

**RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION At  
Northside Church of Christ  
Meridian, MS  
January 21st, 2010**

**Patrick T. Donahue**, will affirm

"The Bible does not authorize use of the church treasury for social meals."

**John T. Polk II** will deny

## ***Polk's Questions for Brother Donahue***

- 1. Is there any exception to your proposition, and if so, what is it?**
- 2. Is everything purchased from the church treasury "holy?"**
- 3. What eating is forbidden in **1 Corinthians 5:11**, and where would it have been done?**

## **Brother Donahue Must Prove:**

- 1. Church building itself is sacred and for one purpose only;***
- 2. Social meals are carnal in nature and cannot be spiritual;***
- 3. The Bible specifies everything for which church contributions may be used;***
- 4. The only reason for church buildings and assemblies is for 5 worship sacrifices.***

## JESUS' EXAMPLE – FEED THE MULTITUDE **Luke 9:11**

### **Matthew 14:15-18**

**15** When it was evening, **His disciples** came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. **Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.**" **16** But **Jesus said** to them, "**They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.**" **17** And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." **18** He said, "Bring them here to Me."

## CORRECTIONS FOR THE MISGUIDED

**Disciples ignorantly spoke saying:**

**"Let them eat at home."**

**Jesus saw NO problem with eating a meal where He had preached!**

**Disciples' treasury could be used to buy food (Mark 6:37; John 6:5) [John 4:8; 12:6; 13:29]**

# The Apostle's "Treasury"

1. Was held by Judas Iscariot **John 12:6**
2. Was to pay for feast items or alms for the poor **John 13:29**
  - a. bought food **John 4:8, 27, 31-33**
  - b. gave alms to the poor
3. Had become the church's
  - a. to buy food **Acts 2:44-45**
  - b. alms for the poor **Acts 3:1-2, 6**

**1 Peter 2:21** - For to this you were called, because **Christ** also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

### **Jesus fed the taught Assembly**

**Luke 9:11**-He spoke  
"about the kingdom of  
God"

**Luke 9:13**-He offered  
to buy food from the  
disciples' treasury

**Luke 9:16-17**-He fed  
them in the same place  
He had taught them

### **Church of Christ on Pentecost**

**Acts 2:13-41**  
**Preached  
Jesus**

**Acts 2:43-45**  
**Treasury  
Set up**

**Acts 2:46**  
**Acts 5:42**  
**Ate where  
they preached**

### **Church of Christ in Troas**

**Acts 20:7**  
**Preached  
Jesus**

**1 Cor. 16:1-2**  
**Treasury Set  
up**

**Acts 20:11**  
**Ate where he  
preached**

# ***Apostolic Eating and Preaching In the SAME Places!***

## **Acts 2:46**

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,

## **Acts 5:42**

And **daily in the temple**, and **in every house**, they did not cease **teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

**Acts 2:46** – “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,” (NKJV)

“One Accord” - *homothumadon* – **with one mind/purpose/impulse; unanimously**  
**Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 7:57; 8:6; 12:20; 15:25; 18:12; 19:29; 20:18**

“They Ate Their Food” - *metalambanon trophes*  
**to share or participate in something, have a share in Acts 2:46; 27:33; 2 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 6:7; 12:10**



## Apostle Paul Ate Where He Preached

### Acts 20:7-11

**V. 7** – “Now on **the first day of the week**, when the **disciples came together to break bread**, **Paul**, ready to depart the next day, **spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.**”

**Vss. 8-10** – Eutychus slept, fell from 3<sup>rd</sup> story, taken up dead, Paul resurrected

**V. 11** – “Now when he had come up, had **broken bread and eaten**, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed.

**Philippians 3:17** – “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a **pattern [Greek tupos].**”

**Do You Follow “Apostolic Example?”**

## **"UNITY" IS THE THEME OF 1 CORINTHIANS**

**1 Corinthians 1:9-10** – "God is faithful, by whom you were **called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **you all speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be **perfectly joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment.**" (NKJV)

### ***LET NO DIVISION BE CAUSED BY:***

Baptizer's Name/Authority	<b>1:10-17</b>
Message Preached	<b>1:18-4:21</b>
Marriage Issues	<b>5:1-7:40</b>
Influences of Idolatry	<b>8:1-11:1</b>
Problems of Assembling	<b>11:2-14:40</b>
Lack of Preparation for Resurrection	<b>15:1-58</b>
Gifts & Greetings From Brethren	<b>16:1-24</b>

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP IN **1 Corinthians**

Spiritual Application to Unity **3:1-4**

***Visible Sign of Church Disfavor*** **5:9-11**

Lawful Things for the Body **6:12-13**

**8:1-13**

Eating Food Offered to Idols **10:23-33**

**Visible Sign of Church Disorder** **11:17-22**

## Forbidden Eating in **1 Corinthians**

**5:11** - With any brother named with sexual immorality, covetous, idolater, reviler, drunkard, extortioner, "no, not to eat"

**8:1-13** - "I will never again eat meat" (Greek, bromas="food") that weakens a brother's resolve to reject idolatry

**10:28** - "do not eat it" if offered to an idol and someone brings up that point **10:23-33**

**11:33-34** - "But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment" **11:17-34**

**These Are Situational Considerations –  
NOT Unconditional Prohibitions!**

# **Brother Donahue's Faulty Handling of **1 Corinthians 11:22**:**

- 1. He reads his intended meaning into the passage;**
- 2. He lifts it from its immediate context;**
- 3. He wrests it from the total context of **1 Corinthians**;**
- 4. He, thus, makes Paul contradict himself;**
- 5. He creates his own "scripture," like Diotrephes!**

