

Articles and Sermons :: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy**Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/2 17:55**

There is a movement afoot in Christianity today, and it is one that is gaining some popularity, especially here in North America. It is not by any means a new movement or feature of Christianity. Indeed, it is one that has existed for centuries upon centuries, and in fact, pre-dates Christianity and has origins stretching back sometime after the Jews returned (in part) from their Babylonian exile. The movement may even be older than this. But whatever the case, it's popularity has ebbed and flowed over the years depending on a number of factors, and is something that can often be hard to trace because of the grass roots and largely (though not always) unorganized expression this movement takes.

Right now I believe we are seeing a rising tide of Christians who have, for various reasons, deliberately chosen to remove themselves from fellowshiping with any intentionally organized local body of believers. Generally speaking, the people in this historical movement have felt that the fundamentals and purity of the faith have been lost by the masses. They don't believe God is with anything that is going on in the "establishment." Thus, being unable to feel at home anywhere, in protest they officially withdraw themselves from a larger assembly of believers, and become wanderers in what they feel is a spiritual wilderness, a wilderness which they have chosen to embrace.

Such individuals picking up on various Biblical themes, consider those like themselves to be part of "a remnant" of believers in the last days, who must "come out" of a corrupt Babylonian church system, and wait upon God to revive a larger work to which they can join themselves. Until then, they will find themselves content to walk almost entirely alone, except for sporadic fellowship they experience through the internet and various conferences that they travel to. Many often see themselves as prophetic types of individuals, like an Elijah, who alone is left to take a stand against Ahab and the prophets of Baal.

I must say up front, that I'm very sympathetic to my brethren who are broken-hearted over the state of affairs we see within Christianity today. I too weep with them. Things are just not as they are supposed to be. The gospel that is preached today is often watered down, and has lost its power. Many act as if righteous and holy living is legalism, and immorality abounds, even amongst those in the ministry. Truth is fallen in the streets, and many abhorrent theologies are proclaimed. There are great excesses amongst folks who seek for signs and wonders, yet at the same time, there are people who make no room for the demonstration of the Holy Spirit whatsoever. In all of these things, it just feels as if Jesus Christ is almost entirely forgotten in the Church, and indeed, at times, it feels like He is never even there. Thus, I understand why many are leaving. Everything is just a giant mess.

But at the same time, while being very sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of those in this "remnant" movement, I believe these Christians have perpetuated some falsehoods of their own, and having so focused on the speck of dust in their brother's eye, they have failed to notice the log in their own. They say that they see, but in such a confession, they only make themselves doubly blind. And in their refusal to remain in fellowship with an intentionally organized local group of believers, and calling upon others to "come out" and join them in the wilderness, they ultimately embrace the carnal and fleshly attitude of a schismatic, and in doing so, truly meet the qualifications of the Biblical definition of a heretic.

I know, these are strong words. But I feel compelled to speak in such a way, because I believe the error perpetuated by these individuals, and the intentional division they bring to the body of Christ, to be very great. Their leaving of the local Church comes from a misreading of what the New Testament Church actually looked like in practice, and their dis-fellowshipping of entire local assemblies is altogether without apostolic precedent whatsoever.

Truth be told, if one truly reads the New Testament as it is actually written, although there are some very strong and vibrant Churches that are found in its pages, the fact of the matter is that the early New Testament Church was often a very messy place, and was far from being the romantic utopia many have falsely imagined it to be. Although we read of great preaching, great power, and a great manifest Presence, we also read about many great problems. In fact, almost every single epistle that is found in the New Testament was written to combat and correct many of the great problems that plagued the early Church. And if we look at things today in light of what we have written in the Scriptures, I believe we will discover the problems we face today are really no different than the problems they faced then.

If you read the New Testament for what it really says, you will find that there were Christians then who are just as caught up in error as Christians are now. On the pages of the New Testament you will find that the same errors that abounded then

hen also abound now. Here is just a random sampling of the problems we find in the New Testament Church that we all find today:

- * Sexual immorality and unrighteous living, all being done under the banner of grace.
- * The prosperity gospel, teaching that godliness is a means of gain.
- * Charismatic chaos, along with false apostles, prophets, and teachers.
- * Cessationist tendencies that quenched the gifts of the Spirit in public assembly.
- * Ascetic legalisms of the worst kind.
- * Cold and lifeless Churches.
- * Blatant denials of basic Christian teaching.
- * Denominational factions and hero worship.

This list could go on and on, and many other ills could be multiplied. Yet for all of these problems that existed in the Church then, never once do we find anybody ever instructed to withdraw their fellowship from an intentionally gathered local assembly of the saints. Not once. What instead do we find? We find the Lord and His apostles instructing the saints to do the hard thing, and work out the difficulties that existed amongst them. Those in error are encouraged to change, and those who refuse to change, after undergoing Biblical Church discipline, we are encouraged to put out from the Church. But never once are we encouraged to abandon the deliberate and frequent intentional assembling of ourselves together with others who have been born again.

Indeed, it is my conviction that in light of these truths, that those who run around saying they are the remnant, and refuse to gather themselves together in a local assembly of believers, truth be told, are just as carnal as the Church they lament and weep over. They are spiritually immature children who refuse to grow up and prefer to have tantrums in their own sandbox, which they confuse with a wilderness. Self-absorbed, and being left largely to themselves, the cancerous ideas that have infected their minds eat them alive, and almost entirely consume them. Thus, many of them begin to imagine that they are spiritually mature, and maybe even prophetic voices crying in the wilderness. But truth be told, they are everything except what they imagine themselves to be.

Indeed, far from being spiritually mature and prophetic voices, these individuals have refused to grow up in the Lord by embracing the cross of Jesus Christ in authentic Christian community. Instead of becoming men who embrace the hard realities of doing life together, they run away from the responsibilities the Lord has placed on them, and the calling Christ truly has on their lives. Instead of confronting the issues of their day and in their Christian community, they shy away from doing the real work of the Lord, and prefer to make-believe they are prophets. And because they refuse to embrace the cross of Christian community and undergo death, like many within the “established” Church today, they become just as cold, dead, and powerless in their ministry. And in the ways of God, death always precedes life, as Passover always precedes Pentecost.

So, running from the call of God on their lives to be intentionally involved in a local Christian community, they withdraw from the saints, and imagine they are one of the few people they know in their city that are actually saved and filled with the Spirit of God. They withdraw from local fellowship, and take their precious little light and hide it from others, except maybe those on Facebook, blogs, and forums, where they lament about the glory having departed from the Church, and how they long to see revival. Such are perhaps, some of you.

Truth be told though, if you truly longed to see the glory of God return to the Church, and longed to see revival, you would not forsake the assembling of yourself together with other born again saints in your town. Instead, you would be actively involved. And even if there were no genuine born again Christians for you to fellowship with wherever you may live, if you are truly following the Lord with all your heart, and are in right standing with Him, the weight of the New Testament suggests that if the life of God is truly in you, fruit will eventually follow. So, even if you are the only born again Christian living in a town in America (which seems very unlikely to me), the onus is upon you to establish an authentic Christian community wherever you are at. If you cannot find any Christians to fellowship with, you must make other Christians to fellowship with. Simply put, Christians make other Christians, and Christians form local Churches.

Again, I know the words in this essay are perhaps hard to hear. But, I really feel we live in a crucial time where the truth of these words must be spoken. Some of what I have said may seem a little over the top, and no doubt, I have employed some hyperbolic language in what I have said. But these words were spoken in nothing but absolute love, not only for the Lord, but also for my brethren, and those who believe themselves to belong to an out-of-Church remnant. It is my hope that you will have ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart that can receive. For I believe this to be the word of the Lord

From: <http://christthinks.com/2010/10/02/coming-out-of-the-church-the-remnant-heresy/>

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/10/2 18:44

Sorry; Jimmy. I believe GOD is raising up a remnant of believers who hear HIS Voice, who honor HIS Name, who rejoice in HIS truth, who love righteousness more than life.
GOD has a peculiar people who set themselves apart from the filth of this world and the stain of sin!!

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/10/2 19:28

The churches in my hometown have become my cross. For I desperately desire to have fellowship and instead find cursed synagogues of Satan with polluted pulpits intent on crushing the life of Jesus in me. Yet I love them and consider myself unworthy to assemble with them. And I praise God for this place without pasture. On to the next assembly in love.

Re: , on: 2010/10/2 19:37

Jimmy just likes controvesry, sad :).....brother Frank

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/10/2 19:55

May I ask you brother Jimmy what does one do if even in a "local church assembly" still feels high and dry and abandoned by brethren?

May I ask also what if one has better fellowship and a deeper relationship by leaving the "local church"?

I don't mean these questions in a critical way but am curious on your input? Anytime I hear someone say "Don't forsake the Assembly!" in order to keep people in their church my heart is broken. Yes don't forsake the Assembly but I would also think Paul would agree with this "Don't starve yourself spiritually in an assembly."

We see many times in history where a small group of people forsook the larger local church and brought about a great movement of God among them and among the lost.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/2 20:00

OUTSTANDING article KingJimmy! I was once, to my own shame, exactly the person you have described. I was in bondage to a judgmental spirit and lacking understanding of grace, love and mercy. I think the best thing to do is to pray for deliverance and understanding for those who have been caught in such a trap - from experience it is truly a terrible place to be.

Wonderful article - I pray that it helps open some eyes and ears of the readers.

Patrick

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/2 20:48

Quote:

For I desperately desire to have fellowship and instead find cursed synagogues of Satan with polluted pulpits intent on crushing the life of Jesus in me.

If this is true, then step out in faith and start a Church where you are. You are not called to wander in a place without pasture.

Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/10/2 21:19

Quote:
-----If this is true, then step out in faith and start a Church where you are. You are not called to wander in a place without pasture.

But a place without pasture is where the starving sheep are. I do love the lost sheep of the Israel of God and I will go to Hell for them. I will go after them and pour forth the testimony of Jesus as living water for their parched souls. No man or demon from the pit will stand in my way for the God who is for me is greater than those against me. The gates of hell, shall all fall under the mighty two edged sword. The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners. A light has risen in the darkness and I will not conceal it but will shine forth the love of Jesus. And the Spirit and the Bride say come! All who are thirsty come!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/2 21:27

Quote:

I don't mean these questions in a critical way but am curious on your input? Anytime I hear someone say "Don't forsake the Assembly!" in order to keep people in their church my heart is broken. Yes don't forsake the Assembly but I would also think Paul would agree with this "Don't starve yourself spiritually in an assembly."

I'll be glad to give it. Indeed, it is something I have greatly wrestled with over the years. My experience in the Church has been a mixed one. I have seen many evils and awful compromises made. I have seen men of God who I thought were my friends turn out to be my enemies. But at the same time, I have met some of the dearest saints of God, who loved the Lord with all their heart, and loved me just the same.

Too often though, I believe we become disillusioned idealists, who longing with the heart of Christ for a pure and holy bride without spot or wrinkle, simply find it impossible to accept what we have at the present moment. It's much like a man who marries a woman, and waking up one day, realizes the woman he married is not the princess he thought she was before they got married, and now he sees her for who she really is, warts and all.

That happens when you fellowship with Christians in community. God forces you, like in a marriage, to deal with reality. And there is nothing more real than a cross, upon which we are all called to come and lay our lives upon and die. He has given us no utopian Church. Even the Church of Jerusalem, which we greatly celebrate and cherish, had liars, infighting, and "certain men from James."

But God has called us to stick at it, and in patience, forgiving wrong doing, to build up one another in the most holy faith, once and for all delivered to the saints. We are to strengthen the hands of the weak, and help each other become the people God would have us to be. Speaking the truth in love, we are to be iron sharpening iron, as together we seek the glory of God out, and make His name great amongst the nations. That takes a radical love, a love I believe many lack. And because they lack it, they cannot stick it out and commit to one another in this process.

So what is a man to do in a dead and lethargic Church that is full of sin? Stay there. Don't leave. Your food is to do the will of Him who has sent you. In that Christ was nourished, and if we are to ever press on to maturity, that must be what we determine in our hearts as well. For we are ultimately looking unto the Lord to provide us with our daily bread, and what we need to grow.

Do you think our Lord was born into this world spiritually mature? A thousand times no! But He grew in wisdom and grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord, a growth that had nothing to do with what He learned from the teachers of Israel in that day. And so can we, regardless of where our brethren stand in their maturity levels. Indeed, we may even find that our youngest and most spiritually immature may still have a moment of revelation, where they are able to speak into our lives.

Was such not the case at Corinth? Corinth was as carnal and immature as a Christian Church could get. Divorce and r

emarriage seems to have been the norm. The congregation seemed to approve of a man sleeping with his step-mother. False apostles were welcomed and celebrated in the congregation. And some seemed to think partaking in idolatrous rights was ok. Yet even so, God would use one to prophesy, and another to teach, and another to give a word of wisdom.

I think of one Christian sister I work with. She had departed from her faith for a number of years, and through my witness, the Lord enabled me to bring her back to the faith. She is still sometimes dealing with hangups from the lifestyle she lived in for a while, and she is far from being spiritually mature. And even though 95% of the time, I am ministering to her about an issue, there are still times when, for all her lack of knowledge of even basic issues of the faith, the Lord used her to still minister to me, and expose a sinful attitude in my life that I was holding to without yet realizing it.

Yet this type of woman probably represents the typical Christian in most churches today. Some, which many on here would look down upon, and would want to have no fellowship with. But such persons are not looking upon her as I believe the Lord does, with eyes full of mercy and grace, rejoicing over the work which He has begun in her, and fully intends to complete.

I think what we all need, are eyes to see other Christians as the Lord sees them. And when we do, we will love them even as He loves them. And though we will grieve over the way things are, we will press forward in faith, looking unto the way things can be.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/2 21:35

Quote:

I was once, to my own shame, exactly the person you have described.

