

## **Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15)** *The "House Church Movement"*

**Answer the following false positions on the back of this paper:**

1. "There is nothing to rule out the possibility that the role of elders in the early church might well have encompassed more than one level of involvement—even simultaneously. Perhaps there were elders shepherding the disciples in each house, depending upon their size and makeup. And perhaps elder oversight may have been exercised throughout a group of house churches which collectively comprised a larger, recognizable congregation. More thought-provoking for us, of course, is the third possibility -- that elders in individual house churches might also have come together as a group of city-wide elders to discuss matters of importance to the entire community of believer" (Page 178).

"The most universally-overlooked feature of the Lord's Supper as practiced in the primitive house church is that – from all appearances – it was observed in conjunction with a fellowship meal. That is, a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food. However, unlike normal, ordinary meals, this combined table fellowship and memorial was shared among the disciples for the special purpose of strengthening, not just their physical bodies, but their common bond in the spiritual body of Christ... From its very inception, therefore, the Lord's Supper was an integral part of a real meal (pages 145-146)" (F. Lagard Smith; *Radical Restoration*; pages 178; 145-146).

2. "Titus 1:5, plus other references to appointing Elders is always "in every City". I do not believe that Elders can lead more than one Church. Many of the early Christians were forced to meet in small groups (not multiple congregations). I've stood in the catacombs which held 10-20 people about 10-20 meters apart. Recommend that you visit them if you have not already done so" (Frank Shipp; Member and Class Teacher at Eastridge "A Church of Christ" on Pendleton Road in El Paso, TX; Email to Brian A. Yeager; Thursday April 27, 2006).

3. "When believers came together in each others houses as churches their corporate worship and sharing together was completely spontaneous with no one leading from the front. All present are free to take part without the controlling presence of anyone 'leading' the proceedings" (Beresford Job; [http://www.house-church.org/what\\_main.htm](http://www.house-church.org/what_main.htm); June 2004).

4. "WFR [*White's Ferry Road - B.A.Y.*] House Churches: One of the goals of any Christian is to show the heart of the Lord Jesus in everyday life, not just at a church building for a few minutes one or two times a week. At WFR, one of the best ways we have found to experience that "home-style, heart-felt living", is to practice it in our homes!

Every Sunday night there are 20 house churches, including our teen groups, that meet from Rocky Branch to Calhoun to , and several stops in between. There are also many small groups that meet during the week. One of our goals here at WFR is to find Acts 2:41-47 actually happening in every neighborhood around Ouachita Parish" (White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, LA; <http://www.wfrchurch.org>).