



SCRIPTURAL USE OF THE CHURCH BUILDING





HOW IS A CHURCH BUILDING JUSTIFIED/AUTHORIZED?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- We are limited to what is revealed – 1 Cor. 2:11-12
- We are not allowed to go/think beyond what is written – 1 Cor. 4:6
- We cannot add to or take away from the inspired word – Rev. 22:18-19
- If we assume to know God's word without revelation, serious consequences follow – Mt. 15:8-9

WE MUST ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

- A place to assemble is implied in the command to assemble – Heb. 10:24-25
 - This hermeneutical rule is illustrated by Jesus and His disciples partaking of the Passover – Lk. 22:7-12
 - The command to assemble only authorizes the local church to provide a place for that purpose.
- That a place to assemble is implied in the command to assemble is seen in the N.T. examples of churches providing places to assemble – Acts 20:7-8



ANSWERING ARGUMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL USES OF THE CHURCH BUILDING



YOU BUILT A “BUILDING”

- It is argued that if we can spend money on building a **building**, when we could have rented, they can spend money on recreational facilities, etc.
- The flaws of the argument:
 - The command to assemble implies a *unspecified* place (field, tent, building, etc.), while recreation is an additional work not commanded by God.
 - Limiting the local church to a type of place to assemble (rented hall, a field, etc.), or how to get it (i.e., rent, borrow), is to restrict where God has not.

RECREATION IS A “GOOD WORKS”

- All good works must come from God’s word – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- To claim that a work is good is not enough to authorize the local church to provide for it.
 - If it were, whatever someone determines as good, as long as it isn’t immoral, would be the church’s work!
 - If a command, example, or necessary implication cannot be found in God’s word, we must reject the work and the facilities provided for it.

RECREATION IS AUTHORIZED IF COUPLED WITH *SPIRITUAL THINGS*

- Recreational facilities/programs are defended because they have multiple purposes (secular and spiritual).
 - It is argued that a church can provide a place/supplies for what is unauthorized, as long as they do something biblical/spiritual in that place or in connection with it.
 - A church can build a swimming pool if it baptizes people in it.
- Connecting scriptural/spiritual things to unscriptural things does not authorize the unscriptural things! – Mt. 7:21-23

WATER FOUNTAINS AND BATHROOMS

- It is argued that if we can *add* water fountains and bathrooms, they can *add* a fellowship hall and gym.
- The problems with this argument:
 - If water fountains, etc., are additions, they are not authorized for us or them!
 - This argument ignores that these are aids to assembling.
 - That water fountains and bathrooms are not equal to recreational facilities is easily seen in how they are used!

THE BUILDING IS NOT “HOLY”

- We should not be so quick to agree to this idea.
- It is not the dwelling place of God – Eph. 2:19-21
- But, it is “holy” by definition, in that it is a building consecrated, or set apart, for God’s uses.
- A building is no less holy than is the treasury which was used to build it.