I was such a person too brother. The person I was talking about in this essay was me. But the Lord opened my eyes to see the error of my ways. Indeed, I remember a day where I woke up one morning, and found out that I actually loved other Christians, and such deeply grieved my heart over the many awful things I had said and done in the name of Christ, and the schismatic spirit that was alive in me.

Can I be so bold as to say that some of you here on SermonIndex.net have yet to find that love? You only love those who are like you, which is why some of you refuse to be a part of a local fellowship. Such is a sad thing. But I will love you and pray for you just the same.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/10/2 21:40

"But God has called us to stick at it, and in patience, forgiving wrong doing, to build up one another in the most holy faith, once and for all delivered to the saints. We are to strengthen the hands of the weak, and help each other become the people God would have us to be. Speaking the truth in love, we are to be iron sharpening iron, as together we seek the glory of God out, and make His name great amongst the nations. That takes a radical love, a love I believe many lack. And because they lack it, they cannot stick it out and commit to one another in this process."

And you call the Remnant believers idealist :) What are your thoughts on Home Fellowships then? Are they in the wrong for leaving the typical Local Church? I ask this because I am trying to get a feel for what your thoughts on the definition of Local Church maybe. If there is going to be any disagreement with you and I it would be in this instance of definition, because I believe one shouldn't "forsake the assembly" as a Lone Ranger type thing but we also have the freedom in Christ to decide which "Assembly" we enteract with.

Re: - posted by StarofG0D (), on: 2010/10/2 21:42

Amen Travis!

Jimmy,
yes the church has it's issues, but "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!"

There IS a remnant!

We are not married to the "church." but unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The hope of glory. It's only by His mercy that He chooses us to be His bride.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/2 21:45

I am all for house Churches. No, I don't believe they are wrong to leave a local fellowship and start another. Such is simply Church planting. As long as they are not doing it out of a schismatic spirit, but are looking to simply honor the Lord in establishing a Church plant, I think it's a great idea.

But those who are doing such a thing should really examine themselves to make sure they are doing it with right motives. If their motive is, "I'm mad at my present fellowship, therefore I am starting a house Church," then I believe such persons are in error. If their motive is, "I believe the Lord is calling me to start a new Church," then I say, have at it.

Re: , on: 2010/10/2 22:23

Brother Jimmy,

The real local church may just be the one that is not in the yellow pages. It is not for man to say. God knows the candles ticks in each city. And I don't think you can point to an organization or even a house church and say this is the candlestick in this city. The Lord knoweth them that are his. (from 2 Tim 2:19)

Obviously, God has had a remnant in each generation that does not bow the knee to Baal. That is why there are men of God today that still preach a pure message and don't worry about upsetting people because they may lose some income.

The Lord actually commands us to come out of Babylon.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Babylon is not just Rome, Babylon is the entire religious system that opposes God. All you have to do to oppose God is just do your own thing, execute your own agenda. He that is not with me is against me.

Somewhere along the line man said, "Ok Lord, we know how to do this, we'll take it from here". And that is where all the problems come from. From the attitude, "We'll take it from here". Thank you Holy Spirit, but my seminary can teach me everything now.

Psa 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

In other words, a "house" can be built that was not built by Him. Are we building a "house", without Him?

Coming out of a system built by man is ok, and even commanded. And let me also say, you can have a religious system right in the middle of your living room. The religious system is in the heart and hearts are in a building whether it be a house or church building or school cafeteria. God commands us to come out of religious Babylon. It opposes God and exalts itself above Him, by taking His place in the lives of His people.

There are precious Saints in some organizations, in fact they are all over the place. Many read their Bible and then feel a disconnect when they hear "preaching" in their church. What they sense is the whole counsel of God is not being preached and followed, especially followed. They usually end up leaving, because they feel like they are withering inside.

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Many people leave the "system" because they are grieved, and many are leading lives of quiet desperation because what they want is koinonia but what they get is activities and programs. It is a vicious cycle that many of these organizations find themselves in, too, but they cannot stop or change because it will mean the end of their livelihood. The sheep are paying a tithe and the organization feels that they must create quality programs to keep people motivated and interested and from going down the road to the other church that is marketing itself in a better way. I have seen many of these signs on the road. Just look in the Saturday paper or in the yellow pages to see how these organizations compete with each other for followers. It is absolute insanity to have two churches on the same block across the street from each other, both claiming they love Jesus and yet they never get together with each other. And they actually have animosity against each other.

What the people of God really need, is fellowship and love and care and truth and not having to be fleeced for it.

God has strong words for the religious system. It is not wrong to point out counterfeits, but it is wrong to attack men. Our warfare is not with flesh and blood. But Satan uses flesh and blood to deceive and fleece the Saints and bring them into bondage.

I have seen very few Believers that have "organized" themselves and kept free from using the ministry as a paid profession. Zac Poonen's, CFC India, comes to mind. I think every elder works and that is a very good thing.

The wilderness that some speak of is many times, inside the religious system, not outside it. Like I said, many are dying slow deaths, starving for His life.

Jesus was pushed outside of the camp. The camp in the NT was Jerusalem. Every part of society pushed Him out, and especially the religious camp. Today, the religious camp is pushing Saints out. And the Word even tells us to go outside the camp, because that is where we will find Jesus (Hebrews 13:13). Many people that leave religious institutions suffer reproach but that is ok. Let us go forth therefore unto HIM without the camp, bearing his reproach. Where is He? He is outside the camp. Yes, sadly, Jesus is still outside the camp, outside the religious system. He is not really welcome there. He is just used for people's own ends. What Believers eventually come to realize is that Jesus is not really welcome there.

Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Heb 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Jimmy, what is happening today, is being orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. He is calling people out of anything that does not glorify Him, out of anything that does not make Him preeminent, out of everything where the Centrality of Jesus Christ is not reality.

People do need to judge if they are where God wants them to be and we all need to be free from the fear of man so that we can follow the Lord when He calls.

The Word judges Babylon and says many harsh things about her. We can agree with the Word, yet encourage people to get all religious systems out of their heart. In many cases, this even entails leaving a physical location or group of people.

Jer 9:1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jer 9:2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from the m! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

Jer 9:3 And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

Yes, "they know not me, saith the Lord".

Brother, ever since Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with leaves (their own righteousness), there has been a religious system.

From Genesis to Revelation there is the true Church of God and there is the Synagogue of Satan counterfeiting the Church. We see finally in Revelation what is to become of the false religious system. We just need to make sure it has no place in us.

I reiterate, the religious system can even be in your own living room, not just a church building.

The Word still stands. "Come out of her my people".

Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 34

Re: - posted by StarofG0D (), on: 2010/10/2 22:36

Quote:
-----Psa 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

I actually almost posted this exact same verse..Praise the Lord.

May He preserve us from doing this.

"God has strong words for the religious system. It is not wrong to point out counterfeits, 'but it is wrong to attack men.' Our warfare is not with flesh and blood."

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/10/2 22:44

Jimmy said, "But God has called us to stick at it..."

Stick at what, Jimmy?

What about His call to "come out of her, My people..." (Rev. 18.4).

God never ordained the denominational system in the first place. I know, He has used it, and He uses men who are in it. Of course He does. His people are there.

But there comes a time when He says loud and clear, "COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE..."

Come out of her... who? The rebels? The heretics? No. Come out of her MY PEOPLE.

I am all for the assembling together of the saints. But if people would lay that to heart -- that Scripture about not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, Heb. 10.25 -- they would be leaving the denominational system in droves! That's not what the Holy Spirit means by being assembled together!

I remember once a brother talking about this, and using an illustration from boyhood. He said he used to love building models, cars and planes and so on... and he'd look at the beautiful picture of the model on the box... How beautiful that '57 Chevy looked. But then it would say, "Assembly required."

THAT's true assembling: being fit together so that each individual part is functioning in the capacity the designer had in

mind for it when he made it, and so becomes a vital part of a beautiful whole.

Just because you have all those parts together in the box does not mean they are assembled.

Just because you have a hundred or a thousand Christians in a big... "box" does not mean they are assembled.

And that's what's happening in this hour, Jimmy. That's why people are leaving. People are leaving "the box" because they are tired of being isolated RIGHT THERE IN THE BOX, tired of being just jumbled together with a whole bunch of other parts that aren't really fitting together the way the Designer intended. They are feeling unfulfilled, and they are leaving. It's of GOD. He is the one who has put it into the hearts of His people to become ASSEMBLED in beautiful unity... to the praise of His glory.

Sure, at this time we are not seeing that quite yet. The home churches themselves have not yet become assembled the way God has in mind. But they are going to be. More and more as we learn to give the ASSEMBLER His Lordship in our midst, we are going to see a beautiful -- and fearsome -- manifestation of the living CHRIST in the midst of His people ... I mean in every single one of them from the least to the greatest.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/10/2 22:53

I just want to add that when I posted my last entry, I saw Pilgrim's post in which he quoted the same Scripture, "Come out of her my people."

I had not read it before. We must have been writing these two posts at the same time.

And I say Amen to your whole post, Pilgrim.

"In the mouth of two or three witnesses..."

Re: , on: 2010/10/2 23:23

The problem is that people think that going to church on Sunday, singing a few songs, taking up an offering, and listening to one or maybe two people preach week after week after week all in an hour to hour and a half service constitutes fellowship.

It might be helpful to define "assembling together" and "fellowship" to see if those who say they have it on their Sunday meetings in fact really do have it. I have a feeling that most people are deluded into thinking what they do every week is fellowship when in all reality it's nothing more than a "service".

(Also, I wanted to say AMEN to your post ADisciple.)

Re: , on: 2010/10/2 23:36

Amen AD and Pilgrim,

"Jimmy, what is happening today, is being orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. He is calling people out of anything that does not glorify Him, out of anything that does not make Him preeminent, out of everything where the Centrality of Jesus Christ is not reality.

People do need to judge if they are where God wants them to be and we all need to be free from the fear of man so that we can follow the Lord when He calls."

This is the key statement above, what is happening today is being orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, not by men. There is a hungry, thirsty remnant and they will "come out of her." Some people will never understand this, and that's okay. This is no "anti," movement, it's a pro, making Jesus the preeminent, movement. Will religious men oppose this? Yes of course. Their job is to protect the status quo.

This is where it is so vital to be able to hear the Lord. If one cannot hear the Lord and be guided by that, then all one has is information, and can only fall back on their own understanding and the understanding of men.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 8:42

It need to be asked.

Are we looking at others critically and comparing ourselves to them?

Comparing ourselves to others about us indicates legalism within ourselves. It's the quick road in falling from grace. Paul himself says it is really dumb to compare ourselves with ourselves. WE are to always and ever look to Jesus, ". . . who endured the contradiction . . ."

WE too, in the renewal of our minds, are to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

He healed and saved how many thousands while on earth, yet we read that there were only 120 praying when the New Advent of Pentecost blew in.

Just because another seems so wrong in our eyes, what about us compared to Jesus?

There has been another extreme experienced which is also faulty. Those who group themselves off from the rest of Christendom tend to develop a case of ingrown eyeballs, seeing everything myopically, and the rest of the world, as most of them say, is going to hell. . .

WELL, GET OUT THERE AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

We are not relieved by God because of our perfection.

Perfect people don't need a Saviour.

It's the sick that need the doctor.

It has been realized that both groups are doing the very same thing in different ways.

It is one thing to be considered part of something that is not proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, all this talk ABOUT God, and another to be part of a group of followers that is intent on spreading the how and why regarding the good news of the Kingdom of God coming.

Is our intent in manifesting His Faithfulness, irregardless what we ourselves should not dare to think about another human (JUST LIKE US) that God has created IN HIS IMAGE?

Are we, like Jesus, about our Father's business, or does it boil down to the consideration of "what's in it for me?"

IF Jesus has indeed shed His love abroad in our hearts, then faith(fulness) to God will be working through this. WE will be growing further into thinking, walking and talking as Jesus does. As He is, so we are exhorted to remain in this world.

Think about what you think you believe, but in actually merely agree with or only affirm.

Drop everything that is not part of what you do, and get the focus back on the Author and Finisher of our faith(fulness).

Let's fix our attention on Jesus Christ, the one who freely offered His own body and blood so that we will live in Him.

If we ourselves do not keep this as our first emphasis, we are walking away from God and not towards Him. Jesus, is not only our Salvation, but our sanctification and glory.

Don't get off this track or your train, in the best case scenario can come skidding to a halt.

Sadly, the worst case scenario has been seen happen time and again: crash and burn.

It's one thing to be sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that God told you to do something, and another to follow the passions of our emotions and attitudes (aka: LUST). Respectively, the first brings us close with other following sheeple and separates us FROM THE WORLD (not the true church); the second is idolatry.

Jesus died for us, so that we will in like manner die to our selves and live for Him.

Let's just do this and see the power of God manifest through obedience to His WORD.

The Lord looks for a pure peaceful people who walk in the love of Jesus Christ.

Let's just do it.

Pray. . .

. . . not towards your wants and needs, but in (pro)claiming God's will towards His coming Kingdom. Watch and see just how many things we need are taken care of through this, before we ever have to bother to ask, much less even think about such.

g

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 9:34

Dear Jimmy,

Do I not rightly guess that you are a professional clergyman with a salaried position in the Industrial Church? I do not suggest that you are a money-grubber, only that, as a paid representative of the Religion Industry, your personal finances cloud your perspective on the Kingdom of God.

At the World Council of Cults, we insist on separation from the Religio-Industrial Complex, not because sin, error and compromise can be found there, but because the whole thing is a commercial racket, wholly unrelated to the Kingdom of God.

Those of us who have "come out of her" may be wandering in the wilderness, but at least the air is clean out here. We abandoned what you call "the church," not because it is sinful, but because it is silly.

If the money were cut off from what you call "the church," it would immediately cease to exist. If the Spirit fell upon it as on the day of Pentecost, it would burst like an old wineskin.

