

# RETHINKING CHURCH

SESSION 6 | JULY 9, 2017 | THE PROGRAMS OF THE CHURCH

## KNOWN ACTIVITIES OF BELIEVING ASSEMBLIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Church discipline. 1 Cor. 5:1-6:8
- Sending missionaries. Acts 13:1-3, 3 John 6-8
- Solving theological disputes through congregational representatives. Acts 15:1-3
- Teaching
  - Acts 2:42, 11:26
  - 1 Cor. 4:17, 14:19
  - Col. 1:25-29, 4:16
- Praying—Acts 2:42, 12:5
- Serving and Edifying one another—
  - Romans 16:1-2, Galatians 6:10
  - Hebrew 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:29
- Care for widows—1 Tim. 5:16
- Teaching, Fellowship, Lord's Supper, Prayer—Acts 2:42

## THE REPORT OF THE MODERN CHURCH CONSULTANT TO THE EARLY FELLOWSHIPS

- Where are your family ministries?
- Where is your music ministry?
- Where is your building?

## FAMILY MINISTRY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- 1 Corinthians 7, 11:1-15
- Ephesians 5:22-6:4
- 1 Peter 3:1-2
- Colossians 3:18-21

## MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Matthew 26:30
- Acts 16:25
- Romans 15:9
- 1 Corinthians 14:15
- Ephesians 5:18-19
- Colossians 3:16
- James 5:13

## CHURCH BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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## WORSHIP MINISTRY TODAY

- Worship has been redefined to be “music”
  - **"How Worship Brought Our Church Back from the Dead:** *We made worship our first priority.*
    - *We expanded our music and worship team.*
    - *We established a dependable yet flexible pattern of worship.*
    - *We updated our music and technology.*
    - *We encouraged the congregation to invite people to worship.*" (Originally published in *Rev!* Sept/Oct 2009)

- Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN -emphasis mine
  - "Because the worship of God's people is the first priority in our Mission Statement at Second Presbyterian Church, we hope to offer music that will not only enhance our worship, but also enrich our souls and lives in meaningful ways. We hope you will be blessed by the concerts and worship services we offer. Pray for us as we aim to give God our best in all these endeavors, and mark your calendars so you won't miss a single event!"
- First Baptist, Springfield, MO – emphasis mine
  - "At First Baptist, Christ-centered worship is a priority. Because our worship is an offering to God, we strive for excellence - not for our sake but to lift Him up and celebrate our joy as a body of believers" (FBC, Springfield MO)
  - Strive for excellence...in what? In MUSIC.
- Rich Nathan (Vineyard Church) – emphasis mine
  - "God is in the building business, and he's building His church. A look at His blueprint, the Bible, shows us that He intends for the foundation of His church to be worship. Worship is our prodigal, radical, extravagant, emotional, whole person response to being touched by God. It is what cures barrenness and creates a community of believers. It is what we were created to do in this life; it is what we were created to do for all eternity" (Rich Nathan)

## WHEN DID THE CHANGE COME?

- Three diversions banned from New England puritan colonies:
  - Drama
  - Erotic poetry
  - Religious music!
- Music in worship created a "dreamy" state which was not conducive in listening to God.
- Selected quotes:
  - "I am an old man, and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that they are productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruption of the worship of the author of Christianity. The late and venerable and most eminent divine, the Rev. John Wesley, who was a lover of music, and an elegant poet, when asked his opinion of instruments of music being introduced into the chapels of the Methodists, said in his terse and powerful manner, 'I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen.' I say the same." (Adam Clark, Methodist)
  - "What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, bellows, and pipes! We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it." Charles Spurgeon (who preached to 20,000 people every Sunday for 20 years in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle and never were mechanical instruments of music used in his services.)
  - "And if any man who is a preacher believes that the apostle teaches the use of instrumental music in the church by enjoining the singing of psalms, he is one of those smatters in Greek who can believe anything that he wishes to believe. When the wish is father to the thought, correct exegesis is like water on a duck's back" (J. W. McGarvey, Biblical Criticism, p. 116). (ca 1864)
  - "Without new measures it is impossible that the Church should succeed in gaining the attention of the world to religion. There are so many exciting subjects constantly brought before the public mind, such a running to and fro, so many that cry 'Lo here!' and 'Lo there!' that the Church cannot maintain her ground without sufficient novelty in measures, to get the public ear." – Charles Finney