

THE NECESSITY OF A CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIFE

Reid Temple AME Church
11400 Glenn Dale Blvd
Glenn Dale, Maryland
Pastor Dr. Lee P. Washington

CHARGE AGAINST THE CHURCH

- ⊙ Old saying, churches are full of hypocrites. Professed believers don't live like the Lord.
- ⊙ Prostitutes, thieves, and drug dealers behave better than believers.
- ⊙ Excuse to avoid going to church and coming face to face with one's own sin.
- ⊙ Behavior referred to is how people in church used to behave before they were saved.

EXTERNAL RULES IMPRISON BELIEVERS

- ⦿ We don't need any more lists of laws coming from outside the bible to imprison believers and put them on spiritual depressing or false guilt trips.
- ⦿ Far too often, people teaching or preaching on the subject of practical behavior fall into cultural patterns prohibiting activities the bible leaves in the area of personal judgment and creating a false standard.

LEGALISM

- ⦿ Legalism is the adding of human requirements to the gospel.
- ⦿ Legalism is a grace killing, and soul chilling thing.
- ⦿ Many today teach standards of behavior that are far below those the bible exhorts us to strive for and what the bible calls sin.
- ⦿ The bible provides basic guidelines for behavior found in the bible.

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN OUR LIVES

- ◉ 40 days after His resurrection, our Lord carried out a vigorous ministry among His disciples.
- ◉ He gave them a challenge and it was in the Great Commission. Mt. 28:18-20.
- ◉ Jesus says, Make Disciples and teach them to obey.
- ◉ These activities should match the activities of our Church?

EFFECTS OF EVANGELISM

- ⊙ Our churches grow numerically, people profess salvation and live a born again lifestyle.
- ⊙ What is the dramatic effect on society? What have we wrought by our efforts of evangelism?
- ⊙ The goal of our evangelism is not to produce church members or get them to adopt a surface lifestyle change.

GOAL OF THE CHURCH

- ⦿ The goal of every church should be make disciples who are learning to follow Christ.
- ⦿ A disciple is not one who just makes religious gestures with some outward lifestyle changes.
- ⦿ A disciples is not one who wears dark clothing and has a somber facial expression.
- ⦿ The goal is an inward change of heart, repentance, and faith, it goes from New birth and grows into discipleship inside and out.

INSIDE OUT TRANSFORMATION

- ⊙ Inside out transformation does not occur by some sort of cosmic auto pilot.
- ⊙ Inside out transformation begins with being added to the church. Acts 2:47.
- ⊙ Inside out transformation involves teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.
- ⊙ You can't have inside out transformation apart from fellowship with believers.

SEEKING A CHURCH TO GROW

- ⦿ Discipleship occurs in the local church. The believer needs a church that is active in teaching new believers.
- ⦿ A new believer shouldn't choose a church based on worship style, or friendly atmosphere or of the same socioeconomic class and ethnic group.
- ⦿ Look for a church that is faithful to the basic teachings of the bible and has a solid teaching ministry.

ATTITUDE OF DISCIPLESHIP

- ⦿ We need to keep constantly in our mind that we are undergoing a process of transformation.
- ⦿ There is a ministry that God is doing within us in process.
- ⦿ For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
- ⦿ The omnipotent sovereign God is working in our lives to accomplish His will

BASIC SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIOR

- ⊙ People tend to ignore and dodge the plain meaning of the bible against the person pointing out the problem.
- ⊙ If we are in a situation of habitual rebellion and sin, and are a professing Christian shooting the messenger doesn't solve the problem.
- ⊙ Matthew 7:1-5

DON'T JUDGE ME

- ⊙ We need to know how to judge properly with the right attitude so we can get beyond it is all between me and God.
- ⊙ We are not to judge in the sense of self-righteous condemnation
- ⊙ As believers we have an obligation to confront open sin, prayerfully, lovingly humble.
- ⊙ Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20.

JUDGMENT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- ⊙ 1 Cor. 5 and 6 the church was not taking care of business by judging an openly rebellious believer.
- ⊙ We are to do as Jesus told us in John 7:24 and judge righteous judgment.
- ⊙ Professing Christians are not independent actors.
- ⊙ Once we are past the don't judge syndrome we have to realize the bible has instructions for how Christians are to behave.

BELIEVERS PERSONAL VALUES

- ⦿ A believer's personal values are not for him or her to decide the bible tells us what they should be.
- ⦿ We need to recognize the continuing influence of sin in our lives and the necessity to combat sin in our lives with God's help.
- ⦿ Believers in Christ should have a respect for human life because God is the author of life.

RESPECT FOR DIGNITY

- ◉ We should have the dignity of humanity in general and individuals, personal needs, desires, and material possessions.
- ◉ God created us in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- ◉ Christians should exercise personal responsibility and take our lives with willingness to support ourselves by honest means.

GOD'S RULES AND SEXUALITY

- ⦿ One of the hottest issues today for believers is probably submission to God's rules regarding legitimate sexual activity.
- ⦿ Bible teaches that same-sex relations, adultery, premarital sex, incest are wrong behaviors and are not accepted by Christian believers in their own lives.
- ⦿ We are not live that way ourselves, or tolerate that kind of behavior in a congregation or approve it in the lives of others.

LIFESTYLES CONTRARY TO GOD'S LAWS

- ⊙ 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- ⊙ 1 Cor. 6:18-20
- ⊙ Rom. 1:25-27
- ⊙ 1 Cor. 6:10

LESSON SUMMARY

- ⦿ The charge against the church is that professed believers don't live like the Lord
- ⦿ Legalism is the adding of human requirements to the gospel.
- ⦿ The church is suppose to impact the society with the gospel.
- ⦿ The goal of every church should be to make disciples.
- ⦿ Inside out transformation begins with being added to the church.
- ⦿ We need to know how to judge properly with the right attitude so we can get beyond it is all between me and God.

