

The Simple Truth Series #23

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD



AND THE WORLD IN THE CHURCH

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'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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1.

The Church in the world

In the Bible, the word rendered Church is translated from the Greek word Ekklesia, which means, a gathering, or an assembly. It comes from two Greek roots *ek*, 'out of,' and *kaleo*, 'to call.' It is an assembly of individuals who have been personally called out of the world, by Jesus Christ to ***"Follow me."*** It is also the composite of every person whom Jesus Christ has personally revealed Himself to, and called, beginning with His disciples, and has continued unbroken up to this day. It is not a building, it is the body of believers upon this earth, known as the 'Body of Christ.' ***'And he is the head of the body, the church.'*** (Colossians 1:18).

As the Lord Jesus stated in John 6:37, ***"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me."*** And in John 6:44, ***"No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him."*** No man can make anyone else a member of the Body of Christ, or take away their membership in it, and no one can come to Him voluntarily. We see that when a Scribe came to Him, as recorded in Matthew 8:18-20. The scribe proudly stated, ***"I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest."*** But the Lord revealed to him what lay ahead for those who would follow Him, ***"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."*** The Scribe seemed to believe a natural man could live the Christian life, without being born again. But it wasn't a life of peace and plenty, and not the life anyone could choose to live voluntarily, because it was a life of hardship, even peril, as St Paul related in 1 Corinthians 4:11-13, ***'Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.'***

No one can become a Christian because their Father or Mother was a Christian. It must be as it was, when Paul and Barnabus preached at Antioch, and we are told, ***'As many as were ordained to eternal life believed.'*** (Acts 13:48). Only God's elect can be saved, as we see in Revelation 20:15, after the Judgement when, ***'whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.'***

Those whom the Lord Jesus calls are reminded to, ***'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the***

pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.' (1 John 2:15-16).

The 'world' is everything which was inspired by Satan, the Serpent's Seed, and the 'natural man.' It is all of those things which were not a part of the original creation which the LORD God looked upon and pronounced to be '**very good.**' (Genesis 1:31).

The Serpent's Seed have no desire for the things of God, though they are religious, because they have a spirit. Their desire is for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

When a person becomes a Christian, there is a new birth and a new creature is born, a Godly creature. God's people desire the things of God, and are called to live a life separated from the world, as Abraham was, who passed through the world as a pilgrim and stranger, '**seeking a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**' (Hebrews 11:10). We are to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world.

2.

The world in the Church

No one should be in a Church, unless the Lord has personally revealed Himself to them, as He did to St Paul, on his way to Damascus; and they have surrendered and devoted their lives totally to Him. When a group of Godly people gather, it attracts the Lord's Presence, and if a sinner walks into that atmosphere, they will feel conviction for their sins, and out of place, which is the Lord's way of persuading them to make the sin right, which separates them from Himself. That is as 'Church' *should* be.

The real problems begin in the Church, when the unconverted enter it, and make themselves at home; because they bring with them the world's values, the world's attitudes, and the world's unbelief. '**The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**' (1 Corinthians 2:14). That was St Paul's discernment of the unconverted, they cannot receive Spiritual things, because they are foolishness to them. So, what will they do? Because they cannot *receive* spiritual truths, they will *question* them, and *doubt* them; which is the opposite to what the spiritually minded will do.

Unfortunately, whole generations of unconverted 'church goers' have joined churches, because of the teachings of Robert Schuller, and Bill Hybels. As it has been said, Robert Schuller's Church Growth Movement taught that the key to growing

'churches' was not better theology, it was better marketing. Find out what the 'unchurched' people in your community want, and give it to them. Remove the barriers and make 'church' comfortable for them.

Bill Hybel's idea was much the same. If you give the unbelievers what satisfies them in the world, it will satisfy them in 'church' and they will stay. So, out went the pews, to be replaced with Movie Theatre seats. Out went the Pulpit, to be replaced by a stage. Out went the Hymn books, to be replaced by a Band playing the same music the world plays, but with 'Christian' words. All preaching had to be positive and based around the theme of, 'Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.' No more **'Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'** No! No! No! People are accepted as they are, warts and sins and unbelief and all.

That was many years ago, and the seeker-sensitive movement has evolved to include massive light shows and everything else the world has to offer. As is often said of these 'churches,' Church is no longer Sunday morning, Church is Saturday night now. It's the deafening Club Music, with a soft-serve Sermon, and jingle all the way...to the bank.

