

May 15, 2022

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## “Not Everyone”

By James Adams

“**N**ot every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Many people pride themselves on their broad, tolerant views in the realm of religion. They boast of the circumference of the circle of their fellowship. They insist that “love” includes rather than excludes.

We do not view narrowness and bigotry, in common use of these terms, as virtues; yet a breath of views and tolerance of attitude that condones what the Lord condemns, and a “love” that draws a circle of fellowship to include what the Lord excludes, are worse.

Not all believers are approved of God. Men do not say, “Lord, Lord,” unless they are believers. Yet, the Lord shut some of these out. His circle of fellowship does not include some of them. Not all professors are included. The people of Mt. 7:21-23 had functioned in the “name” of Christ. Yet, the Lord shut them out. Not all those who do “many wonderful works” in religion are included in the Lord’s circle of

fellowship. His “love” shut those of Mt. 7:21-23 out. Only those who “do the will of the Father in heaven” are included in the circle of the Lord’s fellowship.

Arrogant indeed is that human who would presume to draw a circle of religious fellowship broader in scope, more tolerant in attitude, more inclusive, and less exclusive than that which the “love of Christ which passeth knowledge” has prescribed. No religious fellowship which is not circumscribed by “he that doeth the will of my Father which is heaven,” including all who do the Father’s will and excluding all who do not, is God approved. It appears to us that men have all and more than they can ever hope to achieve in this life in responsibility to be like God without presuming to be better than God.



*Visitors — We pray  
that you benefit  
spiritually from our  
worship together and  
hope to see you again.*

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# Former Church Building Now Used Solely For Social Occasions

By Steve Wallace

**D**uring a trip to Italy in the '90's we visited a very old church building which is now used only for social functions. While we realize that this old structure was most likely never used by New Testament Christians, it nonetheless holds some lessons for us. This is because it was at one time used for professed spiritual purposes. Hence, the validity of the following points:

1. There is a Difference Between the Social and the Spiritual. People often blur this difference by calling social occasions "fellowship." Giving something a Bible name does not make it any more biblical than calling a dog a cat makes the dog feline. The church building we have mentioned **was** used for professed spiritual purposes. It is **now** used for social purposes. The two are different (cp. Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 11:20-34).

2. Social Emphasis Crowds Out Spiritual Emphasis. Our example is, admittedly, extreme. In the case we are considering the social has crowded out the spiritual **completely**. However, our point is valid. When churches build fellowship halls and gymnasiums, sponsor meals and recreation, or involve themselves in teaching human psychology to improve the hearers' self-esteem, answer their "felt needs," etc., (It is to be feared that much so-called preaching and personal work done by some Christians today differs little in content from what is said in some counseling sessions in psychologists' offices), their purpose, work, and appeal have ceased to be purely spiritual (Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 11:20-34).

3. The Church Has Something Distinctive to Offer. **Anyone** can offer what the old church building in Italy now offers. It provides nothing peculiar. The New Testament church was started and is added to by the preaching of "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). This message is the **only** answer to the spiritual needs of man (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12). It relates directly to the reason for Christ's death (Jn. 3:16), and to the purpose of the church's existence (cp. Acts 11:26; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 3:15). Because of the distinctiveness of this message churches should take care to not cloud or in any way detract from it. If a church is **of Christ**, it will involve itself solely in **His** work (Phil. 1:27; Gal. 1:9; 2 Jn. 4-6, 9-11).

Let us remember the difference between the spiritual and the social. God has revealed a place for each (cp. Acts 2:46; 16:13-16; 1 Cor. 11:22). When churches introduce social appeals and programs into their work they are adding works foreign to scripture and starting down a road which has led many to totally abandon the spiritual mission God has given the church.

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# The Kingdom of Christ

By Joe R. Price

A king ruling over an insurmountable kingdom was predicted in the Old Testament: Psa. 2:6-7; 110:1-3; 132:11; Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14. An angel announced to Mary that the child to whom she would give birth would be the king of that kingdom (Lk. 1:30-33). Jesus is King today (Acts 17:7).

And yet, there are many who do not believe the kingdom of Christ was established during New Testament times, and that it exists today. They look for a kingdom that is yet to come. Who is right? “What does the Scripture say?” (Rom. 4:3)

## KINGDOM FACTS

- Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, Matthew 4:23; 13:10-11; 18-29; Luke 9:11
- Jesus announced the approach of the kingdom, Matthew 4:17; 12:28.
- Jesus identified His kingdom as His church, Matthew 16:16-19
- Jesus identified the nature of the kingdom, John 18:36 (Spiritual, Luke 17:20-21; Superior, Daniel 2:44; Eternal, Luke 1:33)
- Jesus prophesied the establishment of the kingdom, Luke 12:32; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4, 47
- Apostles proclaimed the present existence of the kingdom, Acts 20:25; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:11
- The kingdom is composed of those who have received remission of sins, Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10
- Our salvation depends on entering the kingdom, Luke 16:16; John 3:3-5
- Our daily goal must be to put the kingdom first in our lives, Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:62

The kingdom of Christ exists today. The kingdom of Christ is the church of Christ. It is mighty and its glory is secure. We must live in Christ's kingdom now in order to enter the eternal kingdom (heaven) later (2 Peter 1:10-11). Obey the gospel call and enter the kingdom of God (Acts 2:37-41, 47; Colossians 1:13).

## *Add A Little More*

We recall a kind old grocer,  
when the sugar he would pour, How  
he'd tip the scales to balance — then  
he'd add a little more. And his  
business — how it prospered! Folks  
were always in his stores; For he gave  
an honest measure — and he'd add a  
little more! So it is with life, my  
brother. We would write a better  
score, When we've done what is  
expected — if we'd add a little more!

— *Anonymous*

## *The Worm In The Apple*

How does a worm get in the  
apple? Perhaps you think the worm  
burrowed in from the outside. No,  
scientists have discovered that the  
worm comes from the inside? But  
how does he get in there? Simple. An  
insect lays an egg in the apple  
blossom. Later the worm hatches in  
the heart of the apple, then eats his  
way out. Sin, like the worm, begins in  
the heart and works out through one's  
thoughts and actions. For this reason  
David once wrote, "create in me a  
clean heart, O God" (Psa 51:10).

— *Selected*

**T**he closing of the ears to unkind  
words spoken about others is the  
next best thing to not speaking them  
ourselves.

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**May Birthdays:** The 16th Stephen  
Collins; The 26th Lowell Blue.

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### **Sunday**

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday**

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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