

Following the New Testament Pattern – Sunday School In The Church

Sunday School Defined: The practice of Sunday School is the dividing the church assembly into groups for the purpose of teaching the Bible.

Benefits Referenced for the Sunday School/Bible Class Arrangement

- Children and adults are taught the Bible.
- All people can be taught on according to their own needs/abilities.
- It is a good place for in depth discussion on Bible topics.
- It can aid in drawing people to a particular church.
- Great friendships are made in Sunday School classes.

Arguments To Support Sunday School/Bible Classes In The Church

- Sunday School is not a part of the church assembly.
 - What constitutes an assembly of the church?
 - * The church sets the time and location of the gathering.
 - * The church determines who will speak.
 - When Sunday school, bible study, or divided church classes are organized and publicly advertised by the church, they become an assembly of the church.
 - Ordinances of the church apply when the church assembles.
- Children cannot learn in the main church assembly.
 - All people can learn in an undivided assembly
 - Each persons receives what he or she needs from teaching in an undivided assembly.
 - Instances when men, women, and children were gathered in one assembly to learn – Deut 31:11-13, Neh 8:1-3
 - Even unlearned and unbelievers can be taught in the assembly – 1 Cor 14:23
- The scriptures do not forbid Sunday School
 - The Bible does not directly say, “Do not have Sunday School”
 - However, the practice of dividing the church assembly for the purpose of teaching God’s word is NOT found in the New Testament.

The New Testament Pattern for Teaching In The Church

- God has provided many regulations/ordinances for the church assembly.
 - Assembling in one place – 1 Cor 11:20, 1 Cor 14:23.
 - Teaching for the purpose of edifying – 1 Cor 14:3.
 - One teacher speaking at a time – 1 Cor 14:31.
 - Teaching in a way all can understand – 1 Cor 14:19.
 - Teaching in a common language - 1 Cor. 14:27-28.
 - There should be no divisions – 1 Cor 11:17-18.
 - Women to remain silent – 1 Cor 14:34-35.
- No example of the New Testament church dividing into separate classes for the purpose of teaching God’s word.
- The church is bound by God’s ordinances when assembled.

Doing Your Part

- Look for authority in God’s word for church practices.
- Don’t depend on the church assembly for ALL of your Bible learning.
 - What are you doing outside the assembly?
 - Study God’s word outside the assembly, 2 Tim 2:15, Acts 17:11.
- Take an active role in teaching the word of God to your children.
 - The main responsibility for teaching children has always belonged to the parents.
 - * In the Old Testament – Deut 6:6-7, Deut 11:18-19, Prov 22:6.
 - * In the New Testament - Eph 6:4.
 - Teach your children by studying God’s word.
 - Teach your children by the example you set before them.

There is no example of the first century church dividing into separate classes for the purpose of teaching God’s word.

What Is Our Goal? Our goal is to follow the practices of the first century church.

How? Adhere to the approved practices of the first century church by not adding what God has not authorized.