

METHODOLOGY

I was once asked to answer a question regarding teaching methods, “song groups,” dramas, skits, and etc. Generally speaking, such methods as mentioned in this question are matters of expediency, helping us (as tools, not replacements) to teach Biblical truth. There are many exceptions to this “general” point which I shall address presently.

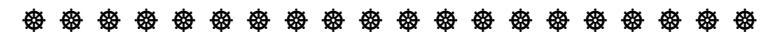
First, let us realize what an expedient really is and is not. An expedient exists only when and where a rule, law, or command has been given. Thus, when “methods” are employed to accomplish something God has addressed specifically, they become additions to his will which he strictly forbids. When “methods” are employed where God speaks generally, they truly are expedients.

Second, we must make distinction between “teaching” and “preaching.” Also, we must distinguish between a “class” situation and a “worship assembly.” We usually think of teaching as taking place in a class setting, and preaching being done in a worship setting. Within a class, where God has not addressed many specifics, there is room for expedients. Yet even in a class setting, God has some specifics. For example, a woman is not to teach over a man (1 Timothy 2.11,12). This would eliminate husband/wife teams co-teaching a class. These are employed a lot at various workshops and college lecture programs.

When it comes to worship and preaching, God has been specific and thus there is no room for the antics which some call expedients. The pulpit (or time of preaching) in worship has no room for skits, dramas, nor pies in the face (I have heard of this!). Worship, and all that is to take place there, is a

“prescribed” (which means written beforehand) action.

Finally, “song groups.” If we are talking about psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, these groups are never appropriate. The use of “special music” has never been authorized. Those who advocate their use find themselves on the horns of a dilemma (either way they go to justify such action they err). These have no place in class, worship, evangelism, nor any other spiritual activity. Singing is an action of worship (one of five). Singing has been regulated. It is to be an avenue of worship in which the whole assembly participates. If a group smaller than the assembly is singing to the rest of that assembly, they have left worship and are now entertaining. Likewise, there exists no direct nor implied authorization for groups to sing on street corners as a means of “evangelism,” or to attract people to give out tracts. They ought not to turn this beautiful expression of worship (where the unbelieving world has neither part nor portion) into a public spectacle!



PRETENSION OR PERFORMANCE?

The wise man said *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Proverbs 14:12). The common problem that all men have is stated in the book of Isaiah *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:6). There are one of two reasons why this is the case for all men. This either happens because of **ignorance** or **rebellion**. The prophet said *“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). Again, Paul in quoting from the Old Testament made clear that *“There is no fear of God before their eyes”* (Romans

3:18).

Sadly, some do not know that they are straying from God, nor do they really care. Those who are ignorant of the will of God are described thus: *“And he came forth and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd” (Mark 6:34)*. The rebellious also fail to realize that there are times that God will allow them to do and believe just what they please. *“And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)*.

Still others only think they serve God, when in reality, they do not. Saul of Tarsus was a case in point. *“And Paul, looking stedfastly on the council, said, Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day” (Acts 23:1)*. Although he was a Christian when he said this, notice that he included his days before his conversion in this “good conscience.” Later he would say *“I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9)*. Fortunately he was converted from the error of his ways. But many still *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:22)*, and this happens because *“being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart” (Ephesians 4:18)*.

This is why it is so important that we heed the admonition of Paul when he wrote *“Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate” (2 Corinthians 13:5)*. Do you make it your aim to well-pleasing to God in all things? Do you seek to do as He commands, or only what you think you can get by with...what you think He will accept? Let us examine ourselves and make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10)!

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

August 23, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

“Making excuses is a waste, and the Lord will not hear them!” Austin Truss

Remember in prayer brother Hubert's sister and her husband. They will likely have to move to a nursing facility due their not being able to take care of themselves...they both face serious health issues.

Questions/Answers is next week. Robin is still looking for a few questions to deal with. Help him out!

October Outing: the brethren at Pomeroy would like for us to consider doing another Hocking Hills Hike on either the first or second Saturday of October (10/3 or 10/10). Let Dennis or Robin know what you think, and which Saturday would be best.