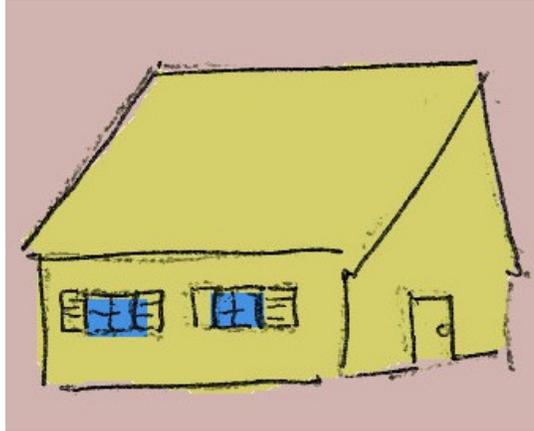


## So What's Wrong with Home church?



Let me first say that I think that home church is a very good step in a right direction--however....

You know it always bothered me when I used to read this in the new testament...

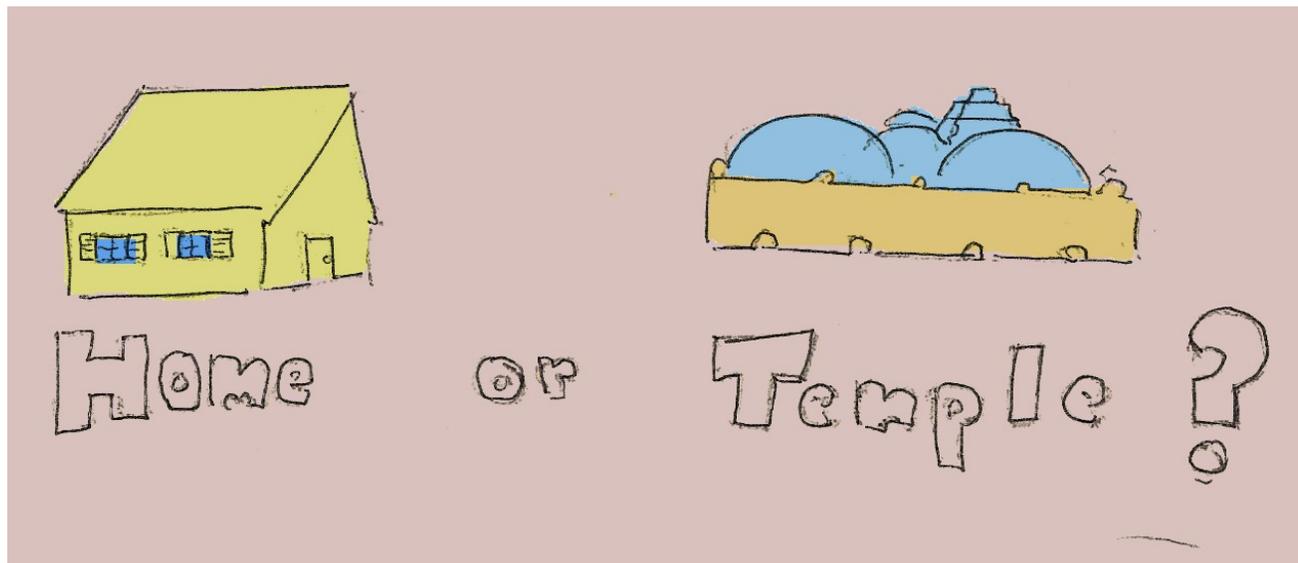
46\* And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47\* Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

These 2 verses are at the end of a portion of the Bible which describes the very early church directly after the day of Pentecost. It talks about this group of people, who met in the upper room and were filled with the Holy Spirit and then went out and spoke the "wonderful works of God" (the Gospel) to the people there in Jerusalem. And then the Bible goes on to say what they did after that. It seems they met daily---not every one every day, but since they were meeting in small groups, there was the easy capability of meeting on a daily basis. And the result was that people were being saved every day, so these were Gospel witnessing meetings (not at all worship and teaching meetings-- the ones we are used to!).

