

A Victorious Church in a Dark World

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Is Today's Church (as a whole) Ready for the Return of the Lord?

Study of Global Christianity (by Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary)

*There are over **45,000 christian denominations** around the world. Most do not agree with each other. This is a rather shocking statement considering what the Scriptures tell us:*

Endeavouring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God** and **Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:3-6)

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **ye all speak the same thing**, and that **there be no divisions among you**; but that ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**. (1 Cor. 1:10)

That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, **art in me**, and **I in thee**, that **they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me**. And the glory which thou gavest me **I have given them**; that **they may be one**, even **as we are one: I in them**, and **thou in me**, that **they may be made perfect in one**; and **that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me**.

(John 17:21-23)

Note; Going to Church Is Not Hearing What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches

*Attending Church is one thing but hearing what the Spirit is saying to the Church is quite another. You could go to Church all your life and never hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Someone has stated, you could live in a garage for 30 years but that does not make you a car. Yes, we need to fellowship with each other in Church, but the main purpose of Church is to hear what the Spirit (God) is speaking to the Church. If the Holy Spirit does not speak in Church, then going to Church is useless and a waste of time! Look what the Spirit says to all Churches in the Book of Revelation; **The Spirit Speaks Two Things over and over; Hear the Holy Spirit and Overcome**:*

He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches**;

To him that overcometh: (Rev. 2:7 Ephesus - v.11 Smyrna - v.17 Pergamum - v.29 Thyatira - Rev. 3:6 Sardis - v.13 Philadelphia - v.22 Laodicea):

*The Holy Spirit is called “**The Spirit of TRUTH**”; **so if we lie**, the Spirit will not operate in our lives. God will not tolerate clever deceptive lies when we try to use the scriptures incorrectly to get our own way in prayer. We must come to God with a pure heart and clean hands or else the Spirit will not operate in our lives. We must be honest before God about ourselves and our situation. This is one reason prayer does not get answered!*

Who may ascend onto the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? One who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to deceit And has not sworn deceitfully. He will receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face even Jacob. Selah. (Psa. 24:3-6) NASB

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

Understand this; the True Biblical Church is Very Small

*The True Church throughout the ages has always been very small. The Bible calls it a Remnant. (Is. 1:9; 10:21,22; Joel 2:32; Rom. 9:27): The Church was so small at times that in the days of Noah it was down to **eight!** (Gen. 7:1)*

For **where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.**
(Matt. 18:20) ESVS

When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:4) ESVS

Beloved, while **I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.** (Jude 3,4) NASB

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. (Matt. 10:37-40)

God is Perfect Love (Agape) of course He wants you to love people especially your family but, He demands to be first in a believers life. That means, if you have to choose between your family and God, you must choose God over your family. God can never take second place in a believers life. We cannot lie to the Holy Spirit, remember He is God and knows everything. We must be honest with Him and tell the Truth.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By **hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted**, and I should heal them. **But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**

(Matt. 13:14-16)

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.** (Rev. 3:17,18)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:1,2) ESVB

But the hour cometh, and now is, when **the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** (John 4:23,24)

*Worship and Praise are not the same; we Worship God for who He is, we Praise God for what He does. Some people go to Church to Praise Him, but they don't know what True Worship is, they clap their hands, sing the songs, lift their hands, but all this is external. They Praise God in body and soul, with their lips, their emotions, their soul, **Not their spirit!***

Do You Have the Ability to Hear What the Spirit is Saying?

*I don't believe the Bible because my parents believed it, I don't believe the Bible because great pastors told me it was True, I don't believe the Bible because it is the most popular Book in History, I believe the Bible because I heard the Holy Spirit tell me **It Is TRUE!** I don't need to be convinced by pastors, famous popular people, or intellectual scientists; I know the Bible is TRUE because God the Holy Spirit told me so.*

Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** (John 16:13-15)

What Else is the Spirit Telling Us?

The Holy Spirit is telling us that the Grace of God is Holy and not for sale, nor is it subject to change in order to please men.

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 4)

*The word lasciviousness does not mean license, in other words, the Grace of God does not give you the right to choose the way you want to live your life. You cannot continue in sin because the Grace of God will cover it. God's Grace will not permit you to live a lascivious lifestyle. This is not what the Grace of God is for! This is not the purpose of God, and it will never be the purpose of God! The Holy Spirit will never tell you something that is contrary to scripture, after all He wrote it (2 Pet. 1:20,21). So, if we sin, it's not the Holy Spirit doing it, it's our own selfish stupid desire, and we will suffer the consequences. **Grace does not deliver us in sin, Grace delivers us from sin.** Grace always frees us from sin. God's Grace requires us to live a holy life as a living sacrifice unto God.*

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:**

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1-4)

*In today's Church corrupt men have crept in turning the Grace of God into Lasciviousness (Jude 4). The reason why these false brethren get into the Church is because the Church is spiritually blind. It has allowed false teachers, false pastors, and false prophets to spread their clever lies because they themselves can't discern the TRUTH from a lie. When we receive the Truth of **The Faith** by the Holy Spirit we will immediately identify falsehood. If you can't tell false doctrine from **The Faith** you do not have the Spirit of Christ in you.*

Lastly, Lets Take a look at the End Time Church According to Paul;
This is the Church that is on Earth right before the coming of the Lord.
Keep in mind that Paul only writes to believers. Paul never addresses the world!

This know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God:** (2 Tim. 3:1-4)

In verse 5 Paul tells us why sin is going to be so rampant in the End Time Church!

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (The Holy Spirit):
from such turn away. (v. 5)

Notice this Church has a form of Godliness but denies the power of God! They have Church services, and worship nights but deny (reject) the power that could change their lives (The Holy Spirit). Only Christianity has an interest in Godliness, the world has no interest in Godliness. So Paul is talking about the Church here! It should not surprise us when we see people in the Church doing crazy Un-Biblical things.

And Finally; Look at the Second Part of Verse 5:

from such turn away: *what does that mean?*

It means to cut fellowship. We join ourselves to friends who cause us to sin against God, we join dead Churches where they're preaching false doctrine and the Holy Spirit is not present etc... Then, we wonder why our prayers are not answered.

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)

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: (2 John 10)