



No Church Is As Good As God's Church by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

One of the many dangers for the churches of Christ is the overwhelming passion to be like all the other churches, and/or accept them for ourselves. When God sent Israelites into the Land of Canaan, it was with very specific instruction on this subject:

When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it (**Deuteronomy 12:29-32**).

It took years of conquest, settling, and then dissatisfaction for the earthly "king" concept to develop. After the United Kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon, it divided. Under Jeroboam, everything went downhill, because he changed their religion from what God had ordered.

Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, 'Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.' Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!' And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense. (**1 Kings 12:25-33**)

Jeroboam made changes in the religion God had specified. **He changed the:**

1) God (Exodus 20:1-5) into two calves of gold preaching the error at Sinai when

They said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' (**Exodus 32:4**);

2) Tabernacle Assembly (church) into alternative shrines: Dan (name means "judge") & Bethel (name means "house of God") wrong places (however, God's House was Judged by this action)

3) Specified Levitical Priests to unspecified "from every class of people, who were not of the sons Levi;"

4) Communion feast "like the feast that was in Judah," but it was not "the Feast of Tabernacles" specified by God to be on "the fifteenth day of the seventh month" (**Leviticus 23:33-43**);

5) Offered sacrifices on "the altar which he had made," thus changing the acts of worship God specified;

6) Incense before the Most Holy Place was to continually burn before God (**Exodus 30:7-9, 34-37; 40:26-27**), thus the people were no longer in constant communication with God.

Jeroboam:

- a) Offered them choices that God had not given;
- b) Ignored God's specific ordinances;
- c) Appealed to men's weakness: do what you want first;
- d) Never changed the people's attitude once ruined (**2 Kings 17:19-23; 2 Chronicles 10:19**);
- e) Is held responsible for those who sinned by following his doctrine.

Fifteen times God identified those who walked in "the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel to sin" (**I Kings 14:16; 15:30; 16:31; 2 Kings 3:3; 2 Kings 10:29,31; 13:2,6; 13:11; 14:24; 15:9,18,24,28; 17:22**); & "in the way of Jeroboam" (**I Kings 16:2,19**).

Today, there are people who advocate that people can make these same changes to the church of Christ and still be acceptable to God! **People have changed the:**

1) God. Icons, stained glass windows and statues are the objects of devotion more than

To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen (**1 Timothy 1:17**);

2) Tabernacle Assembly. In Jerusalem, James and the elders in the church of Christ told Paul

The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come (**Acts 21:22**).

The church of Christ in Corinth was "the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people" (**2 Corinthians 6:16**);

3) Specified Priests. Christians may

Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (**Hebrews 10:22**),

Which was first preached on Pentecost in **Acts 2:38**. Christians,

As living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 2:5**);

4) Communion Feast.

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**).

It was "on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread (**Acts 20:7**) that showed the regularity of this remembrance.

5) Offered Sacrifices.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (**Romans 12:1**).

It is by Christ that we should:

Continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (**Hebrews 13:15-16**).

These sacrifices in His name include:

- a)** Singing and praying (**Ephesians 5:19-20**),
- b)** Giving (**1 Corinthians 16:2**),
- c)** Preaching the word (**2 Timothy 4:1-2**).

None but priests/ Christians can offer acceptable sacrifices.

6) Incense. Prayers which Christians on Earth are:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (**Ephesians 6:18**);

And offered "without ceasing" (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**), are offered before God in Heaven as "golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (**Revelation 5:8**). None but Christians can offer acceptable prayers.

How can anyone think six people can change what God wants and be more acceptable than Jeroboam? OR, how can any in the churches of Christ think they can accept what others have changed and be more acceptable than Jeroboam? Christians cannot offer unity to those who are not yet Christians, nor should those who have not fully accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ be considered priests of God! Re-read the principle about priestly sacrifices God had under Moses:

And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you (**Exodus 12:48-49**).

Paul wrote to the New Testament church of Christ:

What have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore 'put away from yourselves the evil person' [**Deuteronomy 17:7**] (**1 Corinthians 5:12-13**).

There are those who are "outside" because they have not accepted the rules to come "inside." While they are "outside," God will deal with them (**2 Thessalonians 1:3-10**). Those of us who are "inside" must not, and cannot, apply our rules to justify those who are "outside." In other words, the Lord adds the saved to the church (**Acts 2:38, 47**), and only "Jeroboams" will make exception to His rules and minimize His distinction.

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