

# Things To Look For In A Church Sunday AM 03/03/19

## Introduction:

Recently I ran across an article giving ten warning signs of restaurants to avoid. 10. Dirty place - salt shakers all gummed up, not swept, etc, 9. Smells bad, 8. People who are not glad to see you. Don't say "Come back". The article had seven other points but unfortunately it required me to give some information and I just clicked out of it. Some of the things mentioned might have been superficial i.e. table cloths, a fancy foyer, etc. Those things don't make the food taste better but might add to the experience.

This got me to thinking about churches. I thought of some things to avoid but decided to approach this from a more positive direction. Here are some things to look for in a church. Again, there might be somethings we look for that might be superficial but might also say something about the overall attitude of the people there. So, here are somethings to look for and by implication somethings to avoid.

### I) Is the church "Bible Based"?

#### A) Some places may say they are based on the teachings of the Bible but are they really?

1. Is the Bible the center - the beginning and the end of its teachings. *1 Corinthians 2.1-2.*
  - a. Look at the number of times the phrase "preached Jesus" or something similar. *Acts 4.2; 8.12, 35, 9.27;17.18, 2 Corinthians 1.19.*
  - b. Used to hear prayers about hiding behind the cross of Christ.

## **B) This means**

1. No creed but the Bible, no book but the Bible-a lot of churches speak of following the Bible but will have a statement of belief on the wall that is different than the Bible.
2. No law but love, no name but the divine.
  - a. The law of Christ is the law of love - *1 John 5.3*. We love God therefore we worship Him only, we love Christ, we love our fellowman, etc.
  - b. No name but the divine - divine names in the Bible-Christian, *Acts 11.26; 26.28; 1 Peter 4.16*. Saints and disciples were also used in the Bible.
  - c. The divine name of Christ's church is in the Bible - *Romans 16.16* "churches of Christ" , *1 Corinthians 1.2* "church of God", *Hebrews 12.23* "church of the firstborn"
3. Jesus is the founder and Savior of His body, His church. *1 Corinthians 3.11. Ephesians 5*.
  - a. Many churches were founded by someone else.
  - b. Which means they are not based on Jesus and His word, the Bible.

## **C) A Bible based church will**

1. Read the word of God, *2 Timothy 3.16-17*.
2. Will seek to properly apply the word of God, *2 Timothy 2.15*

3. Will use the Bible as its source of authority and not go beyond that word, *1 Corinthians 4.6*.

## II) Is Their Worship Bible Based?

### A) **Worship in some places have taken on a different tone and meaning than in the Bible.**

1. Entertainment and excitement rules the day in some places.
2. Designed to please the audience.

### B) **What is Bible based worship?**

1. Singing with the heart, understanding, in praise of God, *Ephesians 5.19; Colossians 3.16*.
  - a. Excludes instrumental music - the church in the first century did not have pianos, organs, choirs, and yet they managed to praise God.
  - b. The songs are spiritual in nature - sung with the heart, understanding.
2. Prayers - directed toward God and in the name of Jesus Christ, *Matthew 6.9; Romans 8.34*
3. Giving on the first day of the week as we have prospered, *1 Corinthians 16.1; 2 Cor. 8 & 9*.
4. Observing the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, *1 Corinthians 11.24-26 Acts 20.7*.
5. Preaching is Bible based, *2 Timothy 4.2*.

## III) Preaches and Practices Salvation in Jesus Christ

### A) **Some places separate salvation from Christ and His church.**

1. The church is composed of the saved, *Acts 2.47*
2. The saved are those whose sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ, *Ephesians 1.7; Acts 22.16.*

**B) How or when does this occur?**

1. Not before faith, *John 8.24.*
2. Not before one repents of their sins, *Luke 13.3.*
3. Not before one confesses Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, *Acts 8.37*
4. Not before one is baptized into Christ, *Galatians 3.27.*

**Conclusion:**

There is more that I could say but make sure the church you are a member of is the one founded by Christ, bound by the word of God, and is holding to that word.