

Bible Schools and Children's Homes

The practice of running "Bible schools" and "children's homes" are matters of expediency. One cannot exercise expedience unless the subject of the expedience is authorized. In other words, there is no way in which a Christian can commit fornication expediently. Fornication is sin and it cannot, therefore, have any expediency attached to it.

On the other hand, those things that we have been commanded to do (whether by direct statement, an approved account of action or Divine implication) must be done in a way that is authorized. For instance, Christians have the authority go into the world in order to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). However, how we go is not stated. Therefore, we are authorized to use a horse, a motorcycle, an automobile, a plane, etc. The expediency is justified because it is necessary to "go"; how one chooses to "go" is up to the individual or the church that is involved in evangelism.

Likewise, we are enjoined to teach (Matthew 28:19). The "where," "how," and "when" are left to expediency whereas the "who" and the "what" are stated in the verse: "all the nations" and "all things that I have commanded you." Therefore, if one chooses to teach in a classroom setting before or after a worship assembly, it can be done based upon expediency. If one were to go into someone's home or choose a large arena from which to teach, it could be done based upon expedience.

These expediencies are only limited by what God has authorized or forbidden. If one chooses to baptize a person in running water or a pool of water, it is irrelevant. However, if one were to decide to baptize someone in grape juice, it would be unacceptable because the medium used in baptism is stated specifically to be water (John 3:23; Acts 8:36-38; 10:47), all other medium for baptism are forbidden. That principle is established in Hebrews 7:14 - priests were to come from the tribe of Levi so there was no need for God to articulate the list of other tribes not authorized to be priests; His saying "from Levi" excluded all other tribes. The same would apply with

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Noah in Genesis 6:14 - Noah was told to make the ark of "gopher wood," therefore, no other material was acceptable and no other wood but gopher wood was acceptable.

Therefore, we are told to care for children (James 1:27) and if a home takes in a child, we are authorized to help that home take care of that child. The fact that a "home" is a standard, two-parent home, a single parent home, or a multiple parent home is irrelevant if they are, one and all with our assistance, taking care of that child.