

#78            What is House church

This is the way the first 200 years of the body of Christ functioned and also may I say FLOURISHED.

Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house.

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Acts 11:12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

Acts 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Now there are many other scriptures through out the new testament that confirm this fact;

They had meetings in some Jewish temples and other meeting places where there were crowds.

Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 13:5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews:

Acts 20:8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

But the majority was just house gatherings

2Timothy 1:16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

1Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

1Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

It wasn't till the time of Constantine that the church started to build central churches. Constantine gave money to the saints to build there own centralized meeting place as well as building huge cathedrals across his domain in honor to past Saints. (now when I say saints, I'm talking about anybody that serves Jesus. we are saints of God)

Now don't misunderstand me, I'm not against larger church gatherings, However the local churches now-a-days are so time conscience that the Holy Spirit Cannot lead. (he is a gentleman and will not interrupt you)

You have two basic kinds of church services today,

**#1/ The traditional evangelical:** You sing a chorus over twice; one or two songs; BUT no time for the individuals to enter into praise and worship with God. Unless you count the few minutes while your singing.

The word of God says:

**Psalms 57:7** My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

**1Chronicles 16:29** Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**Psalms 150:1** Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

**John 4:24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

You see, we worship God in spirit as well as in voice; BUT you cannot turn your worship off and on at someone else's will. If the Holy Spirit is already there, it don't take much to enter in to worship.

But the traditional church don't realize that leading worship is just as much a calling as being a pastor is. To be successful you have to spend time seeking the lord and then be willing to FOLLOW His leading.

**#2/ The charismatic type:** These are, in our time, unfortunately so filled with demonic music that you can't tell the difference between them and a rock consort. And the leaders are dressed like bums off the street and sing the same chorus's or song's over and over and over and this usually goes on for about an hour.

It reminds me of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

**1Kings 18:26** And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

In other words, they portray the same tendencies, if we play loud enough and long enough, the Holy Spirit might come upon us.

The one thing these people do not realize is that the Holy Spirit is very gentle.

**1Kings 19:12** And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

If your not in tune with him you will miss his leading

NOW most of these groups have House bible studies, which is good, but how many will worship the lord (no time). Some will sing one or two songs and that is their worship.

At these small gatherings is where the presence and power of God should be able to minister.

**UNFORTUNATELY** The people are so accustomed to the deadness of their main fellowship, that as far as the Holy Spirit moving in their midst, is virtually impossible.

**1Corinthians 14:26** What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

This is the way a house meeting should operate.

Trust this will give some insight

Bro Ken

