The Seeds of Apostasy
1 Sam. 8:6-7

Introduction:

A. Israel was God’s chosen nation.
   1. God, alone, was her king.
   2. God used judges when needed.
   3. Israel rejected God’s order.
   4. Israel suffered consequences (vv. 10-18)
B. Israel’s mistakes serve as a warning to the church today (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-13)
C. The church (or kingdom) of Christ is God’s chosen nation today.
   1. Christ is the king.
   2. Church can reject God’s order, but not without consequences.
D. Israel’s demand for a king illustrates small seeds that can grow into great apostasies.

Discussion:

I. The Mishandling of Real Problems (vv. 1-5)
   A. God’s order was imperfectly executed
      1. A perfect plan imperfectly executed, better than imperfect plan.
      2. Needed to improve the execution, not abandon the plan.
   B. Abuse or neglect of God’s order often forms a pretext for apostasy.
      1. Poor singing is no excuse for instrumental music.
      2. Neglecting the work of the church is no excuse for human societies.
      3. Ineffective leadership is not excuse for usurpation of authority.
      4. Leadership Vacuum is no excuse for unscriptural leaders.
      5. Misapplication of Bible doctrine is no excuse for changing the doctrine.
   C. Human solutions are worse than the problem.

II. The Use of the World for a Standard (vv. 5, 20; cf. Rom. 12:1-2)
   A. Israel did not want to king to please God, but “that we also may be like all the nations.”
      1. Even if a king had been right, they wanted him for the wrong reasons.
      2. In effect, the nations became their God.
      3. King not wrong just because world had them, but God did not want one.
   B. When church lets the world become its standard, it is in trouble.
      1. Often do things that we may be like the denominations.
      2. A thing is not wrong simply because the denominations have it.
         a. Neither right nor wrong because denominations may have it.
         b. Right or wrong because of what God’s will is.
   C. Do not blindly accept or reject a practice in world – put it the test of God’s word.
      1. Many adopt the latest fashions and fads without question.
      2. Some reject modern things just because they are modern – mennonites.

III. The Rejection of Divine Authority (vv. 7, 19)
   A. No matter what God says, “We will have a king over us.”
   B. A contest between our will and God’s will.

IV. The Misunderstanding of Real Strength (v. 7, 19)
   A. A church’s real strength is not in numbers, dynamic leaders, facilities – but God’s favor.
   B. A strong church or strong Christian is one that obeys God.

Conclusion:

A. Departures from truth usually begin with small things that grow with time.
B. Let us avoid the mistakes that Israel made (restate briefly the major points)