I agree with you that people who withdraw from fellowship entirely and "go solo" have probably flipped. My objection is to your assumption that the financial institution that you call "the church" has any relation to the Kingdom of God.

<http://worldcouncilofcults.com/>

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/3 11:52

I loved that write up Jim, love it!!

However, in loving it, I am one of those that don't go to Church.

My motives are right before God, but there are thousands out there who's motives are wrong.

I have always been led by the Spirit to sit under certain ministries. The last Church I sat under the Holy Ghost said (and I know His voice) "I want you to leave this Church". I objected at first, then finally I obeyed. For me it was purely what God had said, and it had nothing to do with what was going on in the Church, mind you a year down the road the Pastor ran off with the secretary, but that wasn't the reasons as to why I left. That was 5 years ago and I have never had a leading to go anywhere even though I have prayed earnestly for direction. I have attended churches here and there to see if they might be the one, but nothing. So I left the whole enterprise up to the Lord and my conscience is at peace. I have a few friends that believe in this remnant idea and I fellowship with them and our fellowship is sweet. They have their ideas about the last days, remnant, mark of the beast which I don't subscribe to, but they are just minute words that get spoken of during our times of fellowship that don't mean anything to me.

There is always a remnant of some sorts down through the ages, but not to the degree that people today have made it out today. There are literally millions of Christians worldwide that are calling upon the name of the Lord. Yes, their lives ha

ve all kinds of messy situations but it does say, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous". So there is never going to be t his perfect people Church organization that everyone is looking for. In Church, expect to be offended, expect to be put d own, expect to be lifted up, expect to be talked about, expect jealousy, expect envy, expect legalism, expect all of these things because this is what's going to be found in going to Church. Yes there will be times of great fellowship. There will be great times of the power of God, and unity.

In a large family your going to find all kinds of happiness and problems that live side by side.

I grew up in a family 8 brothers and 8 sisters. We had our happy times and we had our bad times. I remember running a way from home because I couldn't stand the bad times, but I was home that night. (it's easy running away in the day, but the night cometh, oh boy!!) I swallowed my childish fear and grinned and bore it.

In the family of God is no different. Those that run away are the remnant that complains about what the Church is NOT d oing and they themselves don't do any of what they think the Church should be doing.

And what should the Church be doing anyway if Christ paid the price for all of it??

Unless you or I have been commissioned by the Holy Ghost Himself, we are like those standing around the market plac e waiting to be hired. I am not going to venture out into something that I haven't been called into. But there are many that have done just that. So many out there that follow Brother David Wilkersons covering of being a "Watchman", and they a re no more than a watchman than brother David is. Brother Wilkerson refuses to be called a prophet, but he is one regar dless of his continual denial. God didn't set in the Church any calling of Watchman, but there are so many out there that call themselves the remnant that say they are watchmen.

We don't need any watchman to speak of danger, though we have others that have warned us and nothing wrong with t hat, I am referring to the so called calling of being a Watchmen. Have we forgotten that we individually know the voice o f God? In the Old Testament, the congregation relied on the ministry to hear from God. But we all hear from God for ours elves, we need not a man to teach us, but only that anointing that is upon a man will we hear from, "becareful how you h ear".

How did I get over into this? Got side tracked me thinks.

Anyway, totally agree with that write up brother Jim.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by elanham (), on: 2010/10/3 12:16

quote]* The prosperity gospel, teaching that godliness is a means of gain. Yet for all of these problems that existed in the Church then, never once do we find anybody ever instructed to withdraw their fellowship from an intentionally gathered local assembly of the saints. Not once.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 13:08

We really should participate in a good bible believing /teaching/serving/praying/witnessing fellowship that meets regularl y.

Otherwise you can easily be led astray by the sinless perfection camp, the Trinity denying camp, the God is done with Israel camp,, the God has chosen only me camp and so many more that abound here and everywhere else.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/3 14:24

good deal Jimmy.

Mission accomplished!

all eyes on you baby, whats next?

nothing?

all right then, lets move on.

neil

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 14:27

Quote:

-----We really should participate in a good bible believing /teaching/serving/praying/witnessing fellowship that meets regularly.

If these institutional churches were actually "bible believing" they would really have fellowship instead of their programed Sunday "service". The body would actually be able to be a functioning body. They would not forbid certain gifts that God says not to forbid, they would drop their carnal denominational names that divide..etc..etc. They boast of the doctrines they cherish, that look good in any doctrinal statement, claiming to hold and defend the truth while disobeying God in the practical areas of fellowship and body ministry that actually affect the growth of the believers. There's nothing worse than a fellowship that exalts the fact they "believe" the bible and yet don't obey.

It really reminds me of the Pharisee's desire to keep the status quo even in spite of the plain truth before their eyes.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 14:38

Good Christian fellowship is indeed important. We must encourage each other and so much the more as we see the day approaching (Heb 10:25).

I will add to your list, those that prey on the Lord's sheep. We must stay far away from them. The law of payment (tithe) rather than the grace of giving as a man purposes in his own heart (2 Cor 9:7), not as other men purpose for him. We belong to the Lord not to men.

I have heard preaching that "if you do not tithe, God will get it from you somehow." Or, "You must give to God (read the organization), before you pay your bills", or, "you will not be blessed by God if you do not tithe". This is fear mongering cloaked by religious words, resulting in control and manipulation. There are old people including widows that live on fixed income and have been lied to thinking that God will not bless them if they don't hand over their PAYMENT. And if they keep tithing their ship will come in someday. Wonder what would happen if I dropped a couple of chickens in the offering plate. MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, that is all we are worth to the false shepherds and their multi-level marketing scheme. Guess what? We are worth far more than that to the Lord Jesus. He does not want our money, He wants our heart.

God's people are made debtors to a false religious system. Nothing new under the sun. The heart of man is desperately wicked.

Do you know all the hardships placed on the Lord's people by this false teaching of payment? I hope you do not require this. I see you have titled yourself a "reverend", so that is why I ask. I am not saying you do, but just asking. If you don't require tithing, I hope you are trying to convince other "Reverends" about what you believe and what God's Word says.

Read the following verses: This is God's Word for all of us!!

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jer 17:11 As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

Isa 10:1 Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;

Isa 10:2 To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!

Eze 22:24 Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

Eze 22:25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured the soul of the just, and have taken away his inheritance.

oured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

Eze 22:26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Eze 22:27 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

Eze 22:28 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

Eze 22:29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

Mat 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Mat 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mat 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

The sad thing is that they think they are doing God's work and continue to justify their own ways.

Jer 16:10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?

They don't even see their transgression.

Isa 1:8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

Isa 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Isa 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isa 1:23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Isa 1:24 Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

People being led out of the false religious system are being led out by the Holy Spirit. He is rescuing His sheep from the oppressors. How much clearer can God's Word be? He hates the oppression of His people. He hates that His people are a prey, making bricks for little Pharaohs. "Let my people go", is the cry of God's heart, still.

Am I indicting all organizations? No just the false religious system that lives in peoples hearts. You have to figure out which one you are in or if it is in you.

Read God's Word and come to His Word with your whole heart otherwise you are just going to have a religious experience.

Religious experience or Spiritual experience? It's up to you.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by Earendel (), on: 2010/10/3 14:44

kJimmy.

Be careful not to become guilty of the very self same thing (critical spirit) that you accuse others of. Speck or plank is it? I ask you to carefully reconsider your wording in light of Gal 6:1.

But a word of wisdom to you anyways...

Do you know how serious it is to get it (Christianity) all wrong; do you know what "born again" truly is? Hint: it is not some cliché that was invented by some famous preacher, to describe someone who said the sinner's prayer once. Not all who say they are "born again" truly are that in the biblical sense of it.

Do you realize what it is that is at stake here to get it all wrong? Do you realize how serious this is? No, this isn't a call to sinless perfection by means of religious works, but a clarion call to repentance before God, which we all must do from time to time. This must be done individually and corporately, so that His Spirit can have His work in us.

So there may be some that God has called into the wilderness for now to sort things out, shouldn't you be embracing them in a spirit of love as being a part of the body of Christ...shouldn't you?

Look see, Jesus teaches about the remnant.....

Just who is Jesus talking to and about in the following passage:

Matthew 7:13-14 (New King James Version)

The Narrow Way

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

...few (a remnant) who find it...and just who is everyone else anyway?

Well, to quote another:

Today's American (Western) Christian world has changed the narrow gate Jesus mentioned into a 10 lane freeway, and with this new gospel, anyone who repeats a little unrepentant prayer asking Jesus to be their friend and BAMMMM! ...they just had their name written in the Lamb's book of life.

.....yet He says "few find it"I wonder why?

What does it mean to enter in at the narrow gate, and why are today's organized religions missing the mark? ...or maybe you don't think they are.

btw,

We absolutely must seek out the fellowship of others who are truly of the body of Jesus Christ, and fellowship with them.

Why?

Because...where two or Three are gathered in my name...

a video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYkheZs0V6I>

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 14:45

I remember going to hear one of the frequently promoted speakers here on SermonIndex speak at an institutional church a couple years ago. After the service he and the pastor were sitting down with a young "out of church" lady. The pastor was telling her why she should be in weekly service. One of his reasons was so that she could see how the Pastor treats his wife..and how a godly relationship works. I was thinking how is that possible? How is someone going to know these things from listening to a guy speak during and 1.5 hr service and maybe hanging around a little when it's done?

But, if she spent some time in a pastor's home, saw how he really treated his wife and kids she would know. If she actually spent time with them as a functioning family then it would be possible. I think so many people have a faulty foundation of what fellowship really is. One thing I know for sure...fellowship is not sitting in a 1.5 hour service every week until they die. Surely Christ didn't die so that His body could sit and listen to one or two guys speak the rest of their lives. Nor did He die so that we could get "plugged in" to some personalities ministry so they can build their own kingdom in Christ's name.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 15:07

Should we go to a church if the head guy or guys call themselves "Reverend"? Which means "worth of adoration or reverence". Sort of a self-exalting title isn't it? It certainly doesn't fit with the spirit of "we are all brothers".

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 15:14

It means worthy to be revered. With that in mind, I think only the Lord is qualified to be called Reverend.

Titles only serve one purpose and that is to divide the sheep from the "more honored sheep".

<http://jesusourallinall.blogspot.com/2009/07/should-we-use-title-reverend-or-pastor.html>

maybe not fair of me., on: 2010/10/3 15:14

Jimmy,
maybe that wasn't fair of me, though I have to tell you, your thesis, flinging the "heresy" mud pile at a brother positively stank of ego, the flesh, religious pride, my previous comment might not have been fair.

I don't know what you've been through in life. I don't know how hard you've been crushed, laid low in this journey of life, but may I make two suggestions, actually two suggestions and one comment.

First, have you read "Life of Brainerd"?

I mean the WHOLE thing?...even the first long half of his diaries, the long part where this lonely struggling saint bemoans his wretched state and life....very lonely.

If you say, yes Neil I read that....maybe read it again.

Second, must we all always use "Christianese" when communicating with one another? You know what I'm talking about, all those purty lil terms they teach one in seminary, etc. Why can't people of the Way learn to just talk, everyday talk? That way, when we meet others, who don't KNOW those terms, won't FEEL like they ain't in the same "club"?...and we CAN pull a few out of the fire?

And my comment is this, when I was reading your essay, well meaning as it may have been constructed, do you know who it reminded me of immediately?

Job's three "well meaning" friends.

I'm serious, no insult intended, that's the first thing that came into my heart. Job's buddies.

God bless you Jimmy, I'm outta here, Neil

Re: maybe not fair of me., on: 2010/10/3 15:32

I was thinking that the name of the thread really turns things upside down.

Maybe a better name would have been:

Coming Out of the False Religious System: The Heresy of Man's System(s)

Yet, "Church" today has been equated with the big building and organization with many programs that "enrich a Christian's life" and to be sure, some of them do. I don't want to be unfair. There are precious saints in the system, I should say in an organization, because somehow they have kept the system out of their heart and they are ministering life to their fellow brothers and sisters.

Anyway, by the very title of the thread, it implies that this is the place where Christians SHOULD be going to.

Hence the title, "Coming Out of The Church".

Continuing...Christians should be following the Holy Spirit's leading in their life, but because of all the static interference of what many are being taught, they cannot hear the Lord's voice.

If the Holy Spirit is leading someone to stay in an organization, then who am I to say NO, you must leave? I never try to persuade someone to leave organized Christianity if they are happy there. That is demonic. If people have valuable and edifying relationships, you should not be tearing them away from them.

Most people coming out of what you call Church are poor, parched souls and they see themselves as just trying to find the Church (people not building). They are coming out of something that they do not recognize as the Church (doesn't jive with what they read in their Bible or feel in their spirit.)

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:12

Quote:

What about His call to "come out of her, My people..." (Rev. 18.4).

A fine question to ask. Unfortunately though, this verse which has been used as a rally cry over the years to support the idea of dividing fellowship and withdrawing from the local church is in my estimation, a fine example of a bad use of Scripture. There is simply no exegetical basis for this. The cry of this passage is for the saints of God to separate themselves from the world and its system. That is, they are to have nothing to do with it. To use it in another context, that is, to separate oneself from other born again Christians is grasping for straws.

Indeed, if such an application were relevant, I think John would've invoked it over some of the Churches we read about in Revelation 2-3. In those Churches, there was all manner of corruption and falsehood being perpetuated. Here is just a list of the problems we read about in these churches:

Ephesus: They lost their love for the Lord.

Pergamum: Some ministers there are leading others into idolatry and sexual immorality. Other ministers are conquering others in their ministry, presumably, creating the role of senior pastor.

Thyatira: A "Jezebel" who calls herself a prophetess is leading others into sexual immorality and idolatry.

Sardis: A largely spiritually dead church.

Laodicea: A lukewarm church that thinks it is well off.

