

# “Change: Part Four”

Rev. 22:19; Deut. 4:2; 12:32

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## Introduction

- I. Throughout this series, we have seen that not all change is good.
- II. When it comes to altering things that God has ordained, mankind is always wrong for doing such.
- III. This final sermon in the series will again address some changes that are causing problems in the church of Christ.

## Discussion

- I. A very popular practice that has arisen amongst congregations is the usage of “small groups” or “house groups.”
  - A. One argument that might be used in favor of such practice is that the first century congregations often met in houses, so therefore it is fine to do such today (Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15).
    1. In and of itself, it is not wrong for a congregation to assemble in someone's personal home (even today).
    2. The problem and issue is not whether the whole congregation can meet in a house, auditorium or even outside.
  - B. The problem with the modern day concept of “small/house groups” is that when a congregation came together for worship on the first day of the week in a house in the first century, the whole congregation was to assemble together (not just a select “group”).
    1. This point is clearly taught by Paul to the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:20).
    2. There is no example anywhere in the New Testament of the church practicing what is advocated in this area today.
- II. In a similar line, another change that has caused difficulties in the church of Christ is the idea of “Children's Church.”
  - A. For those who are not aware of such, the idea is to have a separate “assembly” (during the worship hour) for children.
    1. The idea, apparently, is that some believe this is a good way to “train” our children how to behave in the worship assembly before involving them in such.
    2. The same problems exist here as with the “small/house groups” (1 Cor. 11:20).
      - a. In order for such to take place, adults are needed to care for the children during this time, which removes the adults from the worship assembly as well.
      - b. It should be obvious, no matter how good the intentions are, that removing a brother or sister from the worship assembly should never be accepted as good work.
  - B. There is absolutely no authority in the New Testament for the children to have their own worship assembly (“train” a child at home before coming to the worship assembly; Bible

classes can aid in this area as well).

C. Some might try to equate the practice with the usage of a nursery.

1. Nurseries should be used for the purpose of “nursing” or behavior modification.
2. They should not be glorified “play rooms” or a place for a responsible adult to alleviate his or her responsibilities to maintain discipline.
3. They should also not be something that the child has learned to manipulate in order to remove himself from the worship assembly.

III. One final change that will be addressed in this series is that of formal/congregational “baby dedications.”

A. This is another practice that on the front seems reasonable and good, but is it really?

1. We should be huge proponents of teaching our young folks from an early age the need to know, trust and serve God (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4).
2. However, our training and nurturing cannot make the decision of being dedicated to God or not.

B. In order for an individual to be dedicated to God, he must be mature and make that decision himself (John 3:3-5; Phil. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:10).

C. I understand that while many mean well by engaging in such practices, there is no authority for it, and as we've learned throughout this series, authority is vital (Col. 3:17).

## Conclusion

I. Change is not always good!

II. We must continue to teach that God's ways are still the best ways (Isa. 55:8-9; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

III. May we never let fear to acclimate or resemble others keep us from staying true to the truth (Jer. 6:9-17)