Their Jesus isn't the guy who plaited a whip and chased the money changers from the Temple, scarring their faces and arms with red lacerations. Their Jesus is the smiley guy, telling jokes in the corner, just one of the boys. But, if a sinner can walk into a Church and feel at home, then God is not present, and it is not a Church, it is only a religious club.

3.

There is only one Church

It is true, there is, and has only ever been, *one* Church, the Body of Jesus Christ. It is composed of all those whose names were written in the Book of Life of the Lamb, before the foundation of the world. There is no such thing within the Plan of God as a 'Baptist Church,' 'Methodist Church,' 'Apostolic Church,' 'Elim Church,' 'Assembly of God Church,' or the thousands of others. To put a man-made name before the word Church, is blasphemy. They are all merely religious clubs, which were *begun* without the Lord, and *exist* without Him.

Denominational 'Churches' have a membership, which anyone can join, as long as they agree with the tenets of the particular 'Church.' No one joins the Body of Christ, either you were a part of it *before* the foundation of the world, or you will *never* be a part of it.

These Denominational 'Churches' allow their members to do things which the Bible and the Lord condemn, and still be a faithful member of the denomination.

They allow their members to divorce and remarry, contrary to the Scriptures. ***'Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.'*** (Luke 16:18).

They allow women to be 'Pastors,' Worship leaders, and everything else a man is called to be, contrary to the Word of God. ***'But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.'*** (1 Timothy 2:12). ***'Let your women keep silent in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for a woman to speak in the church.'*** (1 Corinthians 14:34-35). Anytime a woman has authority over a man she is outside of the Will of God, and whenever a woman stands behind a pulpit, she is outside of the Will and Plan of God, and she goes there *without* Him.

Why do denominations tolerate this? Because unconverted 'Church' members, are content with unconverted 'Pastors.' ***'They are of the world therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.'*** (1 John 4:5). The spiritually illiterate remain spiritual toddlers for their whole lives. Instead of believing the Bible and taking God at His Word, they view Christianity through their worldly attitudes and unbelief.

'They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' (Mark 16:18). That is God's provision for His people, but the unconverted trust Doctors and Hospitals more than they trust God. ***'But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.'*** (Philippians 4:19). Again, that is God's provision for His people, but again, the unconverted trust Banks and other worldly institutions, more than they trust God. The Godly don't trust the Lord because He's good to them, He's good to them *because* they trust Him.

4.

The Church going *into* the world

'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall

speaking with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' (Mark 16:15-18).

The Church was commissioned to take a supernatural Ministry into the world, to search for God's lost sheep. They are promised supernatural protection, and the Lord goes with them, as is witnessed in verse 20, *'And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.'*

That commission is still being fulfilled by the Church, and the Lord still goes with them confirming His Word, with signs following. *'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.'* (John 10:27). When they *'preach everywhere'* the Lord's wandering sheep recognise His voice in His Word, and they seek and follow Him. *'He that is of God heareth God's words.'* (John 8:47). Most of the hearers reject the call, because it isn't for them, and *'he that believeth not shall be damned.'*

5.

Wolves in the sheepfold

'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.' (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Before the return of Jesus Christ, there would come a 'falling away' from true Christianity, Godly and Scriptural, to a false Christianity, ungodly, and unscriptural.

In 2 Timothy 3, we are again warned about events to happen, *'In the last days.'* (3:1). We are told, *'Men shall be.'* (3:2). *'Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.'* (3:4). Paul is not talking about the unbelievers here, because it is known and taken for granted, that they are *naturally* lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. He is talking about supposed 'Believers,' who are really just make-believers. They are obviously in 'Churches,' professing Christianity, but they love pleasures more than God. *'Having a form of Godliness, (They go to 'Church'). but denying the power thereof.'* (3:5). They don't really believe the Lord will do what He promised He will do, and we are warned, *'From such turn away.'* (3:5). The Lord does not go with them, so professing Believers should not follow them either.

'Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.' (3:13). This is evident in the Faith-seed Movement, the New Apostolic Reformation,

and Churches polluted by the Indian 'Kundalini spirit' a demonic presence, which the deceived believe is the Holy Spirit.