Five of the seven churches in these chapters, we find some of the worst stuff imaginable going on. Some of these Churches seem to be fully corrupt. Others have a mixture of those who are corrupt and some who are doing well. Now, at this time does the Lord tell any within these Churches, especially ones with faithful members, "to come out of her my people?" Absolutely not. The Lord calls these Churches to answer for what is going on, and correct themselves before He takes them.

kes corrective action upon them Himself.

But never once is the call issued for those who are faithful and without corruption to just outright abandon those who are corrupt. Indeed, such would be unbiblical, and contrary to proper Church discipline. For even those who are in error, as gross as their error might be, we are still to regard them as brethren for whom Christ died. And only if those who are in clear error refuse to repent of their sin can we regard them as something else altogether.

Quote:

God never ordained the denominational system in the first place.

Agreed. But remember brother, in Corinth there were not only those who were saying that they were of Paul, Apollos, and Cephas, but there were also those who were becoming denominational by saying they were, "of Christ." As Watchman Nee correctly pointed out, it is just as erroneous to start a denomination centered in Christ as it is around other heroes of the faith. I believe many of those who say they are "the remnant" are doing just that.

Quote:

THAT's true assembling: being fit together so that each individual part is functioning in the capacity the designer had in mind for it when he made it, and so becomes a vital part of a beautiful whole.

Yes, in order for the body to function as it should, it is necessary for nothing to be "out of joint." But the reality of our time is that the body doesn't always function as it should, and is frequently out of joint. And it is my estimation that we are still waiting for the body to become a mature man and attain unto the unity of the faith. So, until that time, unfortunately, we will see things working at less than an ideal level. But, refusing to gather in local fellowship with other Christians, as some of us here do, is not a solution to this problem.

Quote:

Just because you have a hundred or a thousand Christians in a big... "box" does not mean they are assembled.

To use your model car analogy, this may be the case, but you have to start somewhere. And we'll never get started unless we first meet face to face.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 18:18

Quote:

-----It means worthy to be revered. With that in mind, I think only the Lord is qualified to be called Reverend.

And all those that live godly in this life as well.

I shall have to dare to say that many revere Brother Ravenhill. And there is nothing wrong with that.

There are a lot of things that we are afraid to touch, especially our callings. We are somewhat scared to death to actually say, "My calling is an Evangelist" or that "God uses me in the working of miracles".

What is wrong with us? Paul was not ashamed of his calling and made his calling known to all. But we shy away as if it's the humble way to go. Yet it's a false humility. It's not God's humility. Jesus knew who He was. John knew that he was a preacher which declare the way of the Lord, but we think that by saying what God has called us into is taking the glory. If we don't walk in it, there won't be any glory for Him. Even the prophets under a lesser covenant were more bolder than we by saying, "If I be a prophet of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you".

Just thinkin....

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:29

Quote:

The real local church may just be the one that is not in the yellow pages.

I agree. Just because they hang a sign on the door that says Church does not mean they are. There are plenty of places that meet that are full of unregenerate people that call themselves a Church. But I'm not talking about such people.

My definition of what constitutes a local Church is legitimately saved group of people who have committed themselves to regularly assembling together for the purpose of being built up in the faith, and furthering the gospel together. And it is my conviction that so long as there are legitimately saved people in your area, that you should assemble with them and do these very things, no matter how imperfect your assembling might be.

To refuse to fellowship together with those who are really saved, and live within proximity to you, is nothing less than outright error, and without any Biblical support whatsoever.

Christians are made to make other Christians, and to fellowship with other Christians. Some of you who say they are the faithful remnant of God, sadly, are doing neither.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 18:32

Quote:

-----What about His call to "come out of her, My people..." (Rev. 18.4)

Yes, what about it?

Just what is the "unclean thing" that was not to be touched?

Many have looked at this passage as referring to a religious system and you know there is some micro truths in that. But let me present another thought. Could it be possible that Jesus is speaking about our flesh?

Don't jump the gun, it's just a thought. Babylon is man's attempt to reach God, a fleshly idea that brings only confusion because Jesus is the only way into the holy of holies.

Touch not the unclean thing. Man's attempt by means of the flesh to reach God.

Just a thought.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:38

Quote:

Do I not rightly guess that you are a professional clergyman with a salaried position in the Industrial Church

WeirdLarry, your guess would be wrong. I work 55 hours a week between two jobs. Outside of that, I help lead one cell group at my church, while being involved with two others. When I can, I participate in street evangelism, and type up essays (some short and some long) for my two Christian websites, and some short thoughts I post here online.

One day I believe the Lord has called me to plant a Church, but that I will do so mostly, if not entirely, bi-vocationally. But that time is not yet.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:40

Quote:

However, in loving it, I am one of those that don't go to Church.

You are a curious sort of creature snuf. I enjoyed reading your post though. :-)

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:42

Quote:

quote
Quote:
-----* The prosperity gospel, teaching that godliness is a means of gain. Yet for all of these problems that existed in the Church then, never once do we find anybody ever instructed to withdraw their fellowship from an intentionally gathered local assembly of the saints. Not once.

No doubt. But that doesn't mean we are supposed to abandon the local Church altogether. We should definitely refuse to fellowship with those who are false prophets.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:44

Quote:

good deal Jimmy.

Mission accomplished!

all eyes on you baby, whats next?

nothing?

all right then, lets move on.

neil

I'm not sure what you meant by this Neil. My intention is not to bring attention to myself if that is what you mean. My life is far too busy for me to seek to desire to bring attention to myself. I have little time for such games.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 18:55

"I'm not sure what you meant by this Neil."

I believe you do, and I will leave you with this, be cautious, the Whore of Babylon is expert at seduction, she's been in practice for millennia, her AND her consort, the spirit of anti-christ, how I long for the day when they both burn in the fire never quenched!

yellow lights flashing Jimmy...caution.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 18:56

Quote:

Be careful not to become guilty of the very self same thing (critical spirit) that you accuse others of. Speck or plank is it? I ask you to carefully reconsider your wording in light of Gal 6:1.

Thank you for the exhortation. I try to guard my heart from it as much as possible, as it is something I have struggled with in the past.

Quote:

So there may be some that God has called into the wilderness for now to sort things out, shouldn't you be embracing them in a spirit of love as being a part of the body of Christ...shouldn't you?

I embrace them in the Spirit of love, and appeal to them as brethren. But at the same time, I feel compelled to remind them that for many of them, their actions are schismatic in nature, and in truth, is just as "denominational" in mentality.

The last thing the Church of Jesus Christ needs is another denomination that calls themselves "the remnant." The nature of such a claim is damaging to those who are their brethren that haven't come out into this imagined wilderness to join them.

Indeed, I would question whether many brethren have heard such a call from the Lord, because frankly, it is without Scriptural warrant. The Lord has not called us to sit at home and not fellowship with other Christians except via Facebook, SermonIndex.net, and Revival Conference, especially when there are so many other Christians around where they live.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2010/10/3 18:57

Blessings to you brother Jimmy,

I really do appreciate your post and the challenge it brings to SI readers. I appreciate the change I see God working in you. The attitude and spirit you are portraying in spite of all the negative posts is good to see in you brother.

I also appreciate how you are refusing to get caught up in the clicks on SI who seem to like to push their agenda above everyone else.

Your posts are challenging to many on here and from the negative response you have received by so many on here only proves that they are only trying to justify themselves.

I truly believe that if we as Christians would truly seek to edify the body of Christ in the humble calling God has placed on our lives instead of criticizing and tearing down one another, when they don't see it the way we do, we would be more

e of a blessing to our Lord Jesus Christ.

BTW, it is clear to see from what you wrote that you are not criticizing any movement of God, whether it is a house church or public place of worship. The message is clearly about not isolating ourselves from the body of Christ because we think we have attained to a higher spiritual level than others and therefore have come out from among them.

Anyways, thanks again brother!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:00

Quote:

...fellowship is not sitting in a 1.5 hour service every week until they day that you die. Surely Christ didn't die so that His body could sit and listen to one or two guys speak the rest of their life.

I totally agree. But it's definitely a starting point. And that 1.5 hours this person is getting is more than some on here, unfortunately, are getting week to week. Indeed, if this is all they got, it is more than some Christians who are imprisoned for their faith have had in many years. My bet is that many such brethren would love to have such fellowship, no matter how imperfect it is. But sadly, they sit in a small dark prison in isolation. They would rejoice over the opportunity, if such were afforded to them.

Re: maybe not fair of me. - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:08

Quote:

flinging the "heresy" mud pile at a brother positively stank of ego, the flesh, religioustic pride, my previous comment might not have been fair.

For a point of clarification: When I use the term "heresy," many probably misunderstand what I am saying, and that I am sorry for. It is my understanding that the word heresy, in it's original Biblical usage, wasn't used so much to describe gross theological error, but to describe the factitious nature that some Christians introduce into the fellowship of other Christians because of what they are teaching. Of course, much of the time, this is because of the gross error such teaching of ten employs. However, I think (and admit I could be wrong) that one could even be a heretic even if they are preaching nothing but the gospel truth.

For some brethren, just have the inability to get along with other brethren, no matter what. They are sectarian, or "heretical" in their disposition. And personally speaking, I find the entire idea of invoking some sort of "remnant" theology, that divides legitimate brethren from the fellowship of legitimate brethren, to be nothing but heretical in nature.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:18

Quote:

What about His call to "come out of her, My people..." (Rev. 18.4).

Quote:
-----A fine question to ask. Unfortunately though, this verse which has been used as a rally cry over the years to support the idea of dividing fellowship and withdrawing from the local church is in my estimation, a fine example of a bad use of Scripture. There is simply no exegetical basis for this. The cry of this passage is for the saints of God to separate themselves from the world and its system. That is, they are to have nothing to do with it. To use it in another context, that is, to separate oneself from other born again Christians is grasping for straws.

Jimmy, it is perfectly exegeted, if you want to call it that. Why? Because this world has a religious system, too.

So, yes, come out of her MY people, refers to coming out of the false religious systems which are part of the world system. Yes, even a false "christian" religious system.

Who do you think created the false religious system?

Does, "Hath God said?", remind you of someone?

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:21

Quote:

I really do appreciate your post and the challenge it brings to SI readers.

Thanks for the encouragement brother. No doubt, I hoped to challenge my brethren in this post. And knowing that there are "clicks" here on SI, I anticipated there might be some strong responses. My aim has been nothing less than the edification of the saints, and the building up of the body in love. That is always my aim, and I take great pains to try and present every man complete in Him.

And on a more personal note, my idea behind genuine Christian unity and fellowship is one that was born out of much pain and great sorrow in my life. Once upon a time, I was engaged to the only woman I have ever fallen in love with. To make a long story short, this woman eventually called off our engagement after the Lord called me to be a Church planter/missionary here in America. She ultimately felt she could not go along with me in my call, because, I could not agree with her 100% on the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and what constituted the initial physical evidence of that baptism. We were agreed almost 95%.

But at the end of the day, she acted as if I were some other sort of Christian altogether, and decided we could not be united together in marriage or ministry in the Church, because we could not be uniform in our doctrine. This one small point of doctrine cost me deeply.

It was from the events that unfolded in this time, after being together for four years, that the Lord began to reveal to me that all of us are united perfectly together in Him. For if the same Jesus can live inside of you and simultaneously live inside of me, in spite of our flaws and in spite of our theological differences, then we should be able to get along together, and fellowship, and labor together in the Lord. For the reality of Christ in you and me is the glue that binds us together.

That is ultimately why I cannot tolerate this idea of a remnant, and the dividing of Christians from Christians, and am so bold as to call it heresy. If Jesus is living in both of us, and laboring through both of us, then both of us need to figure out a way to get along together. Going out into some imaginary wilderness to be alone day after day, week after week, and year after year, and living a separated life from brethren within your proximity, is simply not a Biblical idea.

Indeed, such men are guilty of what the Bible calls, "neglect." And neglect is far from being spiritual.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:22

Quote:

-----For some brethren, just have the inability to get along with other brethren, no matter what. They are sectarian, or "heretical" in their disposition. And personally speaking, I find the entire idea of invoking some sort of "remnant" theology, that divides legitimate brethren from the fellowship of legitimate brethren, to be nothing but heretical in nature.

I don't know what "remnant theology" is, but I do know what the Lord means when He mentions remnant in His Word.

He means, He will have a people. He will have a Bride, that will be pure and not an Adulteress and she follows her Bride groom whithersoever He goes.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:30

Quote:
-----BTW, it is clear to see from what you wrote that you are not criticizing any movement of God, whether it is a house church or public place of worship. The message is clearly about not isolating ourselves from the body of Christ because we think we have attained to a higher spiritual level than others and therefore have come out from among them.

Dear me, where are these people that have arrived?

If truth be told, the majority of the folks that I know who have left the established Church are disgusted, bitter and hungry. Some it involves that "tithe". While others it involves watered down messages. Still, for others it's offenses during a crisis when they needed the Church to be there for them and were not.

The message I send back when talking with my brethren is, "love them". Oh they hate that, but it's the power of God that we hold our peace when we are reviled.

Let me say something here about the Church having problems and such.

When I was in my early twenties and I loved the Lord and the Lord opened up in those days for me to have godly friends which I seemed to have met in one fell swoop. But I was a secret fellow with many secret problems and sins. But I loved the Lord and I didn't know it but I radiated God's presense that would irritate others. Now at the time, I never new why people didn't like me much. Someone even said that I was a "unique breed". About a year ago I met one of those fellows that I worked with that didn't care for me too much. With all my problems that I had, he said, you know brother (he's saved now) "I couldn't stand working with you because you appeared to me to be very happy, and that bothered me".

I said this to say that the Church may have many problems, but even in my condition, Gods presence moved in me and affected others around me without my knowledge. So to run away from Church because it has so many problems is really lame. Paul spoke so many things to problematic Churches. And so what if they speak about tithing, don't give if you don't want to.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:31

Quote:

So, yes, come out of her MY people, refers to coming out of the false religious systems which are part of the world system. Yes, even a false "christian" religious system.

