

## THE CHURCH IS DECLINING

### Romans 6:11-20

**Introduction:** For some reason it is thought by people that a person can "lead two lives." A person can be a Christian and continue to live as he/she always did before becoming a Christian. Many seem to be living such lives. Why is it that on the average 25% of a church membership will be in a worship service on any given Lord's Day? Why is it that 20% of a church membership give 80% of the income? Why is it that even less than 20% are willing to serve their church family in some capacity? It is impossible to live as the Lord wants and to live life by the laws of the old sin nature. Church members are bringing into the Church their worldly ways of life and therefore the Church is no longer a separate place but has become another ordinary place. The Church has already declined in our generation to the point that it is far, very far from what it started out to be and is supposed to be.

### I. ONE REASON FOR THE CHURCH DECLINE IS THAT SATAN IS VERY AGGRESSIVE

1. Believe it or not, Satan is a real being, created by God, given superior knowledge to all else that God created.
2. Satan never rests and is aggressive, "*...like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour...*" says God's Word. Satan hates God and anything that God is involved in.
3. Satan is behind every movement against Christianity using whatever and whomever he can to bring harm, destruction and an end to any Christian movement whatsoever.

### II. THE CHURCH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY WORLDLY

1. The Church now compromises with the world, not wanting to hurt any feelings, wanting to "blend" in and be "accepted" by all, even those who are enemies to the Lord Jesus.
  - The pastors who remain loyal and true to their calling are often rebuked and scolded by the church members for being "too harsh, too judgmental" and should preach less harshly.
  - More and more congregations are compromising with the world to gain its friendship and sadly, pastors are joining their congregations in compromise. Wanting to draw any and all into the "worship" services, music has been changed to fit the styles of the world, and services have become productions instead of times of worship. Messages have been changed from God's Word to words that please and do not question nor upset.
2. Christians need to understand and remember that anytime God's Word, the Gospel, is preached somebody is going to be offended for it is a stumbling block, a rock of offense to those who do not know nor love the Lord Jesus.
3. A worship service is for CHRISTIANS!!!! God's family coming together to bow before Him and give Him thanks. It is NOT a time for a community reunion or entertainment ....

### **III. INDIFFERENCE HAS BECOME PREVALENT IN TODAY'S CHURCHES**

1. It is getting harder and harder for the preaching of God's Word to bring change in people.
  - People today seem to have a "form" of godliness, but that's all. There is no power, there is no desire to do anything for the Lord.
  - People don't want their "church life" interfering with their daily lives.
2. It is getting more difficult to get people ("Christians") to take a stand for God and God's ways.
  - People today don't necessarily oppose (publicly) God's programs, nor do they make open, public statements in favor of things they do which are not Godly, but simply stand/sit quietly, as unconcerned, not willing to take a public stand for God.

### **IV. MOST OF GOD'S CHURCHES OF TODAY ARE SPIRITUALLY DEFEATED**

1. Face it! Church members are slaves to their worldly habits.
  - They are but puppets of their sinful desires with an insatiable appetite for worldly things.
2. Church members/Christians have been poisoned by jealousy, retaining petty gripes, grievances, have unforgiving attitudes, even over things that happened years ago.
3. God's Church needs to have revival and to have the Holy Spirit bring back the Church as it is supposed to be.  
*"...Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh..."*

### **V. MOST CHURCH MEMBERS/CHRISTIANS DO NOT WITNESS**

1. Every Christian/Church member should be able to say, "I have witnessed, I have prayed, I have cried over somebody lost that I know."
2. Christians are not saved to just sit on a pew now and then, but are saved to be a means through which the Holy Spirit can reach out to others.
  - Christian, you and others like you are ALL that Jesus has to minister in His place.
3. *"No man careth for my soul..."* cried David when king Saul was chasing him. Are there people you know crying that same cry about their soul?

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus said that in the "last days" people would forsake Him, leave His Church, ignore their duty as Christians. Does our time look like the time Jesus was speaking of?
2. If YOU are a Christian, then you are also a Church member and it is far past time to stop "playing church" and get right with your Lord and return to what you are supposed to be doing for Him.
3. Pastors, Church leaders, your Church is not some entertainment center, is a place of WORSHIP!