

## Doctrine of Roberts Rules of Order

### Ten Reasons Why God is Probably *Very Unhappy With*

#### *Robert's Rules of Order*

1876, revised ed. 1915

Written by an American Army Engineer  
Henry Martyn Robert.

1. This worldly book more often than not usurps the authority of *God's Word*, the *Bible*. People tend to set the *Scriptures* aside to resolve internal conflicts in the congregation with Mr. Robert in tow instead of searching out the mind of the Lord in a given matter through weeping and prayer and Bible study. For over thirty years of public ministry I have witnessed this happen time and again. It is an abomination to the Lord.
2. This worldly book presses God's people into its mode of operation. The Christian is commanded not to be pressed into the thinking of the world.

*Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

3. This worldly book gives the church a non Christian vocabulary which has proven to be counter productive. Motions, first and seconded, discussion and voting are not biblical words or concepts. Righteousness is not to be voted on. God does not rule His church by democracy but by His Word, through His Spirit with the undershepherds He has given as gifts of divine grace.
4. This worldly book has little regard for spiritual concepts such as preferring others and extending grace for law is law and rules are rules. No where will it be found, "*and the Spirit said*" (*Acts 8:29; 10:19*).
5. This worldly book robs God's people of a spiritual blessing. The only blessing found in the *Scripture* is when God's work is done God's way by taking heed to God's Word.
  - *[Joshua], This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).*
  - *[Matthew], Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).*

6. This worldly book leads to people being manipulative as individuals look for legal loopholes and technicalities.
7. This world book invites the manifestation of the will to power and the seeking to control instead of the submitting to the will of God.
  - *James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
8. This worldly book elicits an emotional attachment that should properly be reserved for the *Bible*. The love of the followers of Joseph Smith for their *Book of Mormon* and the *Muslims* for their *Koran* is the same misguided emotional attachment some have for *Robert's Rules of Order*. Only the *Bible* is God-breathed. Only the *Bible* is adequate to conduct the affairs of the church.
  - *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
9. This worldly book has become a substitute for personal and congregational security. The church is exhorted to trust in the Lord.
  - *Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*
10. This worldly book has the practical effect of not only usurping God's authority but God Himself. Who needs divine wisdom when every conceivable parliamentary situation is laid out in minute detail?
  - *James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

I would argue it is not in the best interest of the church to have *Robert's Rules of Order* if it is not going to be followed to the letter of the law because any violation can come back to haunt the legal leaders of the church.

For example, a pastor who has been wrongfully terminated could offer counter charges against the church such as holding secret and or illegal meetings – *Standing Committee vs. Ad hoc*

Other issues could be charged against the church such as keeping a church member from attending an unauthorized church meeting mismanagement of public funds though wasteful spending keeping a secret accounting of finances when full discourse has been asked for and much more.

The charges do not have to be fair, proven or accurate, they just have to be made in order to get part of the 500,000 insurance money.

In this day and age the safest protection is still the Bible.

I do not know what happened with the last pastor but I do know from what I have heard he could probably have gotten a lawyer and sued first the church and then the officers beginning with the president, vice president, etc using parliamentary procedures.

People like to have titles: president, vice president etc without a clear understanding of the financial danger they might be putting the church and or their own personal resources in.

In a court case the first thing that is looked at is the personal background of the officers. If there is a past, it will be used against the church and or the officer(s).

The more serious the past the more damage can be done to the church.

In a precedent setting court case in Pennsylvania I was called in as an expert witness to defend the church, so I know something of the encroachments upon God's people going on today.

My own credentials were subject to review reflected in the court opinion I was asked to submit, a copy of which anyone can have.

Consider this...

January 4, 2004

The Times - Picayune of New Orleans reported the case of John Raymond suing The Harvest (Assembly of God Church) – not for firing him but for the reasons given for the dismissal.

All I am contending for is that if push comes to shove it is better to fall back on the *Word of God* and not worldly books.

It is not hard to bring a law suit against a church. A violation of its own worldly Rules makes it all the easier to win a settlement in a worldly court of law.

All I am asking is that we be a people of one book, the *Bible* and appeal to it for all our faith and practices.

Open discussion with a consensus of opinion leading to a unity of hearts seems to be the biblical pattern.