

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

CHURCH BUSINESS

What business did God give the church? Are there any limits?

In Acts 6:3, the apostles sought to appoint seven men to this business, ensuring the needs of the widows among them were met. The funds used to care for these widows came from saints who gave some of their money to the church, laying it at the apostles' feet (Acts 4:37). That was the teaching of the apostles and was (and still is) the practice of saints on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Today, many religious groups are in a different kind of business—the business of marketing and selling products. For example, the Mormon Church owns Utah's second-largest newspaper. Others, simply on a

smaller scale, sell chocolate-covered strawberries, hamburgers, tickets to their races or other events--some even sell CDs of their sermons!

Is anyone reading John 2:16, of Jesus' rebuke when the Temple became *a house of merchandise* (of trade, a market)? Jesus did not teach His church to market products to gain funds for His work. His work is funded by saints who work and give. Paul made tents and accepted pay for preaching, but churches never sold his tents or sermons. Go to the Bible to learn of "church business."

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WHEN THE "POPE" RESIGNS...

The Catholic Pope has decided to resign on February 28, but a new leader will not be chosen until several days later. Therefore, the day he resigns...

The Catholic Body Will Have No Head The Catholic Encyclopedia identifies the pope as "a supreme head" of the church, so on February 28 the Catholic body will be headless. Christ is the one and only head of His saved people, His body, His church (Colossians 1:18).

Their "Holy Father" is no longer their "Holy Father" The Catholic Church calls their pope "Holy Father," even though Jesus said *Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven* (Matthew 23:9; Jesus spoke of religious titles, not family relationships). When Jesus prayed, He called God "Holy Father" (John 17:11). It is shameful for a man to wear the same title as God!

Catholic Sheep Have No Shepherd Catholics refer to their pope as "the chief shepherd," so soon those sheep will have no shepherd. Peter called Jesus, not himself, the chief shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

God said there is one body, one Father, and one Shepherd (Ephesians 4:4, 6; John 10:16).

WHO IS A HOMEMAKER?

What does God expect from wives? Can she and her husband swap roles and please God?

Cellphones are not the only thing changing fast—so is the way Americans view family roles. “Assuming present trends continue, by the next generation, more families will be supported by women than by men” (*Time* 3-26-12, p30). God expects wives to make the home their first priority (**Titus 2:5**). Some say this means that she cannot work outside the home at all, but the Bible does not say that. Compare the wife and family of **Proverbs 31** with yourself and family.

Her life revolved around her family, not career goals and awards (**v28**). She watched the ways of and taught her family (**v26-27**). Her work revolved around, and did not distract from, her family’s needs (meals, clothing, observing and guiding the children). She did not pass these duties to her husband so she could buy, sell, and profit for other families.

God did not set a limit on the miles or minutes a wife could leave the house. He set the priority of her life, work, and attention. He gave the wife a *different role and work than the husband*, but many wives prefer to imitate or trade roles. Our homes and nation suffer from a lack of virtuous wives.

...let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself. (*Eph. 5:33*)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

HUSBANDS, YOUR JOB IS NO EXCUSE

God decided that husbands work and wives guide the home (**Titus 2:5**). Some men think that if they “bring home the bacon,” they have met their duty to God and family and excuse themselves from the duties found in **Ephesians 5:**

v25 Love her This love is not merely “romantic” but means doing what is best for *her*, even at your expense, even when you come home tired from a long day of work.

v22 Lead her God chose the leader (not me). Men, what leadership does your family see from you besides controlling the TV? Do your choices meet your needs or her needs?

v28-29 Nourish her This means supplying her needs. You do not know what she needs if you do not listen to her words and observe her actions. Women often “communicate” in unique, sometimes subtle, ways. Men, we must pay attention.

v28-29 Cherish her This means to value and protect. Since giving her an expensive ring, how have you shown you value her? Do you protect her from loneliness and exhaustion?

Would your wife say you do all these? Would you ask her? If not, you have no excuse, God rejects your prayers, and hell will be your home (1 Pet. 3:7).

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. Did churches in the New Testament raise funds by marketing products? How did they have funds?
2. Why is it wrong to view and call a man “Holy Father” or “Chief Shepherd” in spiritual matters?
3. What did Paul tell Titus to teach about the primary focus of wives?
4. Besides providing food and shelter for his family, what duties does a husband have?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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