I attend a Church that is part of a rather large denomination. But I attend where I attend, and am a member there, in spite of the fact that this denomination exists. Truth be told, I could care less about the denomination, and so far as I have seen, the denomination has little to no impact on what happens on a day to day basis in the Church.

And while I am there, I fellowship with my brethren, and minister to them. This denominational umbrella does not keep me from being together with them, and loving the Lord together. Oh, sometimes a pesky little thing will sneak in there that reminds us our Church is connected to a larger denominational body. But that's ok. I can still fellowship there, and avoid things like getting licensed with the denomination, or deliberately sending the headquarters any of my money.

And you know what? The apostle Paul operated in such a manner. Indeed, there were sects that existed within the Church at Corinth. But did that keep Paul from enjoying fellowship with them, and ministering to them? No, not at all. Oh, he was sure to remind them that that the party spirit that they had enjoined themselves to was contrary to the way of the Lord, and exhorted them to stop. But he didn't make the problem worse by starting his own denomination, and calling even

rybody else to follow in step. For if he did that, as many in "the remnant" are doing, you would be falling into the exact same error.

The Lord's solution for our time and age is not to start a denomination called, "the Remnant." Some of you are doing just that, and in turn, are no different than every other denomination that exists in Christianity today. You're of the same spirit, and you don't even know it.

That's sad. But it's ok, I was once too such a fellow. You can change, even as I did.

edited

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:32

Quote:
-----That is ultimately why I cannot tolerate this idea of a remnant, and the dividing of Christians from Christians, and am so bold as to call it heresy. If Jesus is living in both of us, and laboring through both of us, then both of us need to figure out a way to get along together. Going out into some imaginary wilderness to be alone day after day, week after week, and year after year, and living a separated life from brethren within your proximity, is simply not a Biblical idea.

Jimmy, I am spending a lot of time reading your posts and I am coming to the opinion that you do not understand what we are saying or what the Word is saying.

I get along with everyone that loves the Lord in purity. You seem to have your identity really tied to the IC (Institutional Church) and any negative comment about the IC system you consider an offense against yourself.

That is just wrong and I am seeing a better picture of you. You want people to agree with you on certain things otherwise you conclude that "we" cannot get along.

And when you say, "Going out into some imaginary wilderness to be alone day after day, week after week, and year after year, and living a separated life from brethren within your proximity, is simply not a Biblical idea", that tells me that you absolutely have not learned or understood anything that anyone has said on this thread.

You do not sound teachable or open at all. It is almost like you are rolling your eyes while we are talking. How deep into the IC are you?

You cannot tolerate the idea of a Remnant? That comes from God not any man. The Remnant is God's Called out Ones. Simple. That should be you and me and everybody else that names the name of the Lord Jesus.

If you have valuable relationships and want to stay in your denomination, then do it and be blessed. You should also accord your brothers and sisters the same freedom to meet in their homes under the Lordship of Jesus. Is there a problem with that?

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:36

Quote:
-----But he didn't make the problem worse by starting his own denomination, and calling everybody else to follow in step. For if he did that, as many in "the remnant" are doing, you would be falling into the exact same error.

I don't know of any denomination called the Remnant. You are in a denomination. Paul was not. What do you think of that?

Early church was all house churches. What do you think of that?

Whatever you refer to as the Remnant, they just want to be left alone. I think they just want to hold fast to the Head, Jesus.

us Christ and no one wants to start anything. Oh, I have read of some groups that want to organize house churches, but that is off the wall and not the Holy Spirit. God does not need our organizational skills.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:39

Quote:

How deep into the IC are you?

Brother, I don't consider myself part of any "Institutional Church." I consider myself simply a part of the Church.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:41

Quote:

-----Brother, I don't consider myself part of any "Institutional Church." I consider myself simply a part of the Church.

Then consider those outside of denominations, like the one that you are in, part of the church, too.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:43

Quote:

Early church was all house churches. What do you think of that?

I could really care less where we meet. I would prefer a house church. But I'm totally ok with a larger venue if that is also where the saints are meeting.

Quote:

You are in a denomination. Paul was not. What do you think of that.

Just because I fellowship with a Church that meets under the umbrella of a larger denominational tag does not mean I am in a denomination. I fellowship with Christians where ever they are at, even if they insist on flying a flag over the place we meet at.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 19:50

Quote:

-----My definition of what constitutes a local Church is legitimately saved group of people who have committed themselves to regularly assembling together for the purpose of being built up in the faith, and furthering the gospel together. And it is my conviction that so long as there are legitimately saved people in your area, that you should assemble with them and do these very things, no matter how imperfect your assembling might be.

So maybe we are getting somewhere, then.

I meet with legitimately saved people. Should the denomination down the street start meeting with us or should we start

meeting with them? I think we were here first. What say you? I don't think they would take too kindly to dissolving and meeting with us. Some of them would have to get jobs. Interestingly, I know 5-6 house churches in our area, all independent and free and when I met them, they were more than happy to meet with us sometimes. But I don't think we would have much success asking a denomination to consider closing their doors and meeting with us. Do you know why this is so? If you have been reading all these posts you would know why. You act so naive, but I don't think you are.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 19:59

Quote:

I meet with legitimately saved people. Should the denomination down the street start meeting with us or should we start meeting with them? I think we were here first. What say you?

Good, and I am glad you do. But keep in mind my posts have been targeted to those who don't meet with anybody locally. As the original post stated, I have in mind those brothers whose only form of fellowship is via the internet, and maybe the random conference they attend. If they fellowship with anybody in their locality, it almost on accident, and seldom intentional. For the most part, they have written off organizing together with any brethren to frequently fellowship in their locality.

And for the record, I believe we can generally expect denominations to crack under their own weight, as they have faulty foundations. I am looking unto the Lord to do this in His due time, and indeed, believes He is doing so right now. Indeed, some denominations right now, due to the economic recession, are pretty close to broke.

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/10/3 20:04

Dear brothers/sisters,

It's possible I may be over simplifying things, but could it be that the truth is somewhere in the middle? (of course, there are times when this principle may not hold true).

In other words, could there be some misunderstanding going on here?

The reason I'm wondering is that there are those who are saying that there is a remnant within the body of Christ, in other words -those who truly know Christ and are born from above. This stance does jive with statements in the word of God about many people saying on the day of Judgment, "Lord, Lord did we not..", with Christ replying, "I never knew you". Also, we have the admonishments in scripture to 'examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith'. So if the idea of a 'remnant' is to focus people who attend churches on examining themselves, it seems that would be a good thing.

However, a valid point has also been made that when Christ, in the book of Revelations, delivers a message to each of the 7 churches, the message for each of these churches is more a message of repentance, than necessarily to abandon the church already established to create something new. This was the case with the church of Corinth, where a man had committed incest, and he and possibly the church as a whole, needed to receive church discipline. Having said this, I do believe there are times when God will call us as individuals to leave one church and to go to another. But it seems like generally the way he works is to refine a body of believers, and to get them to abandon the folly of their ways, if necessary. There are for sure times, when God calls us to suspend fellowship with another believer, (as they did in Corinth) but the intention was always to bring about a restoration, and I believe this is God's great desire for the church today, even if restoration must first come about through judgment ("For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God" 1 Peter 4:16-19)

Just a few thoughts.

Love in Christ,
John

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 20:08

Quote:
-----Good, and I am glad you do. But keep in mind my posts have been targeted to those who don't meet with anybody locally. As the original post stated, I have in mind those brothers whose only form of fellowship is via the internet, and maybe the random conference they attend. If they fellowship with anybody in their locality, it almost on accident, and seldom intentional. For the most part, they have written off organizing together with any brethren to frequently fellowship in their locality.

Well, there are some hurting people out there. And who is it that is going to determine what is regular? Some men, even Leonard Ravenhill have gone without "fellowship" for months while seeking the Lord. What if they have the fellowship of 1 or 2 brothers? I am sure Paul on his missionary journeys only had 1 or 2 brothers with him at a time and it took a long time to get to where he was going.

So, you are talking about people that absolutely do not want any fellowship of any kind? I thought you were speaking negatively about people "leaving the Church." That is what your thread is titled.

Is it not dangerous to start making rules concerning what is frequent fellowship and how many we should be meeting with? Thank God the Holy Spirit is always with us. You can't always get good, healthy fellowship in the Spirit.

But once again, it seems that you are now talking about people that absolutely do not want any fellowship of any kind?

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/10/3 20:13

Personally I don't believe it necessary to draw a line between house churches and 'institutionalized churches'. I think when God has chosen to pour out his Spirit upon a body of believers, sometimes it has been upon a body who happened to be in a Baptist church, Pentecostal church etc. Many times when genuine revivals have occurred they have occurred in a local Baptist church or Alliance church, but as other believers have become stirred by God they have come to become a part of what has been happening at this church (read building) that happened to be the location God was using to demonstrate his power and presence. If you look at some of the ways in which God was revealed himself in the life of Mark Greening and the believers he has fellowshiped with, this has taken place in a house church.

As 2 Chronicles 16 :9 says :

"For The Eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

In Jesus,
John

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 20:14

I think the right thing would be to determine what is "fellowship". That would be a good starting place. If you think that your Sunday 1.5 hour programmed service is fellowship then you are grossly mistaken. Let's lay the foundation and build from there....

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 20:27

Quote:
-----Personally I don't believe it necessary to draw a line between house churches and 'institutionalized churches'.

That is exactly the point that has been made several times in this thread. Totally agree.

I actually fellowship with Believers that are in denominations, para-church organizations and house churches and those that are not part of anything (outward). I'm in a house church. Big deal!

The most important thing is are you "in Christ". If there is a "place" to be, that is the place. And those that are "in Christ", seek out fellowship.

Why limit yourself when you know Believers are all over the place.

Fellowship: sharing your life and His life. Not listening to sermons and doing projects.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/3 20:34

WOW - it seems as though many needed to read your article - PRAISE GOD! Be encouraged KingJimmy may God give us all ears to hear!

Fellowship (koinonia) simply means partnership or participation.

Agreed, Sunday service only is a stretch to be called fellowship, but you would be VERY hard pressed to find a church these days that stops at Sunday service. Most churches these days have numerous other opportunities to "fellowship" other than Sunday service consisting of life groups, ministry opportunities, community groups, small group Bible study etc. These are all wonderful opportunities to connect and love other believers, providing wonderful opportunities to share and discuss issues such as "The Real Gospel", "Holiness", "what it means to be a Christian or follower of Christ" etc. I found that the vast majority are more than happy to discuss these and many other issues when approached in a kind, loving and non-judgmental way.

Patrick

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/3 20:53

'But it's definitely a starting point. And that 1.5 hours this person is getting is more than some on here, unfortunately, are getting week to week.'

Hi KJ,

You don't seem to believe the Holy Spirit is our Teacher, and that as we read scripture, share with the Christians we know in person (whether in a formal meeting or by phone, Skype or internet), and grow in the Lord through fellowship with Him and others, we are, actually, doing what scripture says.

It's a great idea to have a nice, safe, handy, local body to join with regularly, but it's not that simple for those who have learned what is, and what is not, 'fellowship'.

I've been lectured more than once about the importance of being 'in a church' (meaning, formal denomination with an internal hierarchy), so that I can be 'in submission', but I am totally certain this is not what Paul meant when he wrote Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

What I experience as 'oversight', is through distant brethren to whom God has bonded me in the Spirit, under whom I have freedom to live in peace, and hear from the Lord as He speaks to me, and 'do' what He puts in my heart (although it can be Christians who make that difficult to achieve sometimes), and, most of all, the Holy Spirit holding me back from making serious mistakes. That's oversight. For example, what AD wrote in this thread, and Pilgrim777, and Neil, I can agree completely.

I remember you are in favour of 'pastors' having as large a salary as their congregation can afford them. This suggests to me that you have a blind spot about money, and when you read the New Testament, the many times it is mentioned (and the consequences of taking it too seriously), do not leap out at you like animated red lights. If I'm mistaken, I do apologise.

I do not need to be forced to put my name to a 'statement of faith' document, other than scripture, and, it is definitely possible.

sible to get more from a week's Bible study on one's own, than comes from even 3 hours preaching in some churches on a Sunday.

This is not to say that I don't miss being able to join with like-minded people several times a week to pray, praise and share the word in person, but there is a great need for someone who actually knows the Lord, to let God send them from their current comfy fellowship, into the wilds of my city, and become the pastor of one tiny part of the veritable flock of unhappy believers who cannot settle under the teaching by which others are being led astray into all kinds of false doctrine. Some of us have had to jump out of the slowly warming pot, before we became a dead toad, who cannot jump anywhere.

My understanding of your denominational experiences are that you've been fairly blessed to have grown up under genuinely biblical teaching and practice. Furthermore, you can go and tangle with the Greek to improve your understanding. It's for people who are TOTALLY dependent on what is said from the platform, that there is a concern. It is for them it is VITALLY important that if there going to be only ONE person doing ALL the preaching, that it must be as fully and undilutedly, the whole word of God as it is in the Bible - nothing less, and certainly nothing MORE.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/10/3 20:56

Jimmy said, "That is ultimately why I cannot tolerate this idea of a remnant, and the dividing of Christians from Christians, and am so bold as to call it heresy."

By that reasoning, Jimmy, you would not have been able to tolerate most of the moves of the Spirit throughout history, moves that came about when brethren just couldn't tolerate anymore what their "church" had become... and so sought God, often in anguish about it all. And He was found of them. And they were often misunderstood, even persecuted, by those in the "church" they had left behind. Of course, and sad to say, many of these fresh moves became another denomination over time, and once again hungry brethren had to seek God again. That's the story over and over throughout history.

And so it is today. Many are weary of the fare being served up in the traditional churches, and are seeking God afresh.

Sometimes it means they must walk alone, and I'm sorry, Jimmy, to see you picking on certain ones who have found it necessary to walk alone. You'd think you'd understand the pain of longing for a certain quality of fellowship, and being unable to find it.

