

2007 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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June 3rd, 2007

RESERVED FOR GOD ALONE

Author unknown

Deut 4:39- *"Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other."*

God's uniqueness is absolute. He alone is God -- self-existent, eternal, and uncreated. And because of His uniqueness, we are to deal with Him in a way that is unlike our manner of dealing with anything else: God alone is to be *worshipped*. The very first of the Ten Commandments was, "*You shall have no other gods before Me*" (**Exod 20:3**). It has always been wrong to give God's preeminence to anything other than God Himself.

There is an obvious tendency, however, for us to do this. Perhaps because God is unseen by our physical eyes, He does not seem as real to us, and it is hard to keep the things that we can see from creeping higher up on our scale of priorities than they should be. If we're not vigilant, one or another of these tangible things can climb so high in our hearts that it displaces God as our ultimate concern. Long after this has happened, we may still be saying that God is the only object of our worship, but the degree of time and enthusiasm that we devote to our "idol" is indisputable evidence that God is no longer the most important thing in our life.

It will help us to make some *conscious decisions* about the priority of God. Whatever things are to be given to God, we must *reserve* those things for Him. We should, in the words of the hymn by E. R. Latta, "render not to any other, what alone the Lord's should be." Decisions about such priorities are best made ahead of time rather than "on the fly." If we wait until the moment of temptation to decide whether we will honor God, then our temptations may prove to be our undoing. When Jesus was tempted to worship the devil, His response was swift: "*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'*" (**Matt 4:10**). It seems obvious that Jesus had not waited until this moment to decide whom He would worship. Like Him, we need to chisel this conviction in stone: "the Lord Himself is God . . . there is no other."

God is truly worshiped when someone actually gives full attention to God with feelings of awe, love, devotion, respect, and wonder. Such a moment is genuine worship. It is idolatrous to think and feel this way about anything other than God.

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---Selected...

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie & Jackson Agee
 Jason & Marie Anderson
 Alison Autrand
 Frank & Tina Ayers
(Tina's sister jsut passed in NY)
 Jamie Ayers
 Edith Ayers
 Jack & Dorothy Bailey
 Margie Buchanan
 Bill Cain (**still improving**)
 Larry Cain
 Robert (Bob) Erickson
 Helen Gray
 Dayle Ann Hilburn (**Santa Rosa**)
 Michael Hilburn (**Patterson**)
 Margaret Holcomb
 Chuck House
 David & Jerica & Samantha Lovett
 Jean McCarty
 Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
 Wendell and Irma Rapier
 Rosa Reagan
 Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
 Andy & Liz & Eli Roadman
 Caleb & Jacob Robertson
 Taylor Romine
 Ray Rude
 The Rusk Family
 Bill & Rena Schultz
 Brad & Shawna Shuck
 Chantalle Shuck
 Ola Thornburg
 Nancy Valine
 Shirley Watkins
 Ellie Williams
 Gordon & Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
 Rick Rittenhouse
 Aaron Robertson
 David Lovett
 Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
 David Lovett
 Aaron Robertson
 Trent Walsh

Why the Local Church is Irreplaceable

by Steve Klein

In an article carried in Newspapers and on the Internet, Scripps Howard News Service religion writer Terry Mattingly wrote recently of the "*Fade Away Church Movement*." This is an effort by many denominational or independent churches to re-invent themselves as non-churches to appeal to people.

A typical name change reflecting this effort would be when the *Community Assembly of God Church* becomes the *Community Church*, then the *Community Family Worship Center* and finally, the *Center for Family Love*. Notice the trend in these names from a God proclaimed "**CHURCH!**" Focus on man and we erase duty, devotion and worship!

In these churches, drama, video, humor & musical entertainment have replaced hymns, Scripture reading and sermons. Martin Marty of the University of Chicago observed that if someone does succeed in creating a non-church church "there will be just one thing wrong with: It will have nothing to do with the Christian faith."

And there is in fact a call from some to do away with churches entirely. Internet and radio evangelist Harold Camping has told his followers "No longer are you to be under the spiritual ruler-ship of the church -- the church has ceased to be an institution or divine organism to serve God & Idiots;" Camping advocates forming fellowships with no pastors that exist to support mass-media evangelism.

Evangelical scholar Gene Edward Veith notes that "American churches have been complicit in this new and heretical anti-church movement." If we do not need what churches offer, *we do not need the churches!*

The attitudes reflected in the Fade Away Church movement may not be just a "denominational problem". At the summer camp run by Christians that my children attend, the camp convenes Sunday afternoon and evening. Some do not attend local church services in order to be at camp. Through the week, there is daily Bible study, singing, prayer, etc. individually and collectively. Wednesday evening, no provision is made to for the young people to attend a local church (this would involve transporting a large number of children several miles -- the only sound congregation in the area is small). Is the idea here that people can worship as individuals or in small groups and not be obligated to attend local church assemblies? If so, would this be true once, occasionally or for an entire lifetime?

While individual or group worship outside of local church assemblies is plainly authorized, and while Jesus is with His people anytime they meet in His name (Matthew 18: 18-20), the question is can this replace what is to be done within the local church?

It is the point of this lesson that the worship assembly of the Local Church cannot be replaced by worship conducted by individuals or groups outside church assemblies. This is true because the local church assembly offers the following:

I. UNIQUE EDIFICATION

- A. The church comes together in one place for edification, **1 Cor 14:26** (cf. **23, 29, 33**).
- B. While a Christian can be edified by Bible study and worship outside the local church and its assemblies, one obviously cannot receive the edification of the church when not in the church. And that seems to be the reasoning present in **Hebrews 10:25**

II. THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE RESOURCES

- A. The power of Synergy. **1 Cor 12:**
- B. In prayer and shared material goods, the early church seems to have experienced synergy, **Acts 4:31-33**
- C. Relative to meeting financial needs of saints, supporting a preacher, evangelism.

III. PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. It is to be done in the assembly, **1 Cor 11:17-20**.
- B. Paul's example is instructive, **Acts 20:7**.

IV. LEADERSHIP/ OVERSIGHT/ EXAMPLES

- A. Elders watch over our souls, **Heb 13:17** *"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."*
- B. They provide us with examples, **1 Pet 5:2-3**- *"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being*

lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

V. CHURCH WITHDRAWAL

- A. While we may and should make choices about personal fellowship, withdrawal by a church has the effect of group discipline.
- B. Note that withdrawal is accomplished by the assembled church for the purpose of saving an person's soul. **1 Cor 5:4-5** instructs us, *"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."*
- C. Discipline is effective because it is inflicted by the majority, **2 Cor 2:6**- *"This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man."*

CONCLUSION: When Paul traveled for the gospel's sake, he was sometimes unable to be with a local church when they met (**Acts 20:7**). Sometimes circumstances beyond our control make it impossible to meet with a local church.

- 1. Worship and Bible study during these times is good, but should not be considered a replacement for assembling with a local church.

Song & Prayer Service
5 P.M. today

ALL ARE INVITED TO
COME