

MUST THE CHURCH CHANGE?

(Jude 3, 4)

Introduction:

1. Not too long ago we had brother Dave Miller come and give a seminar with this very title. Why? Because there is a large movement in the brotherhood to change the church and we must understand it.
2. Let us consider this morning a biblical example/principle; the application today, and then answer the question: must the church change?

Discussion:

I. Biblical Example/Principle (1 Kings 11-13).

- A. Jeroboam given the kingdom of the ten tribes (the northern kingdom of Israel-1 Kings 11:29-38).
 1. This was because of the sins of Solomon (1 Kings 11:11).
 2. Jeroboam was promised an enduring kingdom IF he kept God's commandments (1 Kings 11:38).
- B. Jeroboam, fearing to lose his people, changed God's law to suit himself (1 Kings 12:25-33).
 1. He changed where the people of God could worship (1 Kings 12:29-31).
 2. He changed who led the worship of the people of God (1 Kings 12:31).
 3. He changed the feasts of God's people (1 Kings 12:32, 33).
- C. Because of this, Jeroboam was cursed by God.
 1. God sent a prophet to request repentance from Jeroboam, but Jeroboam would not listen (1 Kings 13).
 2. Jeroboam's child, Abijah, became sick and died (1 Kings 14:1-18; esp. vv 7-16).
 3. The fulfillment of God's prophecy followed shortly (1 Kings 15:25-30).

II. Application Today.

- A. The church of Christ is not a denomination, it is not one of many. It is THE church that is devoted to being the church that is Christ's by means of loving obedience to His word.
- B. Jesus said He would build HIS church (Matt. 16:18) and we see that accomplished in Acts 2.
- C. All the many denominations are the creations of man after changes were made to the word of God.
 1. Man made changes to the plan of salvation and created denominations.
 2. Man made changes to the organization of the Lord's church and created denominations.
 3. Man made changes to the leadership of the Lord's church and created denominations.
 4. Man made changes to the commands of the Lord and created denominations.
- D. Judah remained faithful and was 2 /12 (16%) of those who called themselves the people of God.

III. Must the church change?

- A. There are changes that can be made. We can change the carpet, the lighting, the times we meet on the Lord's Day, the order of worship, the songs we sing, the many ways we strive to fulfill the Lord's commands.
- B. There are changes we CANNOT make and remain the Lord's church. We cannot change the plan of salvation, the organization of the Lord's church, the leadership of the Lord's church, or the commands/teaching of the Lord. If we do, we cease to be the Lord's church and make ourselves a denomination.
- C. The answer is NO! the church need not change and it MUST not change.

Conclusion:

1. The motivation for man-devised changes is obvious and has biblical precedent (1 Sam. 8:5, 19, 20). But this is in direct opposition to God's will that we "come out from among them" and "be separate" (2 Cor. 6:17; cp. 1 Pet. 1:13-16).
2. Let us not desire to be like those round about us; lost in their sin and doomed. Let us desire and strive to be faithful and well pleasing to our Lord who promises us eternal life with Him, if we obey.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “MUST THE CHURCH CHANGE”

1. Remember the sad reality that God’s people are always the extreme minority.

In the Garden of Eden = 2 of 2 failed the Lord and were expelled from His presence.

With Cain and Abel = 1 of 2 failed to serve God faithfully and was cursed.

In the days of Noah = 8 of millions? Were saved.

In the days of Abraham = How many were faithful to the patriarchal system?

In the days of Israel = only 7000 in all of the Northern Kingdom (1 Kings 19:18).

Only a remnant saved despite being as numerous as the sand at the sea (Is. 10:22).

In the days of our Lord = All His disciples forsook Him when He went to the cross (Matt. 26:56).

Few there are that will walk the narrow road and be saved (Matt. 7:14; 9:37; 20:16; 22:14; Rev. 3:4).

2. What about today? Wikipedia says ~2 million world wide and adult population in US associated with the church =.8%-1.5%. A remnant of a remnant.
3. Why? Because adherence to the word of God and His authority has never been popular. Thus to gain masses of people compromises must be made to God’s word to accommodate man’s desires/tastes or culture’s “evolution”. Yet God changes not (Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17) and His word has been revealed once for all (Jude 3).
4. Must always understand the difference between the things we can change (expedients and matters of opinion) and the things we cannot change (God’s commands/teachings).
5. To change the terms of the covenant of God is to change the status a person enjoys with God!

**THE CHURCH MUST
NOT/CANNOT CHANGE IF
IT WOULD REMAIN THE
CHURCH OF CHRIST!**