

Church - Are You Awake?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Is the church today doing the will of God? I mean seriously, are the things that go on in many of the churches anywhere near what the Lord wants the church to do? Some are trying, but in many there is so much foolishness and man made rules that instead of doing the Lord's will, it is being hindered. And that by some of the very ones who say that they go by the Bible and are acting according to the scriptures.

Have so many become blinded by their own views that they think that if they want it, then it has to be the right thing to do? To me that sounds like the Pharisees and religious leaders of long ago as they rejected the Lord and followed their own way. By now you're wondering what I am referring to. Well, besides the man made doctrines that abound in many of the congregations, there are many with their own 'Local Church' rules that make visitors feel unwelcome.

As I write this, today I have heard from two different families that have visited different churches and made to feel that they were not

wanted. Shame on those self righteous persons who acted in such an un-Christian way. One of the visitors, and family, was made to change seats twice before they found a seat that nobody else wanted. I don't know how many times the other family had to move at the congregation(s), that they visited. If it was only once, it was one time to many.

They didn't tell the name of the churches. On one hand I wish I knew so I wouldn't visit them and perhaps sit in the seat that someone claims as their own private property. A church like that probably doesn't care if anyone visits, or not, anyway. On the other hand it might be good if such places were named so a person would not go and be offended. With all the friction that goes on between people and the difficulties of getting folks to come to church such foolishness as this should never happen.

If seats are owned by the members that go there, (I thought it was the Lord's house), then seats for visitors should be clearly marked. Have enough backbone to tell people at the door that they are only allowed to sit in certain places. **James 2:2-4**, "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there

come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

At some churches, visitors have been asked, "Who are you, and what are you doing here?" I'm not sure how I would answer that question as I have little patience with arrogance or ignorance. Don't we go to church to worship and to hear God's Word? If it is a private social club, then I wouldn't fit in. If trying to serve God is not the reason that we go to church, then it is a waste of time.

Congregations with the attitudes mentioned today I hope are few. Still one is too many and does a lot of harm. If I heard someone at a church that I preached at treat a visitor in that way, I would deal with it. Folks, if you have been treated like this at church, come to Corinth Christian, you'll be welcome. What would happen if you should sit where someone usually sits? They would sit in another place and be glad to have you there. We're not perfect, but we're trying to follow the Lord.

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MEAT AND MILK NOT TO BE EATEN AT THE SAME MEAL!

THREE TIMES THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY STATES "THOU SHALT NOT SEETHE (BOIL) A KID IN HIS MOTHER'S MILK." (EXODUS 23:19, EXODUS 34:26, DEUT. 14:21). THIS WAS GOD'S LAW LAID DOWN TO ISRAEL BY MOSES AND, TO THIS DAY, THE ORTHODOX HAVE NO MEAT AND MILK AT THE SAME MEAL. MANY PEOPLE THINK THIS WAS A DIETARY LAW—THAT MILK AND MEAT TOGETHER WOULDN'T DIGEST WELL, ESPECIALLY IN THE HOT DESERT CLIMATE—WHICH IS NONSENSE! MILK AND MEAT, BOTH HIGH PROTEIN FOODS, DIGEST AS EASILY TOGETHER AS THEY DO APART—HOT WEATHER OR COLD...BUT THERE WAS A GOOD REASON, IN MOSES EYES, FOR THIS LAW—VERY UNDERSTANDABLE WHEN WE EXAMINE A CUSTOM OF THE IDOL WORSHIPPERS WITH WHOM THE ISRAELITES CAME INTO CONTACT IN THEIR DAILY LIVING....

MOSES CONSTANTLY ADMONISHED HIS PEOPLE TO STAY PURE IN GOD'S EYES—TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HEATHEN IDOLATERS. THE YOUNG MEN WERE FORBIDDEN TO "GO WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF BAAL," WHICH MANY OF THEM DID! MOSES COULD FORSEE THE DANGER OF HIS YOUNG NATION DISAPPEARING FROM EARTH, NOT BY WAR, BUT BY THE SIMPLE PROCESS OF INTER-MARRIAGE—SO HE ORDERED ISRAEL TO AVOID ALL CUSTOMS OF THEIR HEATHEN NEIGHBORS TO FORESTALL ANY OF THEIR WAYS CREEPING INTO THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE. JUST AS ISRAELITES BROUGHT SACRIFICES TO GOD'S ALTAR, SO DID THE HEATHEN TO THEIR IDOLS—A POPULAR OFFERING WAS A TASTY DISH OF BOILED YOUNG KID OR LAMB IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK (OR ANY MILK FOR THAT MATTER). THE MEAT JUICE AND THE MILK BOILED INTO A SAVORY SAUCE SO DELICIOUS THAT THE PRIESTS AND TEMPLE PROSTITUTES COULD HARDLY WAIT TO GRAB AND EAT IT BEFORE THE DONOR, WHO HAD BROUGHT IT, LEFT THE TEMPLE!

NEVER A DAY WENT BY THAT SOME HEATHEN FAMILY DIDN'T TURN UP AT THE TEMPLE WITH THIS DELECTABLE DISH, CONVINCED THEIR GODS WOULD ENJOY IT AND SO SMILE DOWN ON THEM WITH FAVOR! IS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, THAT MOSES ORDERED HIS PEOPLE TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS DISH AT ANY TIME—EVER! THE IDEA THAT SOME ISRAELITE MIGHT OFFER TO GOD THE SAME THING THAT WAS GIVEN TO A STONE IDOL WAS UNTHINKABLE! YE SHALL NOT DO AS THE HEATHEN DO, WAS THE ORDER OF THE DAY SO THAT ISRAEL MIGHT CONTINUE... "A PECULIAR (SPECIAL) PEOPLE... ABOVE ALL THE NATIONS THAT ARE UPON THE EARTH". (DEUT. 14:2)

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