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From: Brad Brumley (2/26/63)

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John Allen Chalk
Minister Broad Street
Church of Christ
Cookville, Tennessee

Dear John Allen,

We arrived home safely from our trip to Cookville last evening, in spite of the fact we had snow most all of the way. Thanks again for the good job that you and the other good people did in getting everything there ready for the banquet. Bro. Bradfield and I agreed that it was a very profitable trip. And I believe it will help us both in getting students and building more good will in that area.

I'm enclosing a copy of the article "Eating in the Church Building" and below I am giving you a quotation of the article that was printed in the CHRISTIAN WAYMARKS by Brother Chris Lyles, you remember I mentioned to you the fact that I had put this article in my local church bulletin, and Brother Lyles then picked it up and put it in CHRISTIAN WAYMARKS. I would send you an extra copy except that I only have the one.

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

That the church is not the physical building is readily accepted by all religious people. Some, no doubt, place a degree of sacredness to the meeting place. But, in the final analysis, even they understand that the church is made up of people; not a tangible, material edifice of brick and mortar.

Actually, there is not a line of reference in the New Testament relative to church buildings. They are built of inferences and rightly so. The heart of the individual is God's sanctuary. He dwells in his people, not in "temples made with hands."

In spite of our general agreement upon the assertion that the building is not the church, neither does it possess any sacredness above other possessions of Christians, there are those who would legislate relative to the use of the building which is used as a meeting place for the church. When an activity becomes wrong in the meeting house of the church and right in some other building, there is an evident misconception of what the church really is.

I can appreciate the annoyance that you are experiencing relative to this question which to any reasonable thinking person is absurd. However, we all will have to be a little patient and do as much teaching as we can in order to get our brethren out of the maze of traditionalism.
Thanks again for the good job at the banquet, and the splendid job you did on our lecturship here. We're still hearing many many fine things about the excellent job that you did with your assignment.

Yours in Him,

Brad Brumley