I encourage you to search your heart about that, young brother.

And I would just say... if you are content where you are, happy where you are, by all means stay where you are. Nobody is trying to tell you to do otherwise.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/3 21:12

Hi Christisking,

The way you wrote 'simply means partnership or participation', makes it sound as if you think the participation is to be in discussions, and the partnership is in promoting church activities. (I realise you didn't say that in so many words.)

Whereas, koinonia is about being IN Christ - being made to drink into one Spirit, becoming able to remember His death till He comes, and, having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts and expressed towards others. Unless this foundation is in place, all the other stuff is a pure frustration

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/3 21:15

Quote:
-----Whereas, koinonia is about being IN Christ - being made to drink into one Spirit, becoming able to remember His death till He come s, and, having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts and expressed towards others. Unless this foundation is in place, all the other stuff is a pure frustration

Of course! AMEN!

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2010/10/3 21:23

Jimmy, this thread has definitely surprised me, even though I don't know you. First, you seem to be advocating strongly for continuing with a group of people who are not practicing the faith given to us by Jesus. And the best reason is that there have been groups of professing Christians before us who have not been serious about God?

Quote:
-----To refuse to fellowship together with those who are really saved, and live within proximity to you, is nothing less than outright error, and without any Biblical support whatsoever.

You are right! Does anyone know why they won't fellowship with us? We are waiting, but the sad truth is, they reject us, malign us, scheme against us, and would never be caught dead with us in public or in private. "None dare associate with them" was true of an earlier group also. That group did not have the sexual immorality, greed, and pride that you indicate should be accepted as normal, and as they were followers of Jesus, I think any of us would be glad to associate with them intimately.

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2010/10/3 21:38

Quote:
-----That is ultimately why I cannot tolerate this idea of a remnant, and the dividing of Christians from Christians, and am so bold as to call it heresy. If Jesus is living in both of us, and laboring through both of us, then both of us need to figure out a way to get along together. Going out into some imaginary wilderness to be alone day after day, week after week, and year after year, and living a separated life from brethren within your proximity, is simply not a Biblical idea.

Jimmy, I understand and appreciate many points in your posts, but Christianity must be very different where you live than where I live. There are not necessarily a lot of churches, but where there are, the majority of the people are not interested in talking about Jesus or the Scriptures. I have even been asked to leave a church. Someone might ask, what did you say? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Not one word to the pastor or the people of the church. The pastor visited us and told us that families like ours that sought to be orderly and serious about God were "an offense to the others in the church". He also told us we were not a part of "real life". Again, you have to remember that we had no influence (that we were aware of) on one single person at this church, nor did we ever criticize the pastor publicly or privately (or even think about it). This church has in its name "Bible church" and considers itself "evangelical" and "born again". They teach a great deal of Scripture from the pulpit.

Brother, that is my experience, so I cannot at all relate to yours or what you are saying. "The churches" hate us, out and out. There is a burning enmity in the churches against the people of God, those who love Christ. I know there are true, Christ-loving, God-worshiping churches out there, but that is why there are people not connected to "churches". And not everyone is gifted to start one. So, I don't think you are right to point that finger of divisiveness one way. In fact, you are wrong and need to stop accusing people without knowing their situation. You have become a judge, brother, and no longer an exhorter.

If you had qualified your post, there is no doubt its points apply to some, possibly many. Unfortunately, it is no longer valid. I haven't even begun to address how most churches want to control those who would join them. In most of these groups, one can never hope to become a productive or active member of the body of Christ.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/10/3 21:57

Jimm said,

Quote:
-----To refuse to fellowship together with those who are really saved, and live within proximity to you, is nothing less than outright error, and without any Biblical support whatsoever.

Koheleth said, "You are right! Does anyone know why they won't fellowship with us?"

Amen. Good word, Koheleth.

Koheleth said, "So, I don't think you are right to point that finger of divisiveness one way. In fact, you are wrong and need to stop accusing people without knowing their situation. You have become a judge, brother, and no longer an exhorter."
"

I agree with Koheleth's assessment, Jimmy. I think this thread has been unworthy of you.

But maybe it reveals something in your heart that you need to be seeking God about.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 22:26

PILGRIM SAID, "Early church was all house churches. What do you think of that?"

Pilgrim, who told you that?

How about considering the reason why, when and if this happened.

What about in I Corinthians near the 11th chapter, Paul mentions some in assembly getting drunk and he basically writes, "go home and do that."

i have serious trouble believing that the early church was ever small enough for all to fit in one house.
(they often met in the open and not in buildings at all: porches, courtyards, groves, outdoor assembly areas, etc.)

The First primitive church in Jerusalem was in very short order numbering well over 8,000 including women and children.

When pronounced anathema at the temple:

~they could no longer meet on Solomon's porch

~they were cut off from the orthodox Jewish community

~they were considered dead men cursed of God already by the Jews that lived around them (No jobs, no commerce with them allowed, etc.)

so

THEY WERE FORCED to share all things in common, meet in separate groups in houses and so on.

Being separate from any other follower of Jesus is never God's ideal.

They were told to go and make disciples and rather than following through, they huddled together in one group in Jerusalem.

There are two sides to this:

1.)

If one puts a thousand to flight, and two 5x that, what would 8000+ do? And if the growth were to continue, then what?

2)
They were scattered through persecution, and as they went, they 'gossiped' about Jesus.

The more members of the Body of Christ united together, the more (Kingdom) building should get done.

The question to be asking is,
if the Lord is not adding to our numbers daily,
what's wrong ? ? ?
. . . because it certainly is not the Lord failing us.

In seperating off from other saints . . .oh, i'm not going to get started right now.
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW WHERE I AM COMING FROM MORE CLEARLY:
i do not at all advocate any 'church' that has a demonational headquarters dictating dues either.
WE are all bleaters and there is one Great Shepherd!

God Bless,
g

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/3 22:36

KingJimmy has not been judgmental at all, nor has he been finger pointing - he did write a wonderful article that pointed out an all too common problem among many "out of church" "anti-IC" camps. He even admitted that he himself has once been in the same error that many here seem to be stuck in bondage to.

I understand completely where most responders are coming from - 4 years ago I would have been arm and arm with you throwing stones at KingJimmy and gnashing my teeth at his article.

I think the problem is that instead of being open to their error many are trying desperately but unsuccessfully to defend their un-biblical actions and attitudes. And in turn attack the person who has delivered the word of exhortation and correction. They in fact are doing the same thing they accuse many IC believers of doing to them. This is truly a sad and shameful display. Please allow God to convict your heart on this matter.

Can you admit that there is a possibility you are in error blinded by a critical and judgmental spirit? If the answer is yes and you can admit that, then please seek God EARNESTLY and ask Him to reveal to you if this is the case and to open your eyes to the truth. If not, you can't even admit the possibility of error and a blinding spirit, then pride may be your bigger issue at this point.

Oh the multitude in the IC that could be reached for the glory of God if people could be set free from the judgment and criticism! If we could only reach out to those in the IC with love, grace, kindness, friendship and mercy we could see revival of holiness and the truth of the gospel in the IC churches.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:04

Yes, sure. They met in the open and they met in homes and Paul preached in synagogues. You will see as you read the following scriptures that they mostly met in homes.

Many of the 3,000 that repented and were saved in regard to Peter's preaching on Pentecost, were visiting Jerusalem from many different regions and went back to their home city, afterwards. So, I don't disagree with you. I would say from reading Acts that mostly homes were used and the synagogue was mostly attended to by Paul to evangelize.

But, there was certainly no mindset, at least that we read of regarding building a central place to house 1000s of Believers. I have provided scriptures for you which emphasize meeting in homes and some scriptures regarding open meetings.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Act 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Act 13:42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

Act 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Act 13:44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

Act 14:1 And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

Act 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

Act 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Paul was kicked out of the synagogue many times and this particular time he left (below).

Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Act 18:5 And when Silas and Timothy were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

Act 18:6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Act 12:12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Act 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Act 28:30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Act 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Rom 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

1Co 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Col 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

Phm 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:15

I hear completely what Jimmy is saying.

However, the letter that was written was quite long and no doubt was skimmed over quickly and quickly missed many points that Jim is NOT saying and points that he was saying.

Those that are offended are writing as if protecting a religion as if the "remnant" was some sect that needs protecting. Some of the answers here is simply foolish. Because the man is not saying anything against anyone who attends house Churches, or wherever believers meet together.

I don't believe that Jim is against the meaning of the word remnant and what it may even entail, however, how I gather in the reading of his lecture was that he believes that those who think they don't need other believers who call themselves the remnant are indeed in error, and rightly so. Even Paul highlighted certain individuals walking after their own vain imagination doing the same thing in thinking that they don't need to assemble with any body of believers whether that place is in a barn, house, or at Times Square Church.

Don't be offended by the use of this word remnant here.

And some of you are quoting the word as if the brother just got born again. The man is well versed in the scriptures and knows and understands the foundational teachings of the Apostles and Jesus Christ the corner stone.

Lets all be like lawyers, read the fine print slowly and try to get the drift of what is being said instead of speed reading and missing the point entirely.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:19

Quote:
-----Oh the multitude in the IC that could be reached for the glory of God if people could be set free from the judgment and criticism! If we could only reach out to those in the IC with love, grace, kindness, friendship and mercy we could see revival of holiness and the truth of the gospel in the IC churches.

This is getting a bit exasperating. Your choice of words, (throwing stones and anti-IC) are interesting. I am anti-catholic church but I am not anti-catholic people. But the Romish church will characterize you as anti-catholic none the less.

We are having a discussion with Jimmy and to characterize it as one side that is throwing stones is not really helpful. Anti-IC is not a sin, the last time I checked. No one has to love the IC, but we are called to love people. Now, on with my thought.

Many that are outside the church have tried to minister to the people in the IC, and they have been run out of town. Why, because they won't play the game and they are considered a threat to the leadership because people in the congregation are getting blessed by the what the Word really says, and are getting freed from the control and fear of man. And all of this just happens when the pure Word is expounded. When the leadership finds out that people are starting to see and believe things in the Bible that do not support what the leadership is teaching, stuff happens.

This is how most people know it is time to leave. Some get kicked out, others, wishing to avoid conflict know that they should just leave quietly.

Here is one rule that everyone should keep in mind.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE THE SYSTEM. IT WILL NOT AND CANNOT HAPPEN BECAUSE IT'S CORE FOUNDATION IS NOT BUILT ON JESUS CHRIST. YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT. YOU EITHER LEAVE IT, STAY AND AGREE WITH AND SUPPORT IT, or STAY, DISAGREEING WITH IT AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT. I do not know very many people that do the latter. Most begrudgingly stay and complain and criticize anyway. Even Jimmy has admitted to that.

If you don't believe me, suggest to the leadership that they consider jettisoning their salaries and getting a job and living by faith.

Once you "touch" the money, you are considered an enemy. That is a fact of the religious system.

Sad isn't it?

I know this from experience and God's Word.

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/10/3 23:21

Here's the type of church which God chose to revive in the Hebrides revival. Does it sound like some of what we're seeing today ?

"In 1949, the local presbytery issued a proclamation to be read on a certain Sunday in all the Free Churches on the Island of Lewis. This proclamation called the people to consider the "low state of vital religion . . . throughout the land . . . and the present dispensation of Divine displeasure . . . due to growing carelessness toward public worship . . . and the growing influence of the spirit of pleasure which has taken growing hold of the younger generation" (excerpt from another Sermon Index page)

It reminds me of the Lord's words to the church of Sardis.....

1"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

Where there is 'life' there is hope....where there is a spark, there is the opportunity for the Spirit of God to fan the flame into a roaring fire. Let's continue to pray that he will do it again !

In Jesus,
John

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:21

snufupagus and Jimmy,

Please tell us who these people are that call themselves the Remnant and say they don't need anyone. You never mentioned who they are. That might clear some things up.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:23

Quote:
-----I think the problem is that instead of being open to their error many are trying desperately but unsuccessfully to defend their un-biblical actions and attitudes. ~Patrick Ersig

Sorta like the Krump dancing you were promoting?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1srAZ3vGZw&feature=related>

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:31

Quote:
-----Please tell us who these people are that call themselves the Remnant and say they don't need anyone. You never mentioned who they are. That might clear some things up.

LOL@Pilgrim, oh don't put my name nick along side Jim, he wouldn't like that, in fact no one would. :-)

I was merely interpreting what the brother was saying. What caused brother Jim to write it, I have no idea, so I don't know

w who these people are that don't need the body of Christ. I haven't met anyone that fits this bill. I have met those that were half hearted, never gave their hearts completely to the Lord, they heard something about hell and it scared them and then it wore away and you never see them again, but other than that, I don't know of any.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:40

This was posted on the thread "The terrible doctrine of the Remnant," which I am guessing is why Jimmy started this thread, of course I could be wrong.

WHY Are THEY LEAVING the CHURCHES??

-Andrew Strom.

Since we have been discussing the "Out-of-church" Christians, I think it is very important for us all - including church leaders - to look at the reasons why these people are leaving. Very often they are NOT "church-hoppers" or backsliders. A lot of them are leaving because they believe the CHURCH is backsliding!

So many people write to me from all over the world saying that they have tried and tried - but they cannot find any fellowship in their town that seems remotely biblical. They tell me they have looked hard - but they are either cold, formal, or anti-charismatic on one hand - or "hyper-charismatic" or 'seeker-sensitive' on the other. There hardly seems to be any balanced biblical approach whichever way they turn.

It is easy to pass glib remarks like "There is no perfect church" but my heart truly goes out to these ones because the church scene has been bad for awhile - and seemingly growing worse and worse. So what are people to do?