The 'Seed-faith Movement' began with Oral Roberts back in the 1960's, and has spawned a whole industry of adherents today, who have made it big business, and made the 'Church' a den of thieves once again. Judas only made 30 pieces of silver from selling Jesus, those who sell Him today are all multi-millionaires. At the height of his 'business' Kenneth Copeland was raking in \$300 million a year, from the deceived, who believed they were supporting God, by sending money to Copeland, to finance his 'false Gospel.'

The Lord Jesus promised, ***"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."*** (Matthew 21:22). That is the Lord's *provision* for the *needs* of His people. The only proviso attached is ***'believing.'*** If you trust the Lord to do anything for you, He promises He will. But Oral Roberts added to that, by saying that you have to plant a Faith-seed, by giving money to him, and the Lord will reward you, by answering your prayer.

And so, all Preachers of the Seed-faith Movement today, tell you that if you want them to pray and intercede to God for you for anything, you need to plant a 'faith-seed,' by giving them money. The bigger the need, the bigger the 'seed' you must plant of course. This does not come from God, it comes from greed. They are deceiving, and you are being deceived.

At one time Kenneth Copeland asked people to send him money, so he could buy a \$65 million Gulf Stream jet. So why didn't he just practice what he preaches and give a million dollar 'Faith-seed' to someone else, and trust the Lord to give him a jet? Because the 'Seed-faith' ploy isn't about people having their prayers answered, and their needs met, it's all about conning them into handing their cash over. Millions were sent to 'help' him buy his jet, but then a wealthy man bought one for him outright. Creflo A Dollar asked for the same thing. Scripture was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and it is being fulfilled again, when these Judases fly their private jets.

These two are not alone, there are hundreds of them. Benny Hinn, Paula White, Kathryn Krick, Joyce Meyer, the list goes on and on for pages. Television is entertainment, it is not Christianity, and Televangelists are entertainers, they are not a part of the Body of Christ, this is all taking place outside of Christianity. These people are all, ***'Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God,'*** but they need to con you out of your money, to fund their lavish worldly lifestyles. If you see it on television, it is false.

You can tell it's entertainment, when one woman wears a pink clown wig.

The 'Kundalini' spirit was introduced to 'Christianity' by Rodney Howard Browne, at the Toronto Airport Church's 'laughing revival' and has spread to infect half the 'Churches' on earth. It is a demon which is common in Indian spiritual practices, and is now deceiving those who receive and spread it, into spiritualistic, and New Age teachings. All of the New Apostolic Reformation adherents are proponents of it, and all of the so-called 'prophets' in the NAR are false prophets, and they are **'deceiving, and being deceived.'** Anyone who cares to look will find all the information they need to understand what is happening, on You tube. **'Come out of her, my people.'** (Revelation 18:4).

6.

The Church Triumphant over the world

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

'We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.' (Acts 14:22).

This world is not our home, we pass through it as pilgrims and strangers, not seeking the world's approval, nor applause, because our lot is to be harassed here, in the world the Serpent's descendants have made for themselves.

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24:24). Can the Lord's elect be deceived? No, according to the previous statement; but they can accept a wrong teaching, for a season; probably dazzled by the 'supernatural' element of it, though they would have questions, and finally reject it as false.

And **'false prophets?'** Nearly every one of the NAR leaders, and Televangelists label themselves as a 'prophet,' though not a single one has the credentials or authority of a prophet. They all make prophecies which never come to pass (False prophecies). They are, every single one, **'false prophets,'** fulfilling this Scripture, which the Lord spoke of *them* personally.

In Hebrews 11:36-38, we are told of the Old Testament Saints, ***'And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they***

wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy).' Contrast that with the Televangelists, who live in vast mansions, wear designer clothes, own the best of everything, stay in five and six figure Hotel rooms, and many travel in private jets. This world was not worthy to have the Old Testament Saints set their feet upon it, because God has a better home for them; but these Televangelists and NAR deceivers, are at home here, because it is the *only* home they will ever have.

Many of these people also label themselves as 'Apostles,' such as 'Apostle' Kathryn Krick, believing an 'Apostle' is several steps up the ladder from the hoi polloi, and someone all others are to grovel before. But, Apostle means, 'One sent,' which is what we know today as Missionaries.

The Lord said, *"Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:25-28). The greatest among us are always known by their humility, as the Lord was, not by their pride. They wander about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; not draped in Chanel and Gucci, and full of the *'pride of life.'*

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