audibly from heaven for the entire world to hear. However, He chose the method of preaching and teaching. One will not be obedient and obtain salvation (Heb 5:8-9) without first having faith in Christ; and, faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). "How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). Jesus didn't even tell Saul (Paul) what to do to be saved when He spoke to him on the road to Damascus. Rather, He told Saul (Paul) to go into the city and there he would be told what he "Must do" (Acts 9:6). The Lord then sent a man named Ananias to Saul (Paul) and Ananias was the one who told him, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). We sing songs that use lyrics like, "seeking the lost," and "send the light," but are we doing those things in our own lives? This week, let's be reminded each day of the importance of sharing the Gospel with those in the world on a personal basis.

Monday: Jesus' mission was to seek and to save the lost.

1. Luke 19:10: Why did Jesus say He had come?
2. 1 John 2:6: What is our responsibility in relation to Jesus?

Tuesday: God wants everyone to be saved!

1. 1 Timothy 2:3-4: What is God's desire? What must men do in order to obtain salvation? How will they come to that knowledge? (Rom. 10:14).
2. 2 Peter 3:9: It is not God's will for any to _____. What must one do in order to prevent themselves from perishing?

Wednesday: The "great commission" applies to all Christians.

1. Matthew 28:18-20: What did Jesus tell His disciples to go and do? How would people be made disciples? After making them disciples, what were they to be taught? Would "all things that I've commanded you" include the command to go and make disciples of all nations?" If I'm a disciple, am I not to follow the command to make disciples of all nations and teach them to make disciples as well?

Thursday: Teaching by example is good, but God wants us to do more.

1. Matthew 5:13-16: What two things did Jesus say believers were? What is the significance of me being salt and light?

According to verse 16, what could lead men to glorify My Father in heaven?

2. 1 Peter 2:11-12: What might cause people to glorify God in the day of visitation?
3. Acts 8:4: Did these disciples simply live good lives "Everywhere?" What else were they doing?

Friday: Our attitude and manner is important when teaching the lost.

1. Colossians 4:5-6: Who is the verse speaking of when it references "those who are outside?" What should my speech be like when talking to them?
2. 2 Timothy 2:24-26: List four characteristics that should be included in the approach we use in correcting those who are in opposition.
3. Matthew 23:14, 15-17, 23-27, 29, 33; Acts 13:9-10; Acts 15:1-2: How can we justify Jesus' and Paul's harsh approaches in their teaching in these passages with Colossians 4:5-6 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ABOVE)? Would the setting determine the teaching manner used? Should a preacher use the same approach while sitting in/at someone's living room or table as he might use from the pulpit?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: 1 John 1:1-4
- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***