

## **Introduction**

While responding to the comment that Children's Church and an attended nursery set up like Children's Church are sinful, a brother wrote, "I fail to see the problem with providing children a more educational experience while those who are baptized believers worship in the assembly. I don't think a five year old gets a lot out of a worship service. ... I am a little leary (sic) of those who try to bind when there is no rope."<sup>1</sup> The thoughts expressed in the criticism above are the thoughts of many in the Lord's church. Because many feel about Children's Church like the critic above, Children's Churches are brought into the work of the church without a lot of thought about a subject the Lord's people are known for demanding, namely, Bible authority!

### **When Did the Thought of Children's Church Come into God's Mind?**

Without Bible authority for each and every thing they practice in the Lord's church, brethren sin. It is an insult to the living God for his people to be dogmatic about baptism for the remission of sins, as they should be, but to ignore the authority of the Scriptures in other areas within the teaching of Christ. Notice that the critic above wrote, "I fail to see ... I don't think ... I am leary" when he should have been asking, "What does God see ...? What does God think ...? Is God leary herein?" Before any practice is brought into the work of the church one must establish Bible

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<sup>1</sup> This statement is from a private email that was recently sent to me.

authority for that practice. Where is the authority for the practice known as Children's Church? Our critic actually provided all of the authority that is available for Children's Church when he wrote, "I feel ... I think."

The people of old thought that in some strange way God allowed them to burn their children to death during foreign worship practices. God's response was, "They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind" (Jer. 19:5) (Holy Bible, King James Version). Notice the principle of Bible authority expressed in Jeremiah 19:5. When God wants his people to do a thing he will frame a command in his mind and then he will speak to his people and express to them his command. Instead of saying, "I think, or I feel," Christians must ask, "What is God's mind on this matter?" The Bible is God's mind expressed to mankind (1 Cor. 2:12-13). God expressed his will for his people in the New Testament, and that will is not going to change before the Lord comes again (John 12:48).

### **The Church is Commanded to Worship in One Place**

Why does Children's Church violate God's will? The practice of Children's Church violates God's will because when God commanded his people to worship him on the Lord's Day, he commanded his people to come together into one place. This fact is established in a number of ways. Notice that when Paul corrected the Corinthian brethren for observing the

Lord's Supper in an unauthorized manner he wrote, "When ye come together in the church" (1 Cor. 11:18), and, "When ye come together therefore into one place" (1 Cor. 11:20). What was the authorized custom for worshipping God in the first century? The church came together in an assembly in one place. The implication of First Corinthians 11:18 and 20 is clear; the church is to worship collectively.

Notice also that the words "to yourselves" in Ephesians 5:19 and "one another" in Colossians 3:16 translate a reflexive pronoun in the Greek New Testament. The force of the reflexive pronoun is "used to highlight the participation of the subject in the verbal action, as direct object, indirect object, intensifier, etc" (Wallace, 350). The Holy Spirit was very precise when he used this pronoun to teach that the verbal action of singing is to be completed by the subject, the church that is together in one place. When Christians are taken out of the assembly to conduct Children's Church, they cannot obey the command of God to worship in the worship assembly. One cannot find any authority in the Bible to divide the worship assembly, but as he studies the Bible he learns that God commands the local congregation to come together into one place to worship collectively. The binding rope that disallows Children's Church is the mind of God as it is revealed to his people through the pages of the New Testament.

### **What Do Children Get Out of Worship?**

Is it true that young children do not get anything out of worship? By coming into

the assembly of the saints, children should learn that the atmosphere of the worship assembly is solemn and that it is maintained through the self-discipline of each person in the assembly. During the assembly children learn that they are to sit quietly through the worship hour. Children learn that they should use the restroom and get a drink of water before worship, because it is disruptive to the worship assembly to do so during worship. From worshipping Christians, children learn that it is rude to talk and pass notes during worship. These qualities are important for children to learn because the object of worship is a God who expects all things to be done “decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). Additionally, a cry room is a wonderful expedient for parents to use as they train their children about the proper attitude they are to maintain during the worship assembly. When one takes his child out of the worship assembly to correct him or to care for him in some way he is not violating God’s command to assemble, he is obeying God’s command to rear children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

The minds of children are impressionable. Children who sit through worship services during their early formative years know more about the gospel than many adults realize. They also learn that to get something out of worship one must put himself into his worship. Children who attend worship services learn that the elderly are a valuable part of the church and that they are not to be brushed aside so that the wants and desires of youth can be met. By attending the worship assembly, children learn that

God does not want a congregation of his people meeting in different places all over town, or in segregated groups divided by age or any such thing. God knows what is best for his people and as far as the worship assembly is concerned, God wants his people to come together in one place.

#### REFERENCES

- Holy Bible, King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Holman Bible Pub.. All Scripture notations are from this version unless otherwise noted.
- Wallace, D. B. . (1996). Greek Grammar Beyond The Basics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub..

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A tract by Darrell Broking

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