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# BIBLE TALK

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

Many people today seem to believe that it is not possible for a church to be wrong, or at least they don't believe a church can be so wrong so as to matter with God. To many, it does not matter that their church is doing things that are unscriptural. They seem to think that God does not care whether His word is followed or not!

But what does the Bible say? Is it possible for a church to be so wrong that we should not go to it anymore? Can a church become so wrong that it becomes sinful in God's sight and actually becomes dangerous to attend?

## **GOD GAVE A PATTERN**

To begin with, the Bible teaches over and over again that God gave a divine pattern for His church to go by in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament (Heb. 8:5). When God gave Moses this pattern for the tabernacle, He expected the pattern to be followed! God warned Israel to observe the divine pattern for the tabernacle or else they would die (Exodus 28:35).

There are examples in the Old Testament of men who did not follow the pattern of tabernacle worship and as a result they were struck dead -- they were struck dead because God wanted men to learn the lesson that He expects His divine pattern to be followed.

## **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

God also gave a divine pattern for His New Testament church and He expects men to follow. God has solemnly ordained that:

**1) Women remain silent in the public assembly of the church**

**1 Corinthians 14:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> 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.

**2) The Lord's supper is to be eaten upon the first day of every week**

**Acts 20:7**

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**3) The collection of the church is to be taken up only on the first day of the week**

**1 Corinthians 16:2**

<sup>2</sup> On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

**4) The singing is to be vocal singing only without the use of mechanical instruments**

**Ephesians 5:19**

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**5) Baptism is to be practiced only by immersion and it is to be for the remission of sins**

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> 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; ...

On and on we could go, but this is enough to illustrate that many churches today have ignored the divine pattern for the church and have substituted their own systems of worship. Jesus warned us long ago:

**Matthew 15:9**

<sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Isn't it sad to think that while some men are attempting to worship God, their worship is vain and worthless simply because they have not followed the divine pattern.

**SUMMARY**

In answer to the question, "Is it possible for a church to be wrong?", the answer is YES!!!

You need to compare your church to the Bible and if it is doing things that are different than the Bible, you can rest assured it is the wrong church and you need to get out of that church and get in the right church.

**1 John 2:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

<sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

<sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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