

May congregations provide common meals at various functions?

Entertainment is not a proper work of the church with scriptural support. However, it is clear that the first century church did engage in common meals when they came together to worship. In Acts 2:46-47, the church had such a practice, "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." The *where* of this example is left to the discretion of the church and their circumstances. This same pattern is followed in Acts 20: 7-12, "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. . . . Then he went upstairs **again** and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

Congregation may use their facilities and share common meals for various activities for young and old: VBS, ladies' days, evening activities for young people, covered dish dinners on fifth Sundays, lectureship, gospel meetings, etc. We believe there is always an overriding spiritual purpose to all such meetings. Congregations may allow community groups to use the building, free of charge, for non-religious events. We believe it is good for them to come in and see what we are like; for example, no piano or organ, and no relics. This is as good a way to advertise as placing a sign outside or an ad in a newspaper.