

THE RIGHT KIND OF CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 1:6-9

Introduction: Everybody copies something from somebody else at one time or other, such as hair styles, dress styles, speech patterns, body movements. Many have "mentors," a person who is like one wants to be, so that person is imitated and copied after. We imitate, copy after each other because there is something that we like and don't have, so we try to be like the one we admire. "Role models" are what they are called in some avenues of thought.

Our churches do the same thing. Churches copy building styles, doctrines, worship services, dress codes, and anything that another Church is doing that seems to attract people. Churches have become in a sense like a certain category of worms. They follow each other no matter where the head worm goes, in a circle, straight line, up a tree or down a hole. Blindly, they follow each other even into destruction and death.

Churches have a role model, an example, a mentor and the Thessalonian Church followed the right models - God and Paul. Word got around and others began to copy the Thessalonian Church. It was indeed the right kind of Church.

What/who is the model for today's Churches? Who obeys the Sermon on the Mount? Who obeys the Corinthian letter dealing with marriage, suing one another, and the Lord's Supper? Who keeps God's commandments? Just how much does Jesus have to do with our Churches today? Think about it!

I. IN THE RIGHT KIND OF CHURCH:

1. The Bible decides all matters of the Church.
 - Within the pages of the Bible are the answers to every situation a Christian and the Church may possibly encounter.
 - Any situation that arises within a Church is to be answered by the Word of God only.
2. The Holy Spirit is in charge.
 - The average Church of today doesn't need the Holy Spirit for there are committees and the Church staff.
 - Some Churches "say" they want a revival, but the Holy Spirit would have to be in charge and He would be running things and most people and Churches don't want that, so they don't really want a God-sent revival.
3. The Church needs to know exactly why it exists in the first place.
 - Very few Churches even know why they are in existence or was started in the first place.
 - The Church was started from Heaven for the purpose for God's Heavenly Family living here on earth to continue the work started by it's founder Jesus Christ.

II. THE CHURCH IS TO WORSHIP

1. True worship is separating one's self from the earthly things that surround him/her and focusing on the Heavenly, spiritual things.

2. Most Churches today call what they do "worship" but it is far from what is true worship. The Churches seem to be converted to the ways of the world instead of the ways of God.
3. If the Church wants God's blessings, then it is going to have to do things God's way for a change.

III. THE CHURCH IS TO WITNESS

1. A witness is someone who knows "first hand" what he/she is talking about. Who does the witnessing in the average Church?
2. Every Christian is to be a witness for every Christian has experienced first hand the way of salvation and the saving grace of God and has been indwelt with the Holy Spirit.

IV. THE CHURCH IS TO WORK

1. The Church is to do good works. Dropping a dollar into the offering plate is not good works. What did Jesus go around doing? Who did He help the most? What Jesus did, that is what the Church is to be doing.
2. How does the Church go about doing good works like Jesus did? First by praying, then by giving. When the Christian stands before the Lord some day, what he/she did for Him, and in His name will be the only thing brought up for nothing else will matter then.

CONCLUSION:

1. Churches need to change.
 - Emotions run for only so long and then routine sets back in for permanent change has not happened.
 - Churches want to be blessed by God but on their own terms, refusing to do what they are supposed to be doing.
2. The average Church of today is organized, kept up, supported, but lifeless.
3. When a Church is as it should be, there will be no need for special programs, gimmicks to get its members attending, visiting and witnessing. People will want to come even those not invited.
4. Do you want your Church to be as God wants it to be? It's up to you!