Below are some accounts that people have sent me about why they have left the churches. We would love your comments on this too at our website (link at the end)-

From: Peggy (-USA):

"My husband and I have been Christians for 30 years, home group leaders for much of that time; my husband has also been a worship leader for most of that time. However, now we are among the "out of church" that your message describes, although we do continue to meet and pray with other believers who feel the same longing for something more real than we have experienced for longer than we care to remember. The cry of our hearts is *not* to live on our memories of incredible intimacy with God in years past, but to discover Him anew and in deeper ways than ever before. We are desperate for Him. In light of that hunger, the emptiness of our church experience, a church we'd attended for 17 years, was more than we could bear."

From: Randy (-USA):

"I read an explanation of why the phenomenon is growing - the out-of-church Christians. They say that we are lone rangers, backsliders, not team players, have bitter root judgements.... This can't be further from the truth. When we have been attending church, we find- No God - No Power- No Gospel- Bad Agendas- Poor Leadership- Bad teaching- Bad programs- No Christ- No Healing- No miracles. Just a struggle for personal power and control. I can't tell you how many times I have been treated like I am not going to Heaven because I am not attending church. So, the sad part is,

where do we take our gifts, our tithes, and our love - but out to the streets. We know many who have left the church, who are committed as prayer warriors, intercessors, missionaries, and worshippers. Wanting to share their gifts from God..."

From: Dorie (Canada)-

"I wanted to write to you because I am so frustrated and don't know what to do anymore... I grew up in a church denomination that was wacky-charismatic with little-to-no-discernment and a lot of control/spiritual abuse. About 10 years ago, the Lord gave me my first wake-up call, grabbing my attention and then 5-6 years ago, another big, final one..."

Now I haven't really been "a part of a Sunday-morning-church" for a long, long time. I have "fellowship" with some Evangelical Christians here in Calgary, but just can't seem to be able to sit through the dry services that seem filled with flowery messages, as opaque as milk. (I want meat!!!) The worship feels like it is being led by robots as do the people in the congregation. Or else, the charismatic churches (Vineyard, Pentecostal, non-denominational) where they're not considered to be "dry" (so-to-speak), are just plain wacky! My problem is: I miss really good worship music and intimate worship times with people who love to worship and aren't being forced-to, but the only handful of churches I know that have it, are wacky. People (worship leaders/intercessors) are acting like Stacey Campbell and I get turned off so much that I can't tolerate the rest of the service. I feel so torn. I can't seem to find a church to "fit" in.

I've tried different denominations with no success. The last evangelical "small group" I was in, ended breaking up because the small-group pastor was purposely hiding the fact that a christian couple who were co-leading with him, were living together and not married. (Once saved, no need for any more personal repentance, is what he preaches. Greasy-grace. Argh!)... The pastor also told other young christians in that group that "sex before marriage was fine"...

I have tried so many places and I'm not being fussy or picky, it just seems really, really hard and weird here... I really want the fellowship. I can't seem to fit anywhere, and I am so frustrated that I could just cry. I long to be with like-minded people, sold-out, crazy-on-fire for Jesus, totally unashamed. Christians here seem so focused on their careers, and houses, and cars, and vacations and I feel like a stinkin' hippie around them because I can't live for those things!!

What do you do when you want so desperately to be in a fellowship of believers that is growing strong in the Word, intimate and deep in worship, and not wacky? I am so discouraged and have a hard time believing that it exists..."

-Please comment on this topic at the website below-

<http://www.johnthebaptisttv.com/>

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:46

Snuf, fair enough. I'll keep you and Jimmy apart. ;-)

Andrew Strom said that years ago and I believe he probably has a follow-up or more, on that original article he wrote. I think, since then that he has learned a lot more (positive things) about what he calls the Out-of-Churchers.

Ironice wording, isn't it?

He actually wrote a book on Out-of-Church Christians.

Read this article by Andrew. THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW
<http://www.revivalschool.com/tomorrow.html>

Revival is taking place in many hearts here and there. It's not happening under one big tent or in one big building but it is happening and it is a move of God in these end days. Thanks be to God that it IS happening.

Moves of God are frustrating to the religious system especially this one, because of the fact that it is happening all over the world and there is no central place in which to control or stop it.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/3 23:50

A FINAL WORD:
#####

Please feel free to continue to comment after this. I will make this my last post on this thread. Generally I have enjoyed it, though in part, I am grieved in some of the things I have read. There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding going on, and I have attempted several times to try and bring some clarity to what I have said, and make a few additional points along the way.

But in doing so, a new can of worms only seems to open, and people seem to start imagining I've said things I've not said, or imagine that I hold positions that I simply do not hold to. The most interesting one that gave me a bit of a chuckle was the one brother who imagined I was a staff pastor somewhere. But such is an example of the run away imagination some of you have, which frankly, I find difficult to engage in conversation with when more thought is given to what I did not say than what I actually in fact, have said.

Because I work 55 hours a week in two "secular" jobs, and a new work week being upon me, along the the three to four times I will gather with the saints this next week in small groups and larger assemblies, I am really forced to withdraw from such a large conversation because of my personal constraints. Not to mention I'd like to spend some time with our Lord.

So in closing I just want to sum up my position, and leave you with these closing thoughts:

Christians are made to make other Christians, and to fellowship with other Christians, face to face, in the localized expression of the body of Christ. We are to be the Church and to do Church together. But in doing Church together, we will often find there are imperfections, and indeed, sometimes gross error.

These imperfections and errors which exist in genuine Christian Churches are undoubtedly grievous to us all. We wish they were not there, and I am all sure we actively pray for change. Many of us have suffered horrible wrongs at the hands of others because of these errors, and have the scars to prove it. I am among them.

But as troubling as these errors are, I believe some of you are in just as much error as those you grieve over. You believe with all of your heart because of these things, the Lord has called you out of the regular and frequent fellowship of the saints in your locality, so that you can be alone, experiencing only fellowship through the internet or through a special trip to a SermonIndex.net style revival conference. But I must say, standing upon the Scriptures while doing so, there sim

ply is no basis for such a call as you have imagined yourself to have experienced. It is entirely without apostolic precedent, to which some of you because of the error that lies within your heart, engage in some reckless exegesis in an attempt to justify where you are.

Truth be told, and I say this not to be ugly, but because it is the truth, and I love every single one of you, but some of you are unable to find a local fellowship to frequently gather with because your heart is carnal, and within you lies the heart of a schismatic. You can't get along with other Christians simply because you don't really love them, and that's because your heart is not big enough to see Christ indwelling even the most immature and carnal of believers.

But I promise you, as having too been such a person, once you catch a glimpse of Christ even in the most immature and carnal believer, your attitude towards them will change once and forever. And you know what I rejoice in? Having been such a person myself, I am confident that He who began a good work in you will complete it unto the day of Christ Jesus, and as He has effectually worked in me, I am confident He will effectually work in you as well.

As Art Katz was fond of pointing out, the Church is to be a place of dying before it is a place of life. It is a cross that God has placed in our lives, and is a cross He calls us to embrace and die upon. Being the Church is hard enough, doing Church is even harder. It's a messy, bloody, and painful community, that is given to much trouble, not only while in the world, but even while in the presence of one another. A lot of bad stuff happens in it, things that are not supposed to be. But these things are a gift from the Lord to us, so that by embracing the cross in the Church, we can become iron sharpening iron, and be fashioned ultimately into the people He wants us to become.

And to do that, we might have to sit through a lot of dead and lifeless Church services where we look at the back of another person's head. And to do that, we might have to deal with members who are living in secret sexual sin. And to do that, we might have to deal with brethren who introduce the precepts of men, and mix them with the teachings of Christ. Timothy was not told he would have much need of being patient, long suffering, and in great need to be gentle for nothing.

But most of us do not have the stomach for this kind of thing. I know I hardly do. So instead of embracing the cross of Christian community, we run from it, and we run out into the wilderness where we imagine God has called us to be. But truth be told, my Jonah like brethren, God has called us to a different task altogether. By the word of the Lord might I say that God is calling you to come out of the wilderness, and back to the cross of Christian community, where you truly belong?

Again, I don't say this to be ugly, but sadly, some of you will continue to play as children in your sand boxes, imagining you are in a vast spiritual wilderness, and that you are some sort of special remnant or prophetic voice calling out to others. I'm sorry to say, but I believe you are severely mistaken.

Remember, Christians are called to make other Christians, and in making other Christians, to fellowship with them. You may not be a missionary or an evangelist. But if you are truly alone, and there are truly no other Christians in your proximity, you still cannot escape the universal call given to all Christians to make disciples. And truth be told, if you are truly full of the spiritual life you imagine yourself to be full of, given time, you will produce other Christians. But if you are not doing such where you are at, then I will tell you plainly, you are not where you need to be with the Lord. Indeed, you may not even be saved. A Christian, even if alone all by himself, cannot remain alone for a very long time. If he is truly seeing the Lord, he will make other Christians where he is at, and join them in rich, though sometimes difficult fellowship.

Many blessings,

Jimmy Humphrey

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:53

Wow, thanks Frank for inserting that here. That is basically the heart of people that I know of. They want fellowship that builds up not agenda on how to gather more people in so that man can build up his will instead of doing Gods will.

There is no doubt in my mind that there are good Churches around that are standing for the truths of God's word. Alas, I think that those numbers are becoming few and far between. Even in my own city, I can think of perhaps one Church that God is working on, and the Pastor works for a living and not off the Church, other than that I have no idea about any of the others and I don't know of any home churches in my area. If I knew, I would probably go. I remember going to a few house churches back in the early nineties and I truly have not experienced fellowship like that in any Church that I have gone too. I can only say, tis so sweet!

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:53

Snuf, fair enough. I'll keep you and Jimmy apart. ;-)

Andrew Strom said that years ago and I believe he probably has a follow-up or more, on that original article he wrote. I think, since then that he has learned a lot more (positive things) about what he calls the Out-of-Churchers.

Ironice wording, isn't it?

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Moves of God are frustrating to the religious system especially this one, because of the fact that it is happening all over the world and there is no central place in which to control or stop it.

Re: , on: 2010/10/3 23:55

Quote:
-----And to do that, we might have to sit through a lot of dead and lifeless Church services where we look at the back of one another persons head.

Wow. I can't find an example of that in scripture ANYWHERE. If that is what your fellowship is like then you do not have biblical fellowship and are free to leave the weekly looking at the back of someones head. Find a true fellowship where there is life....don't settle for a counterfeit of the devil.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/3 23:56

What a wonderful and blessed opportunity Scott to see ex-gang members expressing in dance their joy and love for God having set them free from a life of drugs and violence!!!

I know a judgmental and critical spirit would not allow some people to see the beauty in that and even go so far as to condemn the way someone dances before God.

This is a clear case of Michal's error (2Sa 6:14-23) Can you imagine if we could put a video of David dancing on YouTube in the streets and watch all the judgmental and critical "Christians" tear him apart???

I think that kind of dancing is silly and is certainly not the way I would worship God, but how dare me judge people of a completely different culture than me for the way they chose to worship God. Even if you don't understand it - don't EVER judge the way someone expresses their worship to Christ for setting them free - remember what happened to Michal for

idiculing David for the way he danced.

2Sa 6:23 So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life.

Re: - posted by StarofG0D (), on: 2010/10/4 0:01

Quote:
-----This is a clear case of Michal's error (2Sa 6:14-23) Can you imagine if we could put a video of David dancing on YouTube in the streets and watch all the judgmental and critical "Christians" tear him apart???

lol patrick. that's great.

Quote:
-----So, the sad part is, where do we take our gifts, our tithes, and our love - but out to the streets. We know many who have left the church, who are committed as prayer warriors, intercessors, missionaries, and worshippers. Wanting to share their gifts from God...

amen to this. out to the streets. makes me think of mt 22:1-14

On another note,

Mt 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and intreated them spitefully, and slew them.

I don't agree with all of what Jim says, but I hear some of what he's saying.

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:06

Quote:
-----Can you imagine if we could put a video of David dancing on YouTube in the streets and watch all the judgmental and critical "Christians" tear him apart???

I have a hard time believing David was grabbing his groin for God like some of the inspired Krump dancers.

I just find it ironic that you can't take your own advise:

"I think the problem is that instead of being open to their error many are trying desperately but unsuccessfully to defend their un-biblical actions and attitudes."

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2010/10/4 0:11

Quote:
-----Remember, Christians are called to make other Christians, and in making other Christians, to fellowship with them. You may not be a missionary or an evangelist. But if you are truly alone, and there are truly no other Christians in your proximity, you still cannot escape the universal call given to all Christians to make disciples. And truth be told, if you are truly full of the spiritual life you imagine yourself to be full of, given time, you will produce other Christians. But if you are not doing such where you are at, then I will tell you plainly, you are not where you need to be with the Lord. In deed, you may not even be saved. A Christian, even if alone all by himself, cannot remain alone for a very long time. If he is truly seeking the Lord, he will make other Christians where he is at, and join them in rich, though sometimes difficult fellowship.

He "will make" other Christians? Isn't this up to the Lord? How can you judge what others' efforts have amounted to? Jesus

us said the world hates Christians. I do not doubt that the fields are white unto harvest and there are many out there who need to see a real Christian witness and will follow the Lord, but how are you able to make such a blanket judgment without being wrong? Again, some of your post is most valid. It is the swooping denunciation of all Christians who do not find themselves in a fellowship as wrong. Yes, I agree it is wrong to not seek out godly fellowship. That is what is wrong. It is not wrong to be alone if that is where you are at in a right relationship with the Lord. There are so many saints on SI and not on SI who are alone and are vibrant witnesses in their community, including on the streets. Many of them have shared their works of public testimony and crying out for the Lord. Why do you condemn them?

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:12

Well, thanks for your last post Jimmy. It sure was exasperating because you jump back and forth from Believers who leave the organizational church and "don't want to be with anyone", to those who have left and "do want to be with someone".

You are truly confusing.

As far as Art Katz, you are co-opting his words to justify yourself.

