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What is the Name and Work of the Church?

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WHAT IS THE NAME AND WORK OF THE CHURCH?
Acts 2:40-47

I. If there is one, what is its name?
A. Not true can be identified by a name.
B. Rather identified by nature of the people.
   1. Are they God's people? A claim does not make it so.
   2. Are they redeemed, purified, sanctified, reconciled and have enthroned Jesus in hearts?

II. What is the name?
A. It has none.
   1. It has designations.
      Gal. 1:13 of God.
      I Cor. 11:16 churches of God.
      Rom. 16:16 churches of Christ.
      I Cor. 14:33 churches of the saints.
   2. We need no special name. Each such has become a brand or trade mark, emphasizing a peculiar characteristic.
   3. We see Biblical terms, or religious procedure or religious leader used. This is individualism rather than submission to Christ!

III. We see its work start immediately.
   Acts 2:40-47 "And with many other words did
   Acts 4:32-35 "And the multitude of them that
   A. lst--they helped one another materially.
      1. As the individual Chr. did this, the church did it.
      2. Today we exempt it as the work of individuals, except materials and discipline.
      3. No basis for separation of work by indiv. and that accomplished by group working
4. Whatever you do as indiv.--other indiv. can and should do also entire group.
5. Orphans, widows etc. What about preachers home, bus, church building?

B. We must edify each other.
- Rom. 14:19 "Let us therefore follow after that which makes edify one another.
- I Thess. 5:11 "Wherefore comfort yourselves
- Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt communications
- Heb. 10:24-25 "And let us consider one another.

1. When do we hear edification preached?
2. Are we more interested in conversions, contributions, bldg., worship, details instead of Christ like attitudes?
3. Is orthodoxy by outward acts and not necessary the spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9).
4. How can we preach love of Christ and fail to help meet any need--Chr. or un Chr.

Luke 3:11 "He that hath 2 coats let him give to him that hath none.

C. Another work--Preach.
- Acts 8:1 "And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which came upon all them that dwelt at Jerusalem. And many were added to the Lord, so that a great multitude of the priests were obedient to the faith.
- Acts 8:4 "Therefore they that were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
- Acts 8:5 "Then Phillip went down to the city of Gaza, and preached in the temple of Jacob.

1. No eldership sent them--guess Caesar their "sponsor".

Westend 6/24/62
When I first became a member of the church, my circle was very large; for it included all who, like myself, had believed and been baptized. I was happy in the thought that my brethren were many. But, having a keen mind, and being a close observer, I soon learned that many of my brethren were in error. I could not tolerate any people within my circle except those, who, like myself, were right on all points of doctrine and practice. Too, some made mistakes and sinned. What could I do about it: I had to do something!

I drew a circle placing myself and a few whom I deemed faithful within, and others without.

I soon observed that some within the circle were self-righteous, unforgiving, jealous, and proud.

So, in righteous indignation, my circle I drew again, leaving the Publicans and sinners outside, excluding the Pharisees in their pride, with myself and the righteous humble inside.

I heard ugly rumors about brethren. I saw that some of them were worldy-minded; their thoughts were constantly on things of the world; they drank coffee, when, like me, they should drink tea.

So, duty bound, to save my name, my circle I drew again, leaving the disreputable, rumor-ridden without, excluding the worldly-minded pleasure-mad crowd, with myself and the reputable, spiritually-minded within.

I soon realized that only my family and myself remained in the circle. I had a good family. But to my surprise my family began to disagree with me. I was always right. A man must be steadfast--I have never been a factious man!

So, in strong determination, I drew my circle again, leaving my factious family out, and my lonely self within.