

What does Restoration mean?
Jude 3-4
By Russell Earl

Thesis: To remind us of the importance of restoration and the difference between restoration & reformation.

- Intro:
1. There has been a battle between standing for truth and embracing men's traditions since Bible times.
 2. Today we will look at some who have been a part of the reformation & restoration.

I. Reformation & the Restoration

A. What happened in the reformation?

- 1. Men wanted to change the churches that were in error to "near" Bible standards.**
- 2. Martin Luther is known for his 95 theses or complaints against the Catholic church.**
- 3. We today, need to be known for having a similar zeal, but a zeal for the whole truth not only part of it as with Luther.**

B. Why we need a restoration?

- 1. Because many have departed from the pattern.**
- 2. We do not wish to restore just any church, but the Lord's church.**
- 3. The reformation movement reformed the church (changed it), we seek to restore not reform.**
- 4. We seek to restore the church which Christ bought and paid for with His own blood (Acts 20:28b)**

II. Restoration means getting back to the Bible.

A. The WORD must be preached.

1. When members are taught correctly they will be established in the truth (**2 Pt 1:12**).
 - a. When taught the truth members will be confirmed & convicted by the scriptures (2 Tim 3:16-17).
2. The great commission was given to the Apostles but it is also for us today (**Mt 28:18-20**).

B. The WORD must be obeyed.

1. Christians must obey the word of God, not words of men, if the church is to enjoy a time of restoration (**Heb 10:23-24**).
2. Christians are to live a sacrificial life of faith, discerning between right and wrong using the word of God as our guide (**Rom 12:1-2**).

III. Restoration means remembering Who We Are

A. Jesus did NOT build a denomination.

1. The term denomination implies "part of a whole" (Webster). Jesus however did not establish a part of anything, He established His church (**Mt 16:18**).
2. Christ intended for members to be united in the one body (**Jn 17:20-21; 1 Cor 1:10**).

B. What about Campbell & Stone?

1. We honor and respect men like Campbell & Stone but the church did NOT begin with them.

- a. These men were part of what we know as the “restoration movement”.
- b. They sought to go back to the Bible, thus they were not reformers but restorers.

2. Even Campbell & Stone did not want mean to merely follow their beliefs about what God has said. On Jan 1, 1832 the two groups following Stone and Campbell had a meeting and agreed to no longer continue having these two separate groups but one group of God’s people who were determined to follow God & His Word.

- a. Their plea was “speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.”

C. Who are we?

1. We are people of the word (Jude 3)

2. We are people of conversion.

- a. When we obey the gospel like those in the N.T. we become what they became, Christians.
- b. They did not join a denomination but were added to the body of Christ by God (**Acts 2:47; Gal 3:26-27**).

3. We are people of a certain identity.

- a. We are different from the world, we are the “called out” (**1 Pt 2:9-10**).

4. We are people with a purpose.

- a. Our purpose is to be Christians only and members of the church that Christ built (**Eph 5:25**).

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Why denominations are declining.

1. From 1990-2000 the protestant denominations declined by almost 10%.

a. It has been documented that one reason for this is because of contemporary worship movements.

- a. (<http://religiousaffections.org/articles/articles-on-worship/evangelical-worship-and-the-decline-of-denominationalism/>)

2. Many denominational groups are on the decline or have stalled in growth.

B. Why the church is positioned to grow.

1. Today, there are those who have grown tired of the lights and smoke of denominationalism and are looking for more.

2. We can take those opportunities to reach out to them in various ways.

3. We can show these individuals that the truth of God’s word has more to offer than any denomination.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Today, we should not look to reform the church, but to restore it.
2. Let us always be looking to restore Bible truths or the Lord's church will turn into something less than the church of the Bible.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9