

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“Do You Not Have Houses?”

By Derek Long

Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). Jesus is head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18) and has all authority (Matthew 28:18). As a result, everything the church does must be authorized by Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17). One way to see the difference between the church you can read about in the Bible and other churches built by men is to examine their practices and see whether they match what you read about in the Bible. The church Jesus built will only engage in those things which you find Him authorizing in the Bible. Churches which engage in different works from the work Jesus gave His church must not be the church belonging to Him.

Jesus gave His church the work of evangelism. Evangelism would refer to teaching God's word (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Since New Testament churches were praised for engaging in this work, we know it is approved by Jesus. Jesus also gave His church the work of edification. Ephesians 4:11-12 says, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (NKJV). Christ gave the church apostles,

prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers so it could be edified. In 1 Corinthians 14, we are reminded one of the purposes for saints coming together is for edification (1 Corinthians 14:26). Edification refers to building one another up spiritually. Jesus also gave His church the work of caring for needy saints. Many New Testament passages demonstrate for us how the early church with Christ's approval engaged in the work of caring for needy saints (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1; 11:29-30; Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9). All the collective work Jesus has given to the church falls under one of these three categories.

Churches exist which do things which do not fit into one of these three categories as a part of their collective work. For example, churches are sometimes involved in the work of caring for needy people who are not saints. Churches are involved in the work of providing social meals. Churches are involved in the work of providing health care. Churches are involved in the work of providing education. Churches are involved in the work of providing recreational opportunities for individuals. When churches begin engaging in these sorts of works, they are no longer following the pattern Christ laid out for His church.

In response to the above statements, people may say the Bible talks about things like caring for needy individuals (Galatians 6:10), eating social meals together (Acts 2:46), educating young people (Romans 13:1ff), caring for the sick (Matthew 25:31-46), and engaging in wholesome recreation (Mark 6:31). It is true the Bible authorizes these things to be done but the question exists as to whose responsibility is it to carry out these works. 1 Timothy 5:16 points out there were certain widows

who needed to be cared for but the church was not allowed to provide for them because such was the responsibility of the widow's family. In a similar way, there are things which God's word teaches need to be done but at the same time are not to be carried out by the Lord's church but by individuals.

When people seek to get the church involved in work which God has given individuals and the home to do, a question ought to pop into our mind ("Do you not have houses?"). The apostle Paul was dealing with the Corinthians' abuse of the Lord's Supper and said, "What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and same those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you" (1 Corinthians 11:22, NKJV). When people insist on having the church do work which God has given to the home or individuals, it is like they don't have a home to do the things God wants done in that arena. Let's not bring into the work of the church things God expects us as individuals and families to be doing! Let's allow the church to do the work God gave it to do! Let's make sure we as individuals are doing the work God gives us as individuals to do!