

Elder Bobby Willis



### **The Church's Proper Order**

Editor's Note: This in no way means I think I am an authority on this subject. It does mean that it is on my mind at the present. bw

Putting the cart before the horse has been mentioned before but relates also to a solid foundation for a church to build upon. Many Christians have it backwards as it pertains to church growth. Building a nice, fancy building is not the highest thing on the priority list, neither is going out and attracting numbers of people with worldly entertainment in the church. There is a time and place for those things which entertain us and it is NOT in the house of God. The Lord's house, the church, should be a place of worship and giving praise to our Lord for His many blessings. Leave earthly entertainment to the many social events going on every day.

There were some during the Lord's time on earth that had turned away from using the temple to worship God and were using it for gain (profit). In John 2:16 the Lord **"...said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my father's house an house of merchandise."** When we go to church it should be with our minds centered upon Christ and what He has done for us without any distractions.

The first order of business for any church should be to build the church spiritually, not numerically. Oh how soon we forget what the scripture says about it. **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness"** (Matthew 6:33) serves us well as instruction for the church as much as it does for admonition of an individual. If we as a church would seek the will of God by utilizing the aid of the Holy Spirit, our churches would be better off. Luke tells us in Luke 11:13, **"... how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"** If your church meeting is cold and without the warmth of God's presence, it may be that church members did not ask Him to be with them in all things pertaining to the church. Paul, in I Thessalonians 4:8, reminds us that God **"... hath given unto us his holy Spirit."** Our failure is in the lack of the use of

it. God has given us of His Spirit to lead us, guide us, direct us, and instruct us in all things of righteousness. Therefore the church, if it also is going to be righteous, must be spiritual collectively. There are many emotion filled churches with great numbers which are lacking the presence of the very one they should be seeking first. To the church in Rome, Paul said, “ **... to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**”

Now, is there ever a time when we are to be concerned about how many are in our churches? The answer is yes! When the congregation is in a decline it could be that the church has lost touch with its spirituality. Churches with older congregations will see times when their numbers decrease due to attrition. If so, then there may be other reasons why the church is either not growing or is losing numbers. It would be well for the church to come together and pray concerning the welfare of the church just as we pray for the welfare of our families and ourselves when we come on hard times. The emphasis should be on **‘coming together.’**

Consider your church family as compared to the early church in the day of the Apostles. Can this be said of your church? **“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”** (Acts 2:46-57). Notice that they were of one accord daily, they ate their food with joy and thankfulness, and were seeking to get along with God’s people. They were seeking a spiritual environment in the church and the Lord rewarded them for doing so by adding to the church. We all need to learn from these things and consider what we are doing. I know that I fall way short of pleasing the Lord as I should. We know to do what we are instructed, what we are commanded; knowing that what the Lord does is always just and right. ***Think About IT!***