
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Is it possible for a church to be RIGHT?***

Many people today seem to believe that it is not possible for one church to be right. That is, they think it is narrow-minded and bigoted for any one church to claim that it is right, because if a church says that it is right:

- in how it worships God.
- in the doctrine it teaches.
- in the mission it is accomplishing

This would imply that every other church that worships and teaches differently is wrong and this is far too narrow for most people today to accept.

But what does the Bible say? Is it possible for one church to be right and for every other church to be wrong? Let us see.

IT IS RIGHT WHEN A CHURCH OBEYS GOD

First, let us begin with this important fact: **A church is always right when it obeys God and it is always wrong when it disobeys God!**

1 John 2:3-4

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

According to this, the only assurance that we have of being right is if we obey the commandments of God! If a church does not obey all of God's commandments, that church is not the right church!

To keep God's commandments means that a church must keep all of God's commandments, not just some of them.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Did you hear that? If a church keeps all of God's commandments, and only offends in one point, he is guilty of all.

A church may, for example:

- Teach its members to be loving towards others.
- To be generous towards others.
- To be studious of the Scriptures.

But if that church leaves off just one of God's commandments, that church is "*guilty of all*" of God's commandments!

APPLICATION

Now let's make application of this vital principle.

1) It is right to teach baptism for the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

Since it is right to teach baptism for the remission of sins, that means it is wrong to teach differently! It becomes wrong to teach:

- Salvation by "*faith only*" without baptism.
- Infant baptism.
- Sprinkling instead of immersion.
- Holy Spirit baptism instead of water baptism.

Remember, the Bible says that to "*offend in one point*" is to become "*guilty of all.*" So, if a church:

- helps out poor people
- does good in a community
- teaches people about Jesus, but leaves off baptism for the remission of sins
- then that church is guilty of breaking all of God's law.

It is possible to be the right church only by teaching God's plan of salvation as He gave it.

2) It is right to teach that women must remain silent in the assembly of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

³⁴ Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. ³⁵ And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

Since it is right for women to remain silent in the public assemblies of the church, it is therefore wrong if any church allows the women to teach, or speak in the public assembly!

Remember, the Holy Spirit said, "*He that saith I know God and keepeth not his commandments is a liar.*" Remember too, the scripture said, "*He that offends in one point is guilty of all.*"

It is possible to be the right church by requiring the women to remain silent in the public assemblies of the church!

3) It is right to observe the communion in the assembly on the first day of every week.

Acts 20:7

⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

Since it is right to observe the communion on the first day of every week, it becomes wrong:

- to observe it ANY OTHER DAY of the week than the first day.
- to observe it MORE frequently than once a week.
- to observe it LESS frequently than once a week.
- to observe it ANY OTHER PLACE besides the assembly (like a hospital room, or motel room).

A church can be the right church only by obeying what the Lord said in everything!

SUMMARY

On and on we could go, but this is enough to illustrate the point: It is possible for a church to be right, but only when it observes all of the Lord's commandments.

God did not give us the option of choosing which commandments to obey, and which ones to discard.

Luke 6:46

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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