
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Is one church just as good as another?** In other words, does it matter what church you go to?

Today, many people are saying, “What difference does it make what church you belong to? One church is just as good as another.”

The church seems to be the only thing in the world, though, that people say this about. When it comes to physical matters people don’t say this sort of thing. For example:

- a) When they look for a spouse they don’t say, “What difference does it make? One woman is just as good as another.”
- b) When they buy a car they don’t say, “Oh, they’re all the same. What difference does it make?”
- c) When they’re sick with a disease do you think they say, “Get me a doctor of any kind. They’re all the same -- a pediatrician, a dentist -- they’re all the same. What difference does it make?”

No, in all these things we know it makes a big difference. But when it comes to spiritual matters, everyone is saying, “What difference does it make? One church is just as good as another.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

Perhaps the first thing we should do in answering this question is to ask another question. Perhaps we should first ask: **Is the church even necessary to begin with?**

The answer to this is: **YES!!** The church is so important and so necessary that Jesus shed His blood for His church:

Acts 20:28

²⁸ ... shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Since Jesus shed His blood for the church, men cannot be saved without it. Since He shed His blood for His church, it is obvious that one church is NOT just as good as another, for a manmade church could never be “just as good as” the church for which Jesus died!!

HERE’S THE DIFFERENCE

It makes a difference what church we go to because not every church is obeying God’s will. If they were all obeying God’s will they would all be exactly alike because God has only ONE will and it never changes!

Matthew 15:9

⁹ ... in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 7:21

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Here, then, is the secret of being the Lord’s church: The church that keeps the Lord’s commandments is the Lord’s church!

1 John 2:3-5

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.

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

If a church is keeping the commandments of God, then you can KNOW that that church is the Lord’s church! But, on the other hand, if a church is not keeping the Lord’s commandments, you can KNOW beyond any doubt that that church is of Satanic origin and will jeopardize your soul!

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Now, what are some of the commandments Jesus gave to His church? We obviously cannot mention them all, but here are a few:

1) Jesus commanded His church to immerse men in water “for the remission of sins.”

Mark 16:15-16

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If a church does not teach immersion in water “for the remission of sins” they are not the Lord’s church. Remember, 1 John 2:4 plainly says: “He who says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him!”

2) Jesus commanded His church to eat the Lord’s supper every 1st day of the 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.

When eating the Lord’s supper, Jesus commanded His church to use only one loaf of unleavened bread in the assembly:

1 Corinthians 10:17

¹⁷ For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Likewise, Jesus commanded His church to use only one cup containing fruit of the vine in the assembly:

1 Corinthians 11:25

²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

3) Jesus commanded His church that women must keep silent in the assembly.

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.

4) Jesus also commanded His church to sing praises to God without the use of mechanical instruments.

Ephesians 5:19

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

SUMMARY

On and on we could go, but these are some of the more obvious commandments of God that are being ignored by many churches today.

Does it make a difference what church we belong to? YES! It makes a VERY BIG difference! We must be in the Lord's church to be saved and we know we are in the Lord's church if that church is keeping His commandments!

1 John 2:3

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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