

WHY CRITICIZE THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 5:25-27

Introduction: All people criticize something or someone. That fact seems to be part of human nature. It is doubly sad when a christian criticizes his/her own church or any church and it happens every day. True, not everybody in the church acts "christian" all the time. True, feelings sometimes get hurt. True, some church leaders are not as considerate as they could be, and so on. It is not surprising that people who are not members of a church might criticize but when a "christian" criticizes a church, it shows a lack of respect, lack of appreciation, lack of love, lack of being "right" with God, selfishness and brings disgrace to Jesus, for the church is His body. One other thing it shows and that is ignorance of what the church has been, is and will be.

I. THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

1. The Church is built upon the person of Jesus Christ. *"...upon this rock I will build MY church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it..." (Matthew 16:18)*
2. It is built upon the character, the personality of Jesus Christ, not the pastor, the deacons, or any other human being. Completely upon Jesus Christ only.
3. Jesus' Church has stood over 2,000 years of all that the world and the devil could throw against it: persecutions, storms, **AND IT STILL STANDS!** It is built upon the "rock" Jesus Christ.

II. THE CHURCH IS RIGHT IN IT'S MEMBERSHIP

1. The "church" is not just a building, not just an organization, not just an institution, it is alive.
 - The church is living people, believers in Jesus Christ who have been baptized to show that belief and none have been turned away who have believed in Jesus Christ.
2. Right in Membership, but not perfect members. Every human makes mistakes, sins, falls short, even believers (christians), but none are cast out, NEVER! All are given another chance, then another, then another, 70 times 7 and even more.
 - Criticizing people see church members acting like they do sometimes and decide the church is full of hypocrites.
 - Compare 100 non christians with 100 christians in life situations and when everything is finalized and added up, the christians will far "outshine" the non christian in any field of doing what is right.

III. THE CHURCH IS BEHIND EVERYTHING GOOD IN CIVILIZATION

1. The church started education in countless countries.
 - It has stood against ignorance, superstition and has founded the majority of colleges

and universities in America. Some of the greatest teachers and leaders of this country came from church-started schools.

2. The church has always stood against wrong.
 - It has stood for religious liberty, man's right to follow God's will. Women, children, aged, and sick, all are better off, just compare their condition in any other country.
3. Wherever a church was started, soon that place began to grow and became "tame."
4. Civilization always follows when Christ's church is there.

IV. THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH IS RIGHT

1. The church offers the message of hope and redemption, Jesus Christ is offered to the world.
 - Only Jesus Christ can bring about the change of life and heart that this world so desperately needs. Not any teachings of man, but the direct Words from God.
2. The church offers the message of hope and redemption to every age, led by men and women who love the Lord Jesus and are devoted to helping others learn God's Word.
3. The church offers the message of hope and redemption through music in hymns and songs of praise and worship. Music with words that tell of God's Love, and what Jesus has done and what Jesus wants Christians to do.
4. The church helps start other churches and missions all over the world as well as in their own neighborhoods and surrounding towns.
5. The message of the church is to offer the truth about Jesus Christ in as many ways as it can to as many people as it can, wherever they may be.

CONCLUSION:

1. Any Christian who criticizes the church is one unhappy person and is out of God's will.
2. The church is the "body" of Jesus Christ. So how should it be treated?
3. If you are a Christian, be busy in your church, for the Lord Jesus has something for you to do for Him that nobody else can do.
4. Pray for your church, be faithful to your church, be involved in your church, tell others about your church, and take others to your church.
5. The church was here before the critics were and will be here after they are gone, don't be one of them.