SOME REASONS WHY IT IS WRONG FOR THE CHURCH TO HAVE A KITCHEN AND FURNISH ENTERTAINMENT

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Introduction

1. The Social Gospel entered into DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES at the end of the Nineteenth century and reached its zenith in the first part of the 20th Century.
    a. The gospel is NOT a dual-purpose gospel – I Cor. 15: 1 – 4.
2. Preachers in denominationalism who were filled with MODERNISM denied the deity of Christ and the inspiration of the Bible.
3. These preachers began to preach the SOCIAL GOSPEL.
4. They turned their energies from the SPIRITUAL to THIS WORLD – the work of clearing slums, providing recreation, having socials, trying to cure the social ills of the world . . .
5. We don't make men spiritually better by curing social ills, we cure social ills by making men spiritually better.
    a. This happens when men and women are CONVERTED TO CHRIST by preaching of the gospel – Mk. 16:15 – 16; Matt. 18:3; Acts 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:17.
6. The Social Gospel began to enter churches of Christ in the middle of this century.
7. The Social Gospel began to be used as a "come on" – operating on the theory that people would be enticed to come to church if they were given benevolence, invited to meals, and involved in playing games – and <u>then</u> they would teach and convert them.
8. The problem: One doesn't reach and convert people with the Social.
    a. Men and women are drawn to Christ with the Gospel of Christ – John 6:44, 45; Rom. 1:16; Isa. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:33; Mk. 16: 15 – 16.

I. IT IS NOT THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO ENTERTAIN SAINTS OR SINNERS

a. By "entertain" we mean: eating together, fun, and games.

1. The Mission of the church in the world is:
    a. To PREACH the Gospel to the LOST – I Tim. 3:15; Phil. 1:5; 4: 14 – 17; Mk. 16:15 – 16.
    b. To EDIFY its members – Matt. 28:20; Eph. 4:11 – 12.
    c. To MINISTER to ITS OWN in time of need – Acts 2: 44 – 45; 4:32; 6:1 – 6; I Cor. 16:1 – 2; Rom. 15: 25 – 27; Acts 11: 27 – 30; I Tim. 5:16.
2. Jesus did NOT come to earth to "SEEK TO ENTERTAIN", but "*to seek and to save that which was lost"* – Luke 19:10; John 14: 12.
3. The gospel is NOT the "SUPPORT OF ENTERTAINMENT", but the "*pillar and ground of the truth"* –I Tim. 3:15.

II. THE CHURCH ACTS <u>WITHOUT BIBLE AUTHORITY</u> WHEN IT FURNISHES KITCHENS AND ENTERTAINMENT, FOR NO SCRIPTURE AUTHORIZES IT—Eph. 5: 24; Eph. 1: 22 – 23.

1. The church is a SPIRITUAL INSTITUTION with a SPIRITUAL MISSION – John 18:36; Rom. 14:17.
    a. The SALVATION OF SOULS – Lk. 19:10; Matt. 28: 19 -20.

2. The church is to ASSEMBLE for SPIRITUAL WORSHIP to God – Heb. 10:25; John 4:24.
    a. This necessitates a PLACE to assemble.
    b. The place, seats, hat racks, lights, nursery, rugs, cooling and heating, restrooms, and water coolers are designed to facilitate a gathering for WORSHIP.
    c. These things facilitate a SPIRITUAL GATHERING to do what Christ has authorized His church to do in worship.
3. A Kitchen, Family Center, or Recreation Hall does NOT facilitate a gathering for Worship.
    a. A Kitchen is designed to facilitate a social gathering.
    b. There is NO authority for the church to gather for SOCIAL ACTIVITIES – I Cor. 11: 22 , 34.
    c. If one could find a verse of scripture that authorizes the church to FUNCTION as a SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, then one would have authority for a Kitchen and Entertainment.
4. We must respect the SILENCE of the Scriptures – I Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9 – 11; I Cor.4:6; Rev. 22: 18 – 19; Deut. 4;2; 12:32; Prov. 30: 6.
5. The idea that we can do something because it is NOT expressly forbidden in the Scriptures creates respect for what the Bible does NOT say, rather than what it DOES say.
6. When one's ACTIONS in religion is governed on the assumption that he can do what is NOT expressly forbidden, the door is WIDE OPEN.
    a. Through this door comes:
        i. Kitchens
        ii. Instrumental music
        iii. Infant baptism
        iv. Human organizations

III. ENTERTAINMENT IS NOT "CHURCH BUSINESS" – Acts 6:3 – IT IS HOME OR INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS.

