



Sample Content

Location: Exploring Traditions

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This comment was from one of the Chats, in response to another comment regarding certain aspects of the form of this fellowship that are often referred to as being scriptural - there's much more that could be expounded on, but this was an attempt at keeping my response brief/concise:

Many, MANY churches beyond this fellowship meet in homes. It's a wonderful way to meet, but certainly not the only way and definitely not exclusive to meetings. When Jesus sent His disciples 2x2, it was Jewish law to have two witnesses to prove something to be true. In Acts, they only went 2x2 a fraction of the time. Again, this can be a wonderful way of doing things, but it's certainly not THE way. As soon as it becomes something that is pointed to as what makes this fellowship superior to all others, it's very problematic.

Perhaps, there are some that are called to remain celibate, but it certainly isn't biblical to require it. Paul speaks of forbidding marriage as a devil's doctrine (1 Tim. 4), the right for the Apostles to take a believing wife (1 Cor. 9) and that's it *better* to marry than burn with passion (1 Cor 7) - not to mention the obvious that Peter was married.

The collections taken from this church largely go to the workers and provide for their needs, plus extras such as frequent flights around the country and world, conventions, building rentals etc....so I would disagree that money from this church doesn't go towards "owned" buildings or maintenance for them. Ironically where we currently go to church, it is a rented space and our pastor works a full time job and doesn't take a dime from the church. I don't say this thinking he's doing it "better"

than everyone else, I just find it very ironic that he (and some other pastors out there) are actually making LESS money (as in zero) from the church than the workers. To be clear, I don't believe it's scripturally wrong for pastors/preachers to be paid.

And in regard to following "patterns" of the early church, there's plenty of things that were done then that certainly aren't done in this fellowship...laying on of hands (physically), praying over/for one another together, baptism immediately following believing, anointing with oil etc. to name a few.

ALL this to say, NO ONE is doing it perfectly. No one group is doing it "the most right". If we think our form is what makes us more right than everyone else, we've got it wrong.