## ***Diotrephes***

**3 John: 9** I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who **(1) loves to have the preeminence** among them, **(2) does not receive us.**

**10** Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, **(3) prating against us with malicious words.** And not content with that, **(4) he himself does not receive the brethren,** and **(5) forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.**

**11** Beloved, **do not imitate what is evil,** but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. (NKJV)

## ***An Evil Christian Who Severs Christ's Headship By His:***

1. Selfish Ego-trip
2. Rejecting Apostles
3. Smear & Fear
4. Arbitrary rules
5. Abuse of Sound  
Brethren

## Peter's Warning Against Scripture-Twisters

### 2 Peter 3:16-17

**16** as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.** **17** You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;** (NKJV)

# ***The Church's "Social" Side:***

**"Social, adj. Social, gregarious, co-operative, convivial, companionable, hospitable are not actually synonymous terms but they invite comparison because they involve, and often stress, the idea of having or manifesting a liking for the company of others."**

**antonyms: Unsocial, antisocial, asocial.**

**p. 767, Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms, 1<sup>st</sup> ed, 1951**

**1 Corinthians 12:27** – "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually"

**Ephesians 4:25** – "Therefore putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."



## What other “social” activities are forbidden in a Church Building?

- 1. *Holy Kiss?* 1 Corinthians 16:20**
- 2. *Marriage Ceremonies and Feasts?*  
Matthew 22:2 (verses 1-14)**
- 3. *Church Salutations?*  
1 Corinthians 16:19**
- 4. *Changing Baby’s Diapers?*  
Luke 18:15-17**

# ***Sanctified Things***

**Jesus Christ –**

sanctified Himself **John 17:19**;  
in our hearts **1 Peter 3:15**

**We/Christians –**

by the second will **Hebrews 10:10**;  
by the offering of Christ **10:14; 13:12**

**Church – Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 1:2**

**Food – 1 Timothy 4:3-5**

***WHERE ARE THE COLLECTION PLATE AND  
THE CHURCH BUILDING SANCTIFIED?***

***Is Brother Donahue A Papist?  
Here's His "Sign"***

**"Enter This Building  
We Use Only Holy Water  
Paid for with Sanctified Funds:  
-Holy Water in the Baptistry-  
-Holy Water in the Fountains-  
-Holy Water in the Toilets-"**

# Is this debate between strong and weak brethren?

## **1. *The Weak Brother Should:***

- a. not be permitted to  
    “make the rules” **Romans 14:1**
- b. not create lines of fellowship  
    over such matters **Romans 14:2**
- c. give God thanks for what his  
    conscience will allow **Romans 14:6**

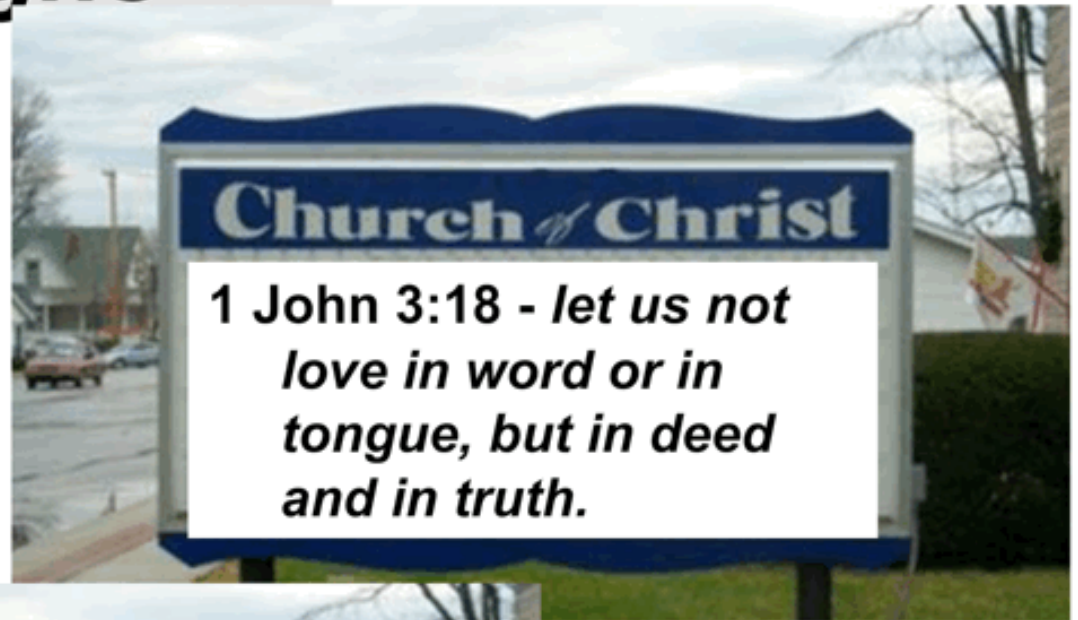
## **2. *The Strong Brother Should:***

- a. not be intimidated **Romans 14:3-5**
- b. be considerate of the weak brother's  
    conscience **Romans 14:12-15**
- c. bear the weak brother's infirmities  
    as Christ has done **Romans 15:1-6**

# Signs of Shame !



# ***Scriptural Signs***



***Doing Good To All –  
Especially To The  
Household of faith***