

THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED

Jeremiah 2:13; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Introduction: It seems that God's people have always had a tendency to start out strong but after a while, wander off and become entangled in the affairs of the world. Consider how the Church is so different today from its beginning. Where is the power of the Church as it once had? Where is the unity the Church once had? Where is the influence the Church once had, etc.? In our own generation we have seen changes occur within our own Churches that have dampened the work of the Holy Spirit and changed the main emphasis of the Church's purpose. What has happened to our Churches?

I. THE CHURCH HAS REPLACED GOD'S DIRECTIVES WITH COMPROMISE

1. The Church has changed by compromising with the world. "We don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, so we changed our music, our worship style, our teaching materials, our sermons, our method of sermon delivery, etc."
- *1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4*
2. The Church has compromised with sin. What God calls sin, the Church no longer calls sin. The Church has redefined "sin" and allows once forbidden things to go uncorrected.
 - There are practicing homosexual Church members and even pastors who are accepted.
 - There is NO Church discipline whatsoever anymore.- *Isaiah 5:20*
3. The Church has compromised correct Bible Doctrine. How this has changed through the years.
 - What the Bible teaches about salvation, baptism, Church membership, etc. has been changed to fit the "whims" of some who didn't want to make any "changes" to their wants.
 - Look around at the different "churches." Look at their "beliefs" and "doctrines." Every Church seems to see Bible doctrines differently and each one thinks it is right and the others are wrong.- *TEXT*

II. THE CHURCH HAS BECOME COMPLACENT INSTEAD OF BEING EXCITED

1. The first "Church" members looked for the return of the Lord Jesus every day.
 - Their pastors preached about the return of the Lord Jesus regularly.
 - The members talked about it all the time.- *Matthew 24:42; 25:13; Mark 13:34-37; Luke 21:25-28; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
 - They were a praying Church. *Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:23-31*
 - They were a witnessing Church. *Acts 2:5-7; 13:1-5*
2. There are few, if any Churches today that could be called "excited" about the Lord's return.
 - Once or twice a year the pastor may preach a message about the Lord's return.
 - How many Churches today involve their members in daily praying and witnessing?

3. Churches of today are set in their ways and everybody knows what the order of service will be for every Sunday - the same as last Sunday. Nothing changes, there is no atmosphere of expectancy, no reason to be excited about being a member of the Church.

III. THE CHURCH IS FILLED WITH CONFUSION INSTEAD OF CONTENTMENT

1. Ask any Church member what his/her Church believes and it is doubtful that he/she can tell you.
 - Churches today are unsure as to what to believe or what they do believe.
 - Face it, Churches cannot witness for they don't know what to witness about!
 - Christians don't know what to tell unbelievers for they are not sure themselves.
 - ***John 7:17***
2. Churches don't understand their role in God's plan for the human race. They meet, they have programs and they have "worship" services, but don't know why.
 - God has a plan for the Church and the Church is to fulfill it's role in God's plan, but sadly, most Churches have little, if any idea what they are supposed to be doing. They just meet.
 - ***Luke 21:25-26***
3. Many Churches are confused about salvation and being ready to stand before the Lord.
 - Some believe that one has to do this and that plus believe in Jesus.
 - Some believe that one can lose his/her salvation if he/she sins.
 - Some believe that one has to be baptized to finalize salvation.
 - Some believe that sprinkling is as good as being submerged.
 - Some believe that when they die, there's nothing until the Lord returns for their body.
 - There is much confusion within Churches today about what Jesus came to do and did on the cross.
 - ***2 Timothy 4:6-8***

CONCLUSION:

1. Truly the Church of today is nothing like the early Church.
2. The Church of today has compromised itself to the point that anybody and anything is accepted.
3. The Church of today has become so complacent and focused only on itself that there is nothing exciting about being a Church member or attending any of the Church services.
4. The Church of today is far doctrinally from the early Church and has added to and taken away from God's Word so that seldom is the entire, whole TRUTH known by any one Church.
5. The Church needs to return to God's Word, God's Holy Spirit, God's Way, God's Purpose and get the world out.