

Do You Know One?

1. A brother who does not believe in caring for the sick? I do not. But there are many brethren who rightly oppose the churches of Christ building and/or contributing to a hospital. There is no scriptural authority for them to do so.
2. A brother who does not believe in congregational cooperation? I do not. But there are scores of brethren who properly reject the sponsoring church type of cooperation. There is no divine authority for one church becoming the agency through which other churches function. The examples of cooperation in the New Testament were always concurrent action and never joint action.
3. A brother who does not believe in preaching the gospel? I do not. But there is a host of brethren who refuse to support any human missionary society. Elders of a church cannot scripturally assume a work and oversight that Christ did not assign them. When an eldership assumes the oversight of a brotherhood work and its treasury, as in the sponsoring church arrangement, they form a society in the eldership and act without divine authority.
4. A brother who believes that Christians have no responsibility toward any needy person unless he is a Christian? I do not. But there are multitudes of brethren who rightly object to the church treasury being depleted by a program of general benevolence for which there is no New Testament authority.
5. A brother who does not believe in caring for orphans? I do not. But there are many brethren who properly oppose church support of human benevolent societies, all of which came into existence during the past century.
6. A brother who does not believe in Christians enjoying clean recreation? I do not. But there are thousands of brethren who correctly protest the misuse of funds, contributed into the church treasury for the furtherance of the gospel, to provide for social and recreational activities. There is no Bible authority for the church undertaking such programs.
7. A brother who does not believe in Christians having a good education? I do not. But there are scores of brethren who justly oppose the colleges soliciting and receiving contributions from the churches.

- by Huey Hartsell

Did You Know? . . .

That the apostles never used food, games or social activities to draw a crowd so they could preach to them?

Yet in many churches today, even some calling themselves "Church of Christ," the social programs are so extensive that a social director or a "youth minister" must be hired to oversee the social planning.

Although schools existed in the first century, and the apostle Paul even taught in one for 2 years (Acts 19:9,10), no churches ever supported them financially?

Yet in many churches today, even some calling themselves "Church of Christ," the financial supporting of "Christian schools" or "Colleges" is a regular part of the budget.

That the apostle Paul illustrated many of his epistles with analogies from sporting events (1 Cor. 9:24,25). Yet no church sponsored or had sporting teams?

Yet in many churches today, even some calling themselves "Church of Christ," the sporting activities are so much a part of the work that full scale gyms have been built.

If these things mentioned above were not a part of the early church and we do not find them in the Bible, WHY are churches doing them today? And who gave them the RIGHT to do it? These things ought not to be! "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17).

- by Roger Shouse

Can We See The Bible Alike?

Moses said we could (Deut. 29:29). David said we could (Ps. 119:104). John said we could (Jn. 20:30,31). Jesus prayed that we might (Jn. 17:20). All of these spokesmen for God have declared that through study of the Scriptures we are enabled to see them alike.

There are some things that *HINDER* a clear understanding of the Bible:

- Relatives (Matt. 19:29; 10:34-37)
- Pride (Prov. 14:12; 16:18; Rev. 3:17-18)
- Majority opinion (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:13-14,21)
- False doctrines (Matt. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:9-12)
- Satan (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

If we will accept only the word of God (1 Pet. 4:11), we would not only see the Bible alike, but understand and practice it alike (1 Cor. 1:10).

- by Johnny Polk

It Needs No Change

The men who wrote the Constitution of the United States have long been praised for their wisdom and foresight. The words they penned have served as the basis for the laws of this land for over 200 years, and have needed relatively few changes or additions. This is indeed remarkable when we view the governments and laws of most other nations in a constant state of change.

Far more amazing than this, is the law of Christ. Written nearly 2000 years ago, it continues today to provide us with "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). It is a "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). No change has ever been, or ever will be needed in it. Its own pages contain warnings to those who would attempt to alter its commands (Galatians 1:8,9; 2 John 9,10; Revelation 22:18,19). Let us learn to appreciate the beauty and perfection of God's word, and strive to live and worship according to its precepts.

- by Greg Gwin