

Is This Church an "Anti" Church?

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The word "anti" has come into prevalent use among brethren who are promoting many unscriptural practices and innovations in the church today. Quite often someone or some congregation is branded as being "anti". The word is used to carry stigma -- it is a word that they have made to sound repugnant to most people. So, if you begin to press them for the scripture for some of their unscriptural practices, their main argument (?) in defense of what they are doing is to shout "anti". If people can be convinced that the objection to a thing came from one of the "antis", then there is no need to even consider the objection! Along with the term "anti" they use the terms "hobby-rider", "radical", "troublemaker", and "church-splitter".

Before we go any further, let us find out what the word "anti" means. *Webster* says, "A person opposed to a practice, law, policy, movement, or the like." The word simply means "to be against". You can see from the definition that it is not a bad word at all. In fact, no person can be a true Christian and not be "anti". There are many practices in the world (and in the religious world) the true child of God must stand against (or be anti). Every church of Christ that is carrying out the will of God is "anti" many practices and movements in the religious world. Jesus Christ was anti tradition of the elders, and his opposition to their tradition was most offensive to the Pharisees (Matt. 15: 1- 12). Paul was anti Judaism (Acts 15: 1 - 5; Galatians). He was also considered a troublemaker (Acts 17:6).

Now, to the question, "Is this church an "anti" congregation?" In light of the background we have already given, the answer is YES! WE OPPOSE EVERYTHING THAT IS OUT OF HARMONY WITH NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING. This congregation is anti sprinkling for baptism; anti salvation by faith only; anti salvation by grace only; anti total depravity; anti direct operation of the Holy Spirit; anti pope; anti dancing; anti gambling; anti liquor drinking; anti modernism and infidelity; anti lying, slander, backbiting; anti Catholic church; anti denominationalism; anti instrumental music in worship; anti women preachers; anti church associations; anti church conventions; anti missionary society; anti human institution of any kind to do the work of the church; anti one congregation setting itself up as the agency through which many churches work in either evangelism or benevolence; anti any other thing that is out of harmony with sound doctrine. We are not ashamed of the fact that we are anti sin, we only wish that more of our brethren would be!

This congregation is not just "anti" something, it is also "for" something. We are for everything that is right, and all things religious which are authorized by God's word. We are for Bible classes; for church building; for helping the needy; for preaching the gospel to the lost; for helping support preachers in other fields of labor; for preaching the gospel over the radio; for the Lord's supper on the first day of the week; for singing; for prayer; for elders and deacons; for disciplining those who walk disorderly; for godly living; for located preachers. We are for everything that is authorized in the New Testament by either general or specific authority (but have only listed a few). We have not cited scripture as to why we are for or against the things listed, but have simply stated that they are authorized or not authorized. If anyone doubts whether we can give scripture on any point, we

will be more than happy to give book, chapter and verse as to why we are for or anti anything listed.
If you doubt this, just try us !!

(From the first issue of "THE VOICE", Feb. 1972)