

Aids/Additions

Legitimacy

Distinctions

We must not add anything to God's revelation

⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸
"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from
me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human
rules.'" (Matthew 15:7-9)

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll:
If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the
plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away
from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any
share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in
this scroll. (Revelation 22:18-19)

Examples some conclude are additions

Regarding activity in the assembly, Paul said, “So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.” (I Corinthians 14:15)

- Additions/aids
 - Musical instruments accompanying singing
 - Beat-clapping (or using a mechanical metronome) to aid in the pace of a song
 - Singing along with pre-recorded trained singers
 - Amplifying the voices of trained singers (men and women) while all sing along

Examples some conclude are additions

- **Missionary Society/Colleges**

(Lewis Willis, Guardian of Truth XXXVIII: 18, p. 5 September 15, 1994)

The Missionary Society created by these brethren was a human organization. They solicited funds from churches and individuals for the operation of this human organization. The Missionary Society, then, selected preachers and their fields of labor and sent them forth to preach. The preachers were under the control of the Missionary Society which supplied their support. The only control the church had over this matter was to decide whether or not to support the Society. There was one fundamental thing wrong or sinful with the arrangement: **God had assigned the work of preaching the gospel to the church not to a human institution.** That made the liberals no difference, and they pushed their human society until it divided the church. That division was generally complete by the year 1900.

- **Missionary Society/Colleges (Continued)**

Let us make one thing clear: God organized the church and assigned work to it. Note what Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11-12: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." God assigned the work of evangelism to the church, and he gave it all of the organization it needed to accomplish that mission. Paul went forth preaching and he was never supported by a Missionary Society. To the Corinthians he said, "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service" (2 Cor. 11:8). We know that he was supported by the Philippian church. He said, "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity" (Phil. 4:15-16). Finally, he said that the church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). This is the scriptural case which establishes that the church is to do the work God assigned to it, and it has no right to turn its work over to a human institution.

Willis' argument stated

- God had assigned the work of preaching the gospel to the church not to a human institution.
- God organized the church and assigned work to it.
- God assigned the work of evangelism to the church, and he gave it all of the organization it needed to accomplish that mission.
- [The] church is to do the work God assigned to it, and it has no right to turn its work over to a human institution.

Distinction

- Can the suggested activity stand on its own? If it stands on its own, does it make sense?
- Does participating in the suggested activity preclude participation in the underlying commandment?
- Is it expedient (even if lawful)?