

**home**, it is of interest to observe some comments of other brethren in regard to this matter. The following excerpts are not quoted to constitute some kind of authority in religious matters, but simply to set forth the same truth which the author believes as it relates to the heart of this issue.

One brother has wisely commented:

"There are those who are determined for the church to build gymnasiums and pay for them out of the Lord's treasury. . . There are still members of the church who have a great devotion to truth, and for one to announce that a gymnasium is to be built would immediately cause alarm as they remember truths they have heard since their youth. A new label is "Family Life Center." However, such does not change the truth about these projects, they are still gyms and there is no Biblical authority for them . . . our God has limited the area in which the church can work . . . It is time that we clearly focus on two divine institutions, the home and the church . . . There is nothing wrong with Christians. . . using their money to accomplish anything that is not sinful. However, when money is given to the church it becomes special, for then its use is limited TO THE AREAS IN WHICH THE CHURCH IS AUTHORIZED TO WORK! Consider Acts 5 and the money of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter said to them, "*Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?*" The answer is obvious. Before it was given to the church it was under the power (authority) of those who had it. But after it was given it was under the authority of the church! There is individual activity, there is home activity and there is church activity . . . The heart of the matter is this. If we truly are devoted to a 'Thus saith the Lord,' to speaking where the Bible speaks and remaining silent where the Bible is silent, to the principle of neither adding to nor taking from the Scriptures, to speaking only as the oracles of God, then WE MUST HAVE BIBLE AUTHORITY FOR THE BUILDING OF GYMNASIUMS. Where is it? How can we consistently call men back to Bible names, Bible worship, Bible baptism, Bible morality while at the same time advocating that it is right for the church to build gymnasiums? To call a gym a '**multipurpose building**' or a '**Family Life Center**' does not change its nature, nor its true function; and it certainly does not make it scriptural. . . However, in recent years some have arisen who either have a false concept of the work of the church or little regard for Bible authority and now

want to usher in a new age for the church, complete with gymnasiums." (Dan Jenkins).

In an article entitled, "**The Gospel or Mundane Methods?**" Leon Cole stated:

"Young people today are not dumbbells. You cannot woo them into the church with a basketball and a coke machine, then subtly try to squeeze in unconsciously a little religion and expect it to captivate them. No, they are intelligent enough to participate in the good time and skip the religion. As the lamented John D. Cox declared, 'If you hamburger them to get them into the church you will have to hamburger them to keep them there.'"

#### BACK TO RESPECT FOR BIBLE AUTHORITY

May the church build an **18 hole golf course** from the Lord's treasury *as long as* members of the church agree to stop and have prayer at each tee-off? After all, could not the church use this gimmick to invite sinners to play golf and perhaps then set up a Bible study? I'm sure there would be many takers for free golf. **Of course this would be an abuse of Bible authority.**

In the specific issue at hand, the abuse of the Lord's treasury by turning aside to recreation, New Testament authority has been violated. The constructing of gyms from the Lord's treasury for recreation *is* loosing where God has not loosed. (cf. Mat. 16:19). It is hoped that this brief tract has in some way contributed to the reader's understanding of the true mission of Christ's church in a lost and dying world. (2 Tim. 2:15). ■

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\* The material in this tract *for the most part* was taken from an article written by the author in 1993 and which was published in the *CFTF* magazine. OCTOBER/1993, Volume XXIV, No. 10.

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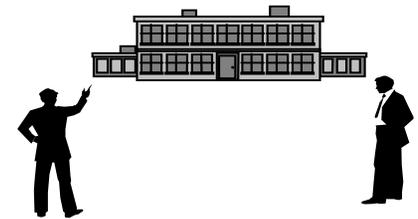
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# Church Financed Gymnasiums

## Are These Scriptural?



By

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