

Intro to Church

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I See; Two Major Problems in the Church

Lack of Morality and Lack of Knowledge.

But today I want to talk about The Lack of Knowledge.

What I am seeing as a Missionary Teacher Unfortunately is; "people come to church and say amen." But don't really understand what God is saying, or they don't really believe what God has said! Someone correctly stated - the church is a mile wide but an inch deep!

1. Lack of Knowledge (Hosea 4:6)

People read this very casually, but it is really very profound! This is the real problem of the Church. Faith comes through Knowledge. You must know something to believe in it. Knowledge must be the foundation of Faith! Satan has destroyed mankind both physically and spiritually because man has not understood God! Man has lost the Fear of God! (Prov. 1:7)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because **thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee,** that **thou shalt be no priest to me:** seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

For I bear them record that **they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.** For they **being ignorant of God's righteousness,** and **going about to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. (Rom. 10:2,3)

Unless the LORD builds a house, They who build it labor in vain;
Unless the LORD guards a city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

(Salmo 127:1) NASB

But **some people have missed this whole point.** They have turned away from these things and **spend their time in meaningless discussions.** They want to be known as teachers of the law of Moses, but **they don't know what they are talking about, even though they speak so confidently.** **We know that the law is good when used correctly.** (1 Tim. 1:6-8) NLT

How is it that we obtain the true knowledge of God?

We get it by the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit)

Let us Examine what Paul tells us in his Letter to the Galatians

(Gal. 1:1) - The Apostle Paul heard God Speak!

Paul knew that God had sent him as an Apostle, likewise all who claim to be Christians should know what God has called them to be and do.

Paul, an apostle (**not sent from men nor through human agency,**
but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead).

(Gal. 1:1) NASB

(Gal. 1:6-10) - Perversion of the Gospel by Satan and Wicked Men

Notice how quickly the church has fallen into idolatry; The churches are full but when you talk to them only a few are really saved.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel not that there is another one, but **there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.** But **even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.** As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.** For **am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.** (Gal. 1:6-10) ESVS

(Gal. 1:11-17) - Warning; God Must Reveal Himself to Every Christian through the Holy Spirit

God reveals himself to every Christian, every Christian has a revelation of God. If you don't have a revelation from God, you are not saved. You can call yourself a Christian, clap your hands, give money to church and sing hallelujah, but you are not saved, and when you die you will be in Hell!

But I certify you, brethren, that **the gospel which was preached of me is not after man**. For **I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ**. For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure **I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it**: And **profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers**. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **To reveal his Son in me**, that I might preach him among the heathen; **immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood**: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. (Gal. 1:11-17)

Common Attributes of a Real Christian

* **Common Sense**:

Discern Good from Evil spiritually. I'm amazed at the condition of the Church.
“Wow to those who **call evil good**, and **good evil!**” (Isaias 5:20-25)

* **Discipline**:

“But **if you are without discipline**, of which **all have become partakers**, then **you are illegitimate children and not sons!**” (Heb. 12:5-14)

* **Good Work Ethic**

I'm reminded of all those people who followed Jesus for the bread and the fishes, and not really loved Him. (John 6:26,27)

For even when we were with you, **this we commanded you**, that **if any would not work, neither should he eat**. (2 Th. 3:7-13)

* **Blessing of Tithing and Offering**

I am convinced that this is God's way of Blessing His people. People don't understand that Tithing is a way of faith. People usually try it for a year or two, and if they don't see the blessing they want they quit and say it doesn't work. Faith is believing what God says is True, forever, not just a trial period.

Will a man rob God? Yet **ye have robbed me.** But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.** (Mal. 3:7-12)

Yes Sam, but that was old Testament: Examine what Jesus told them. Tithing started with Abraham to Melchizedek, and not the Jews.

“But woe to you Pharisees! For **you pay tithes of mint, rue, and every kind of garden herb,** and yet **you ignore justice and the love of God;** but these are the things you should have done **without neglecting the others.** (Luke 11:42)

*Here's something very important. It's not how much you give; it's what you give out of what you have! God wants quality not quantity. The heart is revealed in giving. And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. **Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.** And **he called his disciples to him and said to them,** “Truly, I say to you, **this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.**” (Mark 12:41-44)*

* **Integrity**

What is Moral Integrity? Moral integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching. To know what is right and wrong, and choose to do the right thing. Doing the right thing in spite of difficult circumstances and going against the most profitable things in life. It is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. People who have a strong sense of integrity are sadly a rare breed. However, there are still some people left in this world with integrity.

The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, **a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil.**

And **he still holds firm to his integrity**, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.” (Job 2:3) NASB

The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but **the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them**. (Prov. 11:3)

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than **he that is perverse in his lips**, and **is a fool**. (Prov. 19:1)

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
(Prov. 20:7)

* **Ministry**

We are all called to minister (Kings and Priests). You might not have been called to the 5 fold ministry, but you are responsible for the Great Commission. God gave everyone a talent (talents) in which you will be judged.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age**.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country **to receive for himself a kingdom and then return**. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, **‘Engage in business until I come.’** **But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him**, saying, **‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’** **When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business**. The first came before him, saying, **‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’** And he said to him, **‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’** And the second came, saying, **‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’** And he said to him, **‘And you are to be over five cities.’** Then another came, saying, **‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man**. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’

He said to him, **‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’** And he said to those who stood by, **‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’** And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ **‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’**” (Luke 19:12-27)

2. The Temple of the Lord Must be Kept Holy

This is something people don't seem to understand. If your temple is not clean, how can you minister to others? We are Ambassadors of the Most High God and we must act like it. Do not minister the Word of God if you are not living a holy life. Not only will you lose your life, but God will hold you responsible for all the other lost lives than followed you into perdition!

Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:20)

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (1 Cor. 3:16,17)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but **as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,** since it is written, **“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”** (1 Pet. 1:14-16)

What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.** (1 Cor. 6:19,20)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, 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, saith the Lord Almighty.

(2 Cor. 6:14-18)