There is indeed a twentieth century reformation. What happened 400 years ago is beginning to happen in the twentieth century. Men who love God because they have been born into the kingdom by the power of the Holy Ghost are not going to support or remain in fellowship with that which is leading the church astray and offering another gospel that is not the Gospel. The kingdom of God has now become some kind of social system. The clergymen have turned into little more than social gospel agitators and rather inexperienced politicians.

The Problem of Starting a Church

How, then, to start a new church has become a most practical problem for people everywhere, and such churches are starting, some with pastors, some without pastors. Let us thank God that we still live in a country where freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Constitution and a man is free to join with others in starting new churches.

From the Scriptural standpoint our Saviour recognized that a church may be exceedingly small. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," He said, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). In the Book of Romans we hear of a church "that is in their house," and the Apostle Paul in Corinth led a group out of the synagogue and organized a new and separated church in the house of Jason, which was next door. There are many ways in which a church may be started and everyone who has this desire in his heart should not wait until this is done in some prescribed manner. He should take what he has at hand and with that proceed and work to form a local church.

In leaving the apostasy, of course, some whole churches have been able to come out, particularly in organizations where it is possible for church property to be held. But this is not true in Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and several other groups.

Thus, a pastor, if there is one, may lead in stepping out of the apostasy and forming the new testimony, free and separate from a sinful yoke. The Lord's people should rejoice when He has given them a pastor to lead.

But today it is the pastors that are remaining in the NCC. For various considerations they justify being a part of a church and of a movement that is seeking to build this over-all one-world church. They justify it and rationalize their position on the basis of expediency, rather than on the basis of obedience to the clear commands of God, which forbid our fellowship with unbelief and call us to be separate.

Thus one family, or one deacon, or two or three elders, in many instances is all that there is to start a church, but this is enough with God and such beginnings are being honored and used of God in all sections of the country. Men with families come to the place where they say, We just cannot go to that church any longer; we just cannot give any more of our funds, and so they stop. But when they stop they should then help build a church to which they can go.

A group can meet in a home. One family can meet in their own home with their own children and worship God and teach the Word. But where there are two families, three families, four families, five families, six families, they can meet and teach the Word. Again, sometimes a Bible class, meeting during the week, can be used to encourage and strengthen people who are disturbed but who are not quite ready to take the steps. Many a Bible class has grown into a church.

Laymen May Start a Church

Moreover, we are confronted with the fact that the ministers are scarce and that often a lay leadership must be raised up as has been done many times in the history of the church. An elder can present the message from the Word of God.

There are, of course, at the present time a growing number of separatist groups of varying denominations. They are prospering. Contact can be made with leaders in these groups and advice and counsel and assistance can be had sometimes through home missionary endeavor; and through these contacts ministers or theological students can be provided.

The all-important fact is that the believer must decide that we must have a true church and then look to God to guide step by step, which He will do in His own gracious way, for He has said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters" (2 Cor. 6:17, 18). It is in this area of His being a Father to us that we see Him work.

We must have churches, true churches, Bible-believing churches, where the Word can be taught, the sacraments administered, and the good order maintained that the Lord has asked us to honor as taught in His Word.

Jesus Christ has promised that a church true to His name will be maintained on this earth until He comes, and His Spirit is working in behalf of those today who are finished with the apostasy and who cannot disobey God's commands by worshiping in denominations that are a part of the National Council of Churches.

You may start a prayer meeting in your home. You may start a Bible class in your