

Restoration Movement

We all understand the meaning of restoration. To restore is to place back in the original condition. Some like to restore antique automobiles back to their pristine condition. Others restore antique furniture. There are technicians who restore old oil paintings. The whole idea of restoration is to duplicate the original. There would be no need of restoration if there had not been some type of corruption from the original state.

Jer 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

Suppose the game of baseball completely vanished from the earth. Then a couple of thousand years from now, someone discovered the rule book of baseball and began to read and study the game. He shares his discovery with others and following the rules of baseball they begin to play baseball. Have they established a new game? No, they simply have restored the old game of baseball.

When one begins to practice the New Testament teaching they have not established a new denomination, we simply have become what they became in the beginning when they believed the word were baptized into Christ and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:38-47.

Therefore, the Restoration Movement seeks to restore the original Church and the unification of all Christians in obedience to the Lord who prayed we would be one cf:

John 17:20-23 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

It is division and the love of money that has made people disinterested in hearing about God and Christianity. Paul appealed for unity when the idea of denominations first began.

I Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ICo 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 1Co 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Restore the Church united in a single body cf:

Eph 1:22-23 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

4:3-6 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph 4:4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Patterned After New Testament Church

We are neither Protestants, Catholics, or Jews, but Christians only cf:

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

The Restoration Movement developed from several different efforts to return to apostolic Christianity. During Middle Ages dissenters such as John Wycliff & John Huss called for restoration of a primitive form of Christianity. At the heart of the Reformation was emphasis on “scripture alone” (sola scriptura).

English Puritans who came here on the Mayflower also sought to restore a pure “primitive” church community.

Right after the American revolution men from various backgrounds began to see the need to reject human creeds and the doctrines and traditions of men for the scriptures alone. In 1801 Barton W Stone (Presbyterian) began preaching restoration Christianity at Cane Ridge, KY and his group followed the New Testament and called themselves simply Christians cf:

I Pet 4:16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Another group began in 1809 in Penn. & W Virginia & were led by Thomas Campbell & his son Alexander (Presbyterians). They called themselves disciples of Christ. James O’Kelly (Methodist) in 1794 and Elias Smith and Abner Jones (Baptists) in 1804 led similar groups. These groups believed that the creeds of men kept Christianity divided. These groups sought to restore the whole Churches of Christ on the pattern set forth in the New Testament,

II Pet 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

A great principle of the restoration movement is the silence of scripture. We understand God often speaks with silence, therefore, Campbell said: “We speak where the Bible speaks & are silent where the Bible is silent.” An example of how the Bible teaches by silence is cf:

Heb 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Martin Luther insisted he could do anything the scriptures did not forbid. Ulrich Zwingli said he could only do what the scriptures authorized. It has to do with how you believe God ... Did Jesus keep His promises to the apostles? Cf:

John 16:12-13 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not

speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Did the Spirit guide them into all truth or not? Therefore the affirmation that the Bible is the full and final revelation of God to man on earth must be the next step of our reasoning.

The Bible plainly teaches do not add to the Word of God nor take away from the Word of God.

Just because a man sees nothing wrong with a belief or an act, does not mean that God approves of it. Cf:

Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Deut 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you

Deut 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Prov 30:5-6 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Pro 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Rev 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Matt 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Col 2:20:23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Col 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Col 2:23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

NIV verse 23 “ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom with their self-imposed worship, their false humility ...”

NAS verse 23 “ These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion ...”

I Cor 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

I Peter 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen

One is astonished at how men presume the right to speak and act on their own initiative and they do what neither the Lord Jesus nor the Holy Spirit ever dared to do. We see them inventing and adding strange forms of worship, recasting the organization of the church, assuring people of alternative ways of obeying the gospel, and ignoring the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. Cf:

II John 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Notice Paul first generation, Timothy second generation was expected to convey the same to “faithful men” third generation, who could then yet teach others fourth generation the same things. Paul was not allowing for a postmodern changeable message adapting to the changing times.

We must never presume the right to act or speak in the hushed silence of God.

Respect for the silence of scripture made our forefathers refuse instrumental music in worship and they chose to not create a national organization to manage the mission work of the church.

In 1832 the Stone/Campbell Movement joined in fellowship with a handshake. There was great belief and agreement concerning congregational autonomy that each local congregation could govern its self. And that a plurality of biblically qualified elders should be appointed leaders and shepherds in local congregations. We are united in the belief that:

Jesus is The Christ, the Son of God cf:

Matt 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? Mat 16:14 and they said, some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

That Christians should celebrate the Lords Supper on the first day of the week cf:

Acts 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

That immersion in water is a necessary condition for salvation,

Mk 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **Mar 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Rom 6:3-6 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **Rom 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **Rom 6:5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: **Rom 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There are calls in the N. T. for personal and congregational repentance and restoration for those who have erred from the truth. Gal 6:1 & James 5:19ff an example of this is our Lord's word's to the Church at Ephesus cf:

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Quoted freely and paraphrased from:

KJV bible etal

Wikipedia

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