**Wanting To Be Like Everyone Else**

**Reading – Titus 2:6-14**

**Israel wanted a King**

***1 Samuel 8:1-8 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. [2] The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. [3] But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. [4] Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, [5] and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” [6] But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the Lord. [7] And the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. [8] According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.***

Israel was a prime example of wanting to be like the rest of society.

The people rejected God’s authority over them.

They had already departed seeking God’s way serving other gods.

It didn’t help that they had improper leadership to boot [verse 3].

Some Churches of Christ have taken the same path that Israel did. ***2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; [4] and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

Many will apply situation ethics to justify doing many wonderful works to justify their actions. ***Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me,*** ***‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. [22] Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ [23] And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’***

The problem of matters of opinion. ***Romans 14:1-13 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. [2] For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. [3] Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. [4] Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. [5] One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. [6] He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. [7] For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. [8] For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. [9] For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. [10] But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. [11] For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” [12] So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. [13] Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.***

**Use of Buildings and grounds**

A. Religious organizations all over the land have built kitchens, dining halls, and community rooms on the premises. ***1 Corinthians 11:17-34 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. [18] For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. [19] For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. [20] Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper. [21] For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. [22] What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you... [33] Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. [34] But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment.***

EVEN IF you think it is just a matter of opinion, then my opinion is that it is a BAD idea! ***Romans 14:15-23 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. [16] Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; [17] for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [18] For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. [19] Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. [20] Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. [21] It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. [22] Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. [23] But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.***

Purpose of coming together is important. Do we appeal to the carnal or the spiritual?

***1 Corinthians 11:22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?***

***Ecclesiastes 7:2-:4 Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. [3] Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. [4] The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.***

**Meeting Together**

We have an apostolic example that they did see each other socially. ***Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people.***

***1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.***

***Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;***

The majority of the world will be eternally lost. ***Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. [14] Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*** Do you really want to be like everybody else?