1. Paul tells the Corinthians that they had houses TO EAT and DRINK IN—I Cor. 11: 22, 34.
    a. There is a difference between the INDIVIDUAL and the CHURCH – I Tim. 5:16.
2. The disciples in Jerusalem ATE AT HOME – Acts 2:46.
3. The social aspect of life is family business or individual business.
4. God does not want the social business of the family MIXED with the spiritual business of the church – I Tim. 5:10; I Pet. 4:9.

IV. A CHURCH WHO FURNISHES ENTERTAINMENT CONFUSES YOUNG PEOPLE.

1. Young people ask, "Is there not something more than games and eating and fun to being a Christian?"
2. Do NOT UNDERESTIMATE our young people.
3. Young people are serious minded and they are ready for work and service in the church to the Lord.
4. They don't want fun and games made out of religion.
5. They have the same spiritual needs as older people do.

V. CHURCH FURNISHED ENTERTAINMENT IS PUTTING NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOLY AND COMMON, THE SACRED AND THE SECULAR.

1. God has always made a difference between the HOLY and the COMMON (or unholy) – Lev. 10:10; Ezek. 22:26.

2. Entertainment is NOT authorized in the New Testament which is sealed and consecrated with the blood of Christ – Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9: 23 -28.
    a. It is COMMON and cannot be a part of the work or worship of the church with God's approval.
    b. All things used in God's service must come UNDER THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

VI. THE BIBLE TERM "FELLOWSHIP" IS NEVER USED IN REFERENCE TO ENTERTAINMENT

1. Churches become involved in social and secular activities, and then tag them "FELLOWSHIPS":
    a. A common meal becomes a "fellowship dinner".
    b. Eating together in the morning is a "fellowship breakfast".
    c. Dining rooms are built and called "fellowship halls".
    d. Game rooms become "fellowship rooms".
    e. Sporting events are called "periods of fellowship".
2. The Bible does not teach just any kind of "FELLOWSHIP"; the term is limited to what the Bible teaches about it.
3. BIBLE FELLOWSHIP is based upon GOSPEL TEACHING – I John 1: 3 – 4; 1:7.
4. BIBLE FELLOWSHIP is fellowship men enjoy with one another and with God because Jesus died, and without His death would have been impossible.
5. Jesus did not die to bring men and women together to "drink coffee, eat doughnuts, or hamburgers, etc.".
    a. Jesus' death brings men and women together IN FELLOWSHIP:
        i. In Song – Eph. 5:19
        ii. In Prayer – Acts 2:42
        iii. In the fellowship of supporting Preachers who preach the gospel– Phil. 1:5; 4: 14 – 17.
        iv. In fellowship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit – I Cor. 1:9; I John 1:3, 7: Phil. 2:1.
        v. Fellowship in the Lord's Supper with Christ – I Cor. 10: 16.
        vi. Fellowship in suffering for the cause of Christ – Phil. 3:10
        vii. Fellowship of the ministering to the saints in need – 2 Cor. 8:4; 2 Cor. 9: 13; Rom. 15:26.

VII. CHURCH-FURNISHED ENTERTAINMENT IS DENOMINATIONAL IN ORIGIN AND HAS ADDED TO DENOMINATIONAL GROWTH

1. A church that furnishes entertainment cannot claim to be undenominational in practice when it does that which is denominational in origin.
2. One cannot find Bible authority for KITCHENS and ENTERTAINMENT.

CONCLUSION

1. Church furnished entertainment is the work of LAWLESSNESS – Matt. 7: 23.
2. This practice WILL CONDEMN our souls and we will be lost – Matt. 7: 21 – 23; Gal. 1: 6 -9.

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