

## **It's Not Your House**

After years of sacrifice and savings, you finally have the money for the down payment on your dream home. Then you spend years working hard to make the mortgage payments. Suddenly, one day, you arrive home to find a strange man on your lawn with hammer, saw, nails, and lumber. When you approach him to ask what all these things mean, can you imagine him having the audacity to say, "I think this house needs another room, and I'm here to build it." Your immediate response would be, "Oh no, you're not! It is not your house!" To put it mildly, you would be just a mite upset.

The Lord Jesus built His house (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 3:1-6). Jesus poured more than hard work and sweat into building His house; He paid for it with the shedding of His blood (Acts 20:28). He gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25). Having paid such a price for His house, it doesn't take a lot of thought for us to realize how the Lord must feel when all types of would-be spiritual carpenters show up with their hammers and nails and attempt to add additional rooms to His house.

We know how Jesus felt about men altering his Father's house (the temple), He cleansed it at the beginning of his personal ministry (John 2:14-17), and again at the end of it (Matt. 21:12,13). How much more angry He must be when men attempt to alter His house by adding rooms for instrumental music, denominational creeds, missionary and benevolent societies, and all manner of false doctrine.

Regarding your house, what if the self-appointed carpenter used the excuse, "No one told me not to build another room onto this house?" You would reply, "No one said you could, and it's my house!"

Men attempt to find authority for things the Lord has not revealed in the blueprint for His house, and although men may claim they have the right to bring in their musical instruments, infant baptism and a host of other human "improvements" Jesus has warned that nothing be added to or taken away from the design of His plan (Rev. 22:18,19).

The would-be carpenter might make one more appeal to defend his proposed alteration to your house: "I didn't think you would mind." Who can know the mind of a man unless he reveals it? Who can know the mind of the Lord unless He reveals it (1 Cor. 2:11). If Jesus had wanted additional rooms in His house, He would have placed them there. How dare anyone usurp the Lord's rights to His own house and alter the plans!

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