

WHAT TO RESTORE (Ephesians 5:25-27)

I. The name.

- A. I understand that just having the right name does not a restored church make.
 - 1. One can have the name Jones and Jones does not designate a particular individual.
 - 2. A street can be called 1st Ave but that name does not designate one particular street because many towns and cities have a 1st Ave.
- B. However, if the right name is not in place you can know without a doubt the church has not been restored there.
- C. Also, there is not one particular name that a congregation can wear that indicates restoration because there are several names in the New Testament for the bride of Christ.
 - 1. Church of God is a biblical name (1 Corinthians 1:2).
 - 2. Church of Christ (Romans 16:16).
 - 3. Church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23).
- D. Name alone does not make an organization scriptural.
 - 1. There are denominations that have scriptural names.
 - 2. However, their unbiblical practices keep them from being the restored church.
- E. Just wearing the name church of Christ does not make a group the restored body of Christ.
 - 1. There are congregations that bear this name on the outside of the building but act nothing like the church of the New Testament on the inside of the building.
 - 2. Name alone does not make a congregation the restored church of the New Testament.
- F. Jesus is the builder of the church and He is the Groom.
 - 1. For a group to claim Christ as its Builder and then wear the name of someone or something else is to reject His authority.
 - 2. For a group to claim Christ as its Groom is to reject the marriage picture that is portrayed for us in the New Testament.
- G. A rejection of all denominational names is a step in the process of restoring the New Testament church but it isn't the only step.

II. The organization.

- A. In the infancy of the church there were several areas of church government.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:11.
 - 2. Some of these areas are no longer in existence.
- B. Apostles were given the keys of the kingdom, the gospel message and allowed to confirm that message with miracles (Mark 16:20).
 - 1. These miracles were used strictly to confirm the inspired message they preached and not for any other purpose.

2. Those miracles ceased to be done when the apostles died and those on whom they laid hands died (1 Corinthians 13:8-13).
 3. Once that which was perfect, the completed message of Christ, had come there was no more need for this office.
- C. The office of prophet was one similar to that of the apostles in that it is no longer needed today.
1. These brethren revealed God's word to man in an inspired manner.
 2. The need for such was removed when the New Testament was completed (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).
- D. Both of these areas of church government are no longer in existence because they are no longer necessary.
- E. However, there is still a need for elders, deacons and preachers.
1. Elders and deacons are men appointed to those positions who have met God-given qualifications.
 2. The elders oversee the congregation (Acts 20:28) and will give an account for the members at judgment.
 3. Deacons help with the everyday work of the congregation under the oversight of the elders.
 4. Preachers preach God's word under the oversight of the elders.
- F. Any other form of organization is unscriptural thus rendering that group unbiblical and not the restored church.

III. The terms of entrance.

- A. What it took to make a person a part of the church of Christ in the New Testament is what it takes to make one a Christian today.
1. People had to hear God's word (Romans 10:17).
 2. People then had to believe what they heard (Mark 16:16).
 3. Then those that believed had to repent (Acts 2:38).
 4. Confession of the name of Jesus was then made (Romans 10:9-10).
 5. Finally, those people that accomplished these first four acts were baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- B. That is all it took then and exactly what it takes now.
- C. Any other means of qualification a religious group may make disqualifies that group from being the restored church.

IV. The worship.

- A. New Testament worship was and is simple and beautiful.
- B. Brethren in the infancy of the church did five things in worship to God every first day of the week as taught by the inspired apostles.
1. They sang (Ephesians 5:19).
 2. They prayed.
 3. They partook of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7).
 4. They gave of their means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 5. They studied God's word through preaching.
- C. That is all that was done and all that God wanted.
- D. John 4:24 - the heart and actions must be right.

E. If anything is done not on that list or not done that is, then the worship has not been restored, which means the church has not been restored.