

**Why Is Your
Church So Boring?**

A question:

Why doesn't the church use recreation to save young people?

I. What Happened?

Charles Sheldon

In His Steps, 1897

- 'What would Jesus do?'
- 'Led to variety of social ministries directed especially toward the poor..'

Jesus kept Passover
Acts 6
1 Tim.5:16

House of the Carpenter

Boston, 1963

- Opposed as social gospel innovation
- Today: building houses more important than preaching gospel

Mt.28:19-20

Clements

Chattanooga, 1975

- Whatever individual does, church can do
- Ping-pong, recreational facilities . . . are work of the church

1 Co.12:14

Mega-Churches

Willow Creek

- Seeker sensitive (marketing)
 - Crystal Cathedral
- Marketers' ads of research companies
- 'We made a mistake'

'...remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father' – 1 Th.1:3

Radio Q & A

What scripture authorizes church to give candy / recreation to get people to come?

- 'We have used stars on attendance charts as long as I can remember'

Jn.6:26-29

Clapping is applause, for entertainment

Focuses on performance, not God

Chrysostom (d. 407)

Ps.100

I. What Happened?

II. Why Did
It Happen?

1. Abandoned biblical authority

- Churches downplayed doctrine to allow for unity. Ja.3:17

2. Abused Bible passages

- Acts 2:46
 - Proves opposite; taught in Temple; ate in houses. Jewish Temple...

2. Abused Bible passages

- Acts 2:46

- Acts 20:7-11

- After the assembly is over (11) –

1. When he (sg.) had come up, had 'broken bread' – v.7; 27:35.

2. ...and eaten. Mt.27:34. Ac.10:10.

3. ...and talked – informal: converse with, talk with; ct. v.9; 18:4...

2. Abused Bible passages

- Acts 2:46
- Acts 20:7-11
- 1 Co.11:20-32, 'common meal'
 - What did Paul say about it?
 - Cf. Ja.2:24
 - Why didn't he say, 'Make sure to keep your common meals separate from Lord's supper?'

2. Abused Bible passages

- Acts 2:46
- Acts 20:7-11
- 1 Co.11:20-32
- 2 Pt.2:13, '...they feast with you'
 - 'Feast together' (Jude 12)
 - Context: brazen sins of apostate false teachers

2. Abused Bible passages

- Acts 2:46
- Acts 20:7-11
- 1 Co.11:20-32
- 2 Pt.2:13
- Jd.12, 'love feasts'
 - Second century suppositions
 - History: rich fed poor. [Ac.2:46?]
 - What proves too much . . .

3. Bible is offensive

- 'Remove any reference to Christ's church...'
- 'Remove any reference to baptism'
- 'Add mechanical music in worship'

'And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased' – Gal.5:11

4. Bible is boring

- Left biblical emphasis, abandoned Bible study
- Moderns have short attention span
 - Neh.8
 - Am.8:11-12
 - Ac.20:7-9

5. Church must change to keep young people

- Failed!
- Churches CANNOT compete with worldly entertainment . . .

6. Conformity to world

According to the doings of the land: of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances – Lv.18:3

Ro.12:1-2

Pleasure replaced Passages

‘⁴...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power’ – 2 Tim.3

‘One compromise here, another there, and soon enough the so-called Christian and the man in the world look the same’ – A.W.Tozer