Of course there was worship and of course there was teaching among themselves, but the main focus was spreading the Gospel--great terrific....but then I would always come to the part where it said that they met "in the Temple--and in their homes"

Oh no! Traditional church people will say Christians ought to reconstruct the temple in our practice--and home church people will skip the part about the temple and say--they met house to house...well who is right?



This puzzled me for along time, until I realized that this is an example of what a specific group of people were doing at a specific place and time under God's direction. So the truth is that there is no rule or law in the Bible about where Christians have to meet.

What is much more interesting, and often ignored by both traditional Christians and home church folks is that the result they were having from both meeting places was that people were getting saved.

The fact was that God was directing them--at that specific place and time--to meeting these places--in small groups-- (not everyone in the same place at the same time) to witness the Gospel--to the people who needed to hear it.

They were meeting in the temple and witnessing to the priests (and presumably other people as well)...

In Acts 6:7 we read this result...

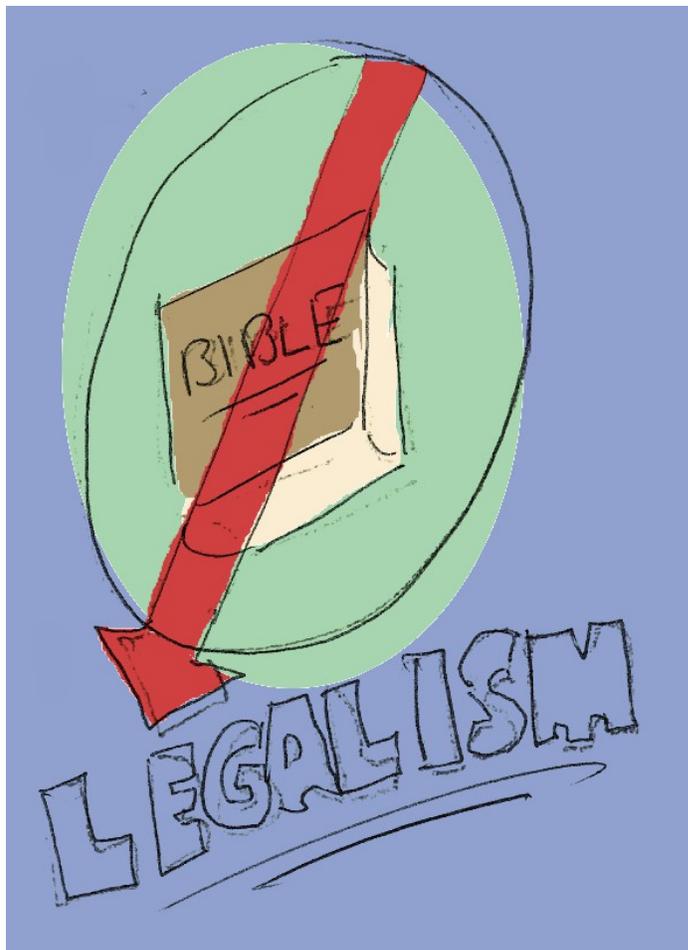
7\* And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)

People in different places need to hear the Gospel.

Spreading the Gospel was the priority of the Bible church.

The fact is that the Christians in the Bible were following the example of Jesus. Jesus did different things in different places at different times. He said different things to different people in different places. Why? Because He was directed by the perfect will of God the Father, and following His perfect authority--which quite clearly is directed toward the need that people have.

Certainly Jesus ministered in the temple but He also ministered in the streets and fields and just about everywhere. He was not setting a rule about where to meet, He was giving an example of spreading the Gospel and following God's kingdom.



God wants to send believers to the needs He sees. He needs us to be willing to hear His command and follow His authority, and authority of love and forgiveness and faith and help for the poor and homeless and sick.

The meeting place? Immaterial! Meet in a home, meet in a warehouse, meet in a Jewish temple, meet in a barn, garage, a basement, or out in the open field!

But meet with the purpose of finding God' kingdom, finding His will, His plan, and seek after His righteousness--His righteous acts of ministry.

