



The Voice Of Truth

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Children's Church

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Many innovations have been introduced into the Lord's church in the past several decades, such as instrumental music, quartets, choirs, special music, and women in the leadership roles. One of the common abuses we find in the Lord's body is the practice of removing part or all of the children from the worship service and letting them have their own little service, called Children Church. Children's church (worship) is just another denominational concept many of our brethren have adopted. Why do we get caught up in all of these denominational innovations and fantasies? Because, my brethren are more interested in what people like, the mad craze for members, rather than quality.

What is Children's Church or Children's Bible Bowl? It is a separate worship hour for children of different ages conducted by adults at the same time as the worship assembly is being conducted. Some will say, what is wrong with Children's Church! The purpose is said to be to teach children how to worship through experience. It is better to teach on the child's level. If we can divide the children from the adults, then why can we not do the same for all ages? Don't the elderly learn in a different way than young married people? Shouldn't they be divided up so they can learn better? Why not divide up our assembly based on education? Don't the PhD's learn on a different level than the high school drop outs? If we can divide an assembly one time, then we can divide it as many times as we want. But, it is without **SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**. We have authority given throughout the New Testament for the way we worship God. We worship through prayers (Acts 2:42), taking the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11), giving of our means (contributing) (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), and we have authority to teach and preach (Acts 2:42; 20:7). If worship is somehow boring or uninteresting to our children, then perhaps it's us who need to change, not our methods for worshiping God! We are commanded to do all things in Jesus' name, that is, by His authority (Colossians 3:17). There is nothing we have to do in order to improve worship. Sadly enough, we have some among churches of Christ today who have little or no conviction

concerning faithful adherence to the New Testament pattern for worship. So it is with Children's Church, **NO BIBLE AUTHORITY!** This concept violates, defiles, and contaminates scriptures that relate to the principle of one assembly for worship on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 11:33; 14:23; Hebrews 10:24-25). The Bible commands the whole congregation of the church to assemble together for worship in **ONE ASSEMBLY**. These passages are an explicit commandment for the church of our Lord to come together in one place at the same time when we worship Him. The whole church was to assemble to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20). Examine 1 Corinthians 11:33: . . . when ye come together, wait for one another . . . How can we come together in different assemblies? . . . Ye being gathered together... (1 Corinthians 5:4). Not forsaking the assembling. . . (Hebrews 10:25). What assemblies? How many assemblies are covered? For if there come any into your assembly.... (James 2:2). Which assembly?

Children's Church is a separate assembly falsely assuming that a child cannot be properly taught in the worship assembly. Did God make a mistake when He commanded the children to assemble with the congregation in the Old Testament? Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and thy sojourner that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Jehovah your God, and observe to do all the words of this law; and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear Jehovah your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over the Jordan to possess it (Deuteronomy 31:12-13). Every Israelite, men, women, children, and including the stranger, should learn to reverence and obey God. Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the assembly, assemble the old men, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of Jehovah, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Jehovah, and give not thy heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the peoples, Where is their God? (Joel 2:15-17). When the solemn assembly was called, even the children and suckling babes were to assemble with the elders to listen to the words of the priests. Did God know that this was not a good arrangement? **ABSURD, FOOLISH, LUDICROUS!**

Before one introduces anything into worship of the church he must have Bible authority. Let those who affirm that Children's Church is acceptable prove it by scripture. We need to get back to serious worship in the church!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17