

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

Volume 35 Number 5

www.southeastchurchofchrist.org

May 2020

“Is It All Right To Have Kitchens In The Church Building?”

Gene Frost

Answer: The right or wrong of kitchens in the church's building is not determined by its relationship to the building but must be determined by its use therein relative to the church. The building, unlike the temple of the old testament, is not sacred. God's holy temple today is a spiritual temple, the church (God's people). (Eph. 2:21, 16, 1:22-23, 1 Pet. 2:5)

The purpose of kitchens in buildings constructed and furnished by a church is for social activities. The question therefore is whether the church is to furnish entertainment for its members or the facilities for entertainment.

The church in a locality is composed of saints who act together in the execution of the Lord's will wherein He directs this collective effort. Collective action is to be distinguished from individual action: The individual sustains relationships which include economic, political, domestic, spiritual, and social responsibilities. (Eph. 4:28, 2 Thess. 3:10; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 5:1-6, Eph. 5:21, 6:4; Rom. 12:13, Heb. 13:2, James 1:27, Gal. 6:10, Matt. 7:12, Luke 10:30-37) The church is enjoined with spiritual responsibilities which include teaching the gospel, worshipping, edifying and ministering to its membership—the church is not an economic collective (to operate a business), nor a political collective (to campaign for political interests of its members), nor a domestic collective (to operate nurseries, schools, etc.), nor a social collective (to provide welfare or entertainment for the community). (1 Tim. 3:15, Col. 3:16, Eph. 4:12, Acts 6:1-6)

For the church to furnish entertainment or facilities for entertainment is for the church to assume a role that God never authorized. That this is an activity of the home is evident by Paul's censure of the church in Corinth as he chides, “What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them which have not?” (1 Cor. 11:22) It is not the purpose of God's church to sponsor dinners, etc.

The first indictment against kitchens employed as a part of the church's program of activity, (built, furnished, and/or maintained by the church), is that they are unauthorized; and second, the lawless expression prostitutes the legitimate role and divine function of the church. Thirdly, they misappropriate the Lord's treasury. (1 Cor. 16:2, 2 Cor. 11:8, Phil. 4:15-16, Acts 11:27-30, 2 Cor. 8:4-14, etc.) Fourthly, the church is given a carnal emphasis thereby. (Phil. 3:19)

The social function of the church is that assumed by the theory of modernism, which attempts to change the church from its original form and function into a social agency. The Lord gave no such function, so that what the church shall be in any given place today depends upon the attitude of its members, whether they shall be directed by modernism or the Lord. (Matt. 28:18) To turn from the Lord to modernism is to defect from the faith. (Eph. 4:5, Jude 3, Rom. 10:17, 2 Thess. 2:3-12)

It is well for churches of the Lord to remember that the church has a spiritual function and is not a glorified business, nursery, café, or pleasure parlor! Let the church be the church and leave foreign functions to those whose legitimate business it is.

Of course, the Bible answer pertains to the body of Christ as revealed in the Bible. The Lord does not presume to direct other churches not His own and of which He is not the head.

* From: “Bible Answers,” Vol. I, pg. 90-93

Southeast Church of Christ

35 Walnut Ct

Mogadore, OH

330-628-7432

Service Times:

Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

“THE DEAD CHURCH WITH A NAME”

Leon Mauldin

Jesus wrote to the church at Sardis as follows:

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come to you. But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches..” (Rev. 3:1-6).

I Know Your Deeds. Jesus is omniscient. There is nothing He does not know, whether we think in terms of a congregation or any individual Christian. That is comforting for one who values his relationship with the Lord; it should be a fearful thing to any who think He can be deceived.

The Difference Between Reputation and Reality. Outwardly everything looked well with the Sardis church. Here was apparently a church with no problems. No false doctrine is mentioned; there is no mention of Balaam or of the Nicolaitans. There was no false prophetess Jezebel there (all of these were problems mentioned in other churches). This seemed to be a really lively group with everything going for them. But Jesus said, “you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead” (3:1). *Reputation* is what others say about you; *character* is who you really are. What really matters is not what others say about us, or what we say about ourselves; what really matters is what Jesus thinks and says!

Commands to Be Obeyed. Observe the verbs of actions Jesus employed: *Be watchful, strengthen, remember, hold fast and repent* (3:2, 3).

Further, though the church as a whole was sick, Jesus saw the “few” (v. 4) that were faithful. Finally, the promise that one’s name will not be blotted out of the “Book of Life” (v. 5) serves both as an encouragement and a warning.

- From: “Biblical Insights,” Volume 13: Number 12, back cover

“THOUGHTS OF KINDNESS”

I have wept in the night

For the shortness of sight

That to somebody’s need I was blind;

But I never have yet

Felt a tinge of regret

For being a little too kind.

* “church bulletin bits, # 4, pg. 21, author unknown