You know that he started a community of Believers with this stated vision: "a rugged discipleship training camp for end-time ministries (particularly to the Jewish people); a year-round convocation center for the preparation of God's people; a permanent community of committed believers out of which ministries will be nurtured and sent forth and finally, a refuge for entire Jewish families whom we expect to be swept into the Kingdom at a soon-coming time."

This was a place where people lived together, farmed together, fellowshiped together, bore one another's burdens, etc. , 24x7x365.

Surely you are not comparing this (permanent community of committed believers) to the church system that we all know about?

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:12

Hi Pilgrim,

Andrew just sent that out last week. Jimmy writes.....

"But as troubling as these errors are, I believe some of you are in just as much error as those you grieve over. You believe with all of your heart because of these things, the Lord has called you out of the regular and frequent fellowship of the saints in your locality, so that you can be alone, experiencing only fellowship through the internet or through a special trip to a SermonIndex.net style revival conference. But I must say, standing upon the Scriptures while doing so, there simply is no basis for such a call as you have imagined yourself to have experienced. It is entirely without apostolic precedent, to which some of you because of the error that lies within your heart, engage in some reckless exegesis in an attempt to justify where you are. "

I sense quite a bit of anger in that comment. Let us pray for all of those who are angry. I have personally met so many great people at sermonindex conferences. The examples that Andrew gave are more typical than these other stereotypes. I am sure there are angry and bitter people in the established church and out of it, yet this does not typify the people that I know personally. I think brother Brian Long's gathering down there in Barnsdall is a great example of people "coming out." Brian will be speaking at the upcoming conference in Dallas, I believe the Lord has burned a message into his spirit. God bless all my brothers and sisters, now who are they? :) All who know and love Jesus. You are the Remnant and I love your passion. Your not anti anything, your pro Jesus and only long to see Him have the preeminence.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:16

Quote:

-----Remember, Christians are called to make other Christians, and in making other Christians, to fellowship with them.

Read "Tortured for Christ" by Richard Wurmbrand. An old believer living in a remote village prayed for years that God would allow him to lead a Jew to Christ.

That one Believer that He led to Christ, was Richard Wurmbrand, the founder of "Jesus to the Communist World, Inc." which became Voice of the Martyrs.

I think and hope what you are saying is that Christians are to share their faith and not be ashamed of Jesus Christ.

We don't control the results. He only asks us to be faithful.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/4 0:16

No maybe he wasn't grabbing his groin - he just took off his clothes and danced naked instead - sorry to disappoint you that these kids kept their clothes on.

Just another case of don't like the message and can't deny its truth - ATTACK THE MESSANGER - sad

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/10/4 0:17

"This list could go on and on, and many other ills could be multiplied. Yet for all of these problems that existed in the Church then, never once do we find anybody ever instructed to withdraw their fellowship from an intentionally gathered local assembly of the saints. Not once. What instead do we find? We find the Lord and His apostles instructing the saints to do the hard thing, and work out the difficulties that existed amongst them."

...great quote KJ.

Love covers a multitude of sin!

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:17

Hi Appolus,

Quote:

-----Andrew just sent that out last week. Jimmy writes.....

I apologize, I confused that with the one (same title) that he first sent out years ago.

Look at all of these testimonies.

<http://www.johnthebaptisttv.com/2010/10/01/why-are-they-leaving-the-churches/>

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 0:31

Quote:

-----No maybe he wasn't grabbing his groin - he just took off his clothes and danced naked instead

Naked? What bible are you reading? He was wearing a linen ephod. Huge difference from being fully clothed to being naked.

2 Samuel 6:14 "And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod."

1 Chronicles 15:27 "And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen."

"and David was girded with a linen ephod; which others, besides priests, sometimes wore, as Samuel did, and which David might choose to appear in, rather than in his royal robes, as being more agreeable to the service of God, and lighter for him both to walk and dance in on this occasion."

dont do that Jimmy , on: 2010/10/4 0:42

dont start a big mess slash conversation, then pin up in big type

"A FINAL WORD:"

which is just a rehash of your first post, with even more passive-aggressive theo-babble thrown in, including a second pronouncement of your 55 hour work week, severe demands, and "oh, i want to spend some time with our Lord", while questioning other saints right standing with God, quote "Indeed, you may not even be saved."

"Please feel free to continue to comment after this. I will make this my last post on this thread. Generally I have enjoyed it, though in part, I am grieved in some of the things I have read."

well, i'm glad you enjoyed yourself. There's a word for that, starts with an "m" and an "a" and an "s" ...ends in an "n".

don't do that, be a man, stick around and deal with your mess, dont be a coward. lack of humility and arrogance are bad enough, cowardice just adds velocity to the already plummeting value of your stock.

pharisee's have two traits in common, they have little urge to re-examine and self examine, and come to a position " i was wrong"...or i mis-spoke".....and they have no qualms about stumbling others, in fact, in their willy-nilly rush to be the center of religious attention, they care not who they trample on.

you dont want that. so grow some stones and be a man.

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2010/10/4 0:51

Quote from Jimmy

"And to do that, we might have to sit through a lot of dead and lifeless Church services where we look at the back of another person's head. And to do that, we might have to deal with members who are living in secret sexual sin. And to do that, we might have to deal with brethren who introduce the precepts of men, and mix them with the teachings of Christ. Timothy was not told he would have much need of being patient, long suffering, and in great need to be gentle for nothing."

Christians don't leave the church because they don't want to deal with those who are in sin, struggling in their walk..Its more about the set up.

Timothy was an elder who did things the biblical way. Most churches are not set up biblically so many Saints cannot use their gifts that God gave to build up the body. The pastors usually rule over the Body. That's not biblical, but the Nicolaitan way that Jesus hates. And because the church set up is not biblical many Saints will not grow. You said you care for true discipleship then you would desire to see the body function properly. Not pew sitters where no one really grows.

Jimmy, having to sit in a dead church is not dying to self. If you really care about the body growing to maturity then you

will have a deep desire to see it done the biblical way and that will cause you to go against man's system. And when you go against man's system you will be marked by the leaders who despise God's way and they will want to kick you out. So what do you do? Just sit there like a robot? Continue to just be a pew sitter?

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/10/4 0:54

Frank wrote :

God bless all my brothers and sisters, now who are they? :) All who know and love Jesus. You are the Remnant and I love your passion. You're not anti anything, you're pro Jesus and only long to see Him have the preeminence.....brother Frank

God bless you too, Frank. I too am blessed by the passionate heart for Christ of so many on this forum, though we come from different sides of the tracks, and have views that differ widely in some areas, we find great commonality on the person of Jesus, and all that He means to us.

To 'all who love his appearing'....may He continue to mold and make us into the men and women of God he wants us to be. And all glory be to the name of Christ !!

In Jesus,
John

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2010/10/4 1:18

Quote:
-----Naked? What bible are you reading?

2Sa 6:20 When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

Sorry Scott you have to read through to the end to get the full story - thought this was pretty common knowledge or I would have explained more clearly - my bad.

Quote:
-----I just find it ironic that you can't take your own advice:

Sorry you just aren't making very much sense and I am not sure what you are talking about - I myself don't krump dance and never have, and I personally think it is silly and ridiculous. If you are talking about me refusing to condemn people for the way they choose to worship God even though I may not agree with it or like it, you are barking up the wrong tree - I will never do that. If you want to condemn them that's your own business you can take it up with them directly, but I warn you prepare to live a spiritual life that is barren and childless.

Re: dont do that Jimmy , on: 2010/10/4 4:13

Quote:
-----so grow some stones and be a man.

Come on now. Agree or disagree with him, that comment was pretty borderline. There are more than just guys reading this thread. I honestly think that kind of lingo is uncalled for.

Re: House Churches ?vs? thee Apostate Machine, on: 2010/10/4 6:47

Though it has not been posted outright, due to Pilgrim777's response to Yours Truly, it will now be done for the record.

It really doesn't matter where we meet nor our protocol of assembly, so long as Jesus Christ remains central at the beginning, end, and everything done between.

It isn't the form that God is concerned with, but our hearts.

The church is not to be about physically separating from the world (the thing called church) completely, but not becoming worldly nor taking part in the godlessness of it.

We MUST let our light so shine before men that they may see the glory of our Father; but how many are hiding under a bushel basket?

Hey you reading this, are you one of these basket cases?

If the fire is actually there, the basket will be consumed.

If not, it's time to get one on one with your Maker who holds our very breath in His hands.

- - - - -

Pilgrim,

What was meant but not stated (as well), is that the purpose of the church is not separation but growing into Jesus Christ, conforming to him.

The reasons (that I see) the churches we read about almost always started near or within the Jewish assemblies was three-fold:

- 1.) Not only was it Paul and the other apostles' custom to observe Shabbat there (just like Jesus), but Paul's emphasis was "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
- 2.) This is where (in those days,) all people who feared our One True God tended to meet, whether they actually knew Him or not.
- 3.) The churches' emphasis was about growth in every conceivable area of life in the living, -and in this is not meant synagogue, temple, courtyard or home-raising up the Body of Christ to influence and infiltrate/convert every venue of human activity.

Bravely running away
and forming some little cliché
of what was never Jesus' emphasis
in saying "go ye and make disciples"
may feel right,
but is merely exercising
the vanity of our own minds.

Dear Private Kind of Guy,

Now it's understood what the Lord meant telling me that we have a lot more in common than I thought. Even though this life outwardly was, at one stretch of this life, been unacceptable to the outwardly pious conformers towards what others thought was acceptable in God's eyes, He blessed me more than all of them put together. They distained my presence and God miraculously working things out in this life -- be it healing, finances, relationships, revelation, etc. I, out of all who were comparing themselves to me, deserved less than nothing. . .
. . . but believing God? That changes everything.

Sad to say, most of those have since fallen by the wayside or are in the grips of deadness.

Even sadder, is that i am not interceding for them and praying their blessings from God as i ought. Though that is changing, i am still falling short.

Your handle or name can be placed right beside mine anytime.

Now unto Him who has made the way for us into life more abundant here and life everlasting through conformity to His immortal image according to the will of our Father
be the wealth of all glory, honor, praise, might, and dominion now and forever.

Bow down in worship and service to Him alone.

God Bless you all,
gregg

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 8:48

Planetheus,

Quote:
-----1.) Not only was it Paul and the other apostles custom to observe Shabbat there (just like Jesus), but Paul's emphasis was "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

I sure hope you are not HRM. Hebrews Root Movement.

The point is that homes allow participation and "organizing" Christianity into a hierarchical structure with a CEO and board of directors is only conducive to "spectatorship". It is more conducive in a "participatory" environment to "grow into Christ" than it is in a "spectator" environment.

The Church is a living, breathing organism, not an organization. When you put lots of men's rules around a living organism, you kill constrict it, cut off its oxygen supply and eventually kill it.

Try running your family (if you have one) like a typical church organization, today. You will demoralize and discourage your wife and children. There will be no free expression, creativeness or spontaneity for fear of ruining your program and breaking your rules. Your kids will grow up very dysfunctional, just like the present religious system.

Quote:
-----The church is not to be about physically separating from the world(ly thing called church) completely, but not becoming worldly nor taking part in the godlessness of it.

So, let me get this straight. Don't separate from a worldly church, yet at the same time don't become worldly and don't take part in any of the godlessness. What is the opposite of a worldly church and is it ok if we are a part of that church?

Sad, that we have become so anesthetized to sin in the church that now we just expect worldliness and godlessness. How worldly and godless should it be before you would counsel us to leave?

Would love to tackle, in another thread, the present Hebrew Roots Movement in Christianity and the notion that WE must all return to our Hebrew Roots. But not now.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/4 9:20

"This list could go on and on, and many other ills could be multiplied. Yet for all of these problems that existed in the Church then, never once do we find anybody ever instructed to withdraw their fellowship from an intentionally gathered local assembly of the saints. Not once. What instead do we find? We find the Lord and His apostles instructing the saints to do the hard thing, and work out the difficulties that existed amongst them."

Thanks for quoting this again, which I noticed first time round. I think I mentioned 1 Cor 6 in error. What I had in mind was this from Paul: 1 Cor 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 BUT NOW I HAVE WRITTEN UNTO YOU NOT TO KEEP COMPANY, IF ANY MAN THAT IS CALLED A BROTHER BE A fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; WITH SUCH AN ONE NO NOT TO EAT.

KJ, I appreciated your synopsis, but am quite distressed by this part:

'... You believe with all of your heart because of these things, the Lord has called you out of the regular and frequent fellowship of the saints in your locality, so that you can be alone, experiencing only fellowship through the internet or through a special trip to a SermonIndex.net style revival conference. But I must say, standing upon the Scriptures while doing so, there simply is no basis for such a call as you have imagined yourself to have experienced. It is entirely without apostolic precedent, to which some of you because of the error that lies within your heart, engage in some reckless exegesis in an attempts to justify where you are.'

If you know these people personally, I hope you have quietly, privately, talked to them about your concerns for their spiritual welfare, and enquired as to whether your impression of how little face to face fellowship they have, is actually as you imagine it to be, BEFORE you have written against them in public. I'm sure you think you could name some who fit the bill, but I suspect if you do your reseach, they are not as isolated as you imagine.

I for one have no intention of writing on the internet about how much time I spend with other Christians, as if there is something extra-spiritual about mentioning it publicly. I believe it's more spiritual to discuss it not at all. You can have very little idea whether I - or many of us - are bringing people to Christ, or giving Him the pre-eminence in our lives, or fellowshiping with other Christians (perhaps in a family group for lack of a wider community), because we probably don't want to draw attention to ourselves by mentioning how God is using us.

As for SI and SI conferences as a place of the only fellowship we attend in person, and that that is not enough, please tell me... were missionaries like CT Studd, and Mary Slessor, who evangelised in a pioneering way, out of fellowship with other Christians, or God, because they were physically alone?

Your whole post was far more of a legitimate commentary on where you are (as a Christian), personally, than your unsubstantiated claims (that those who cannot find a local body of believers in which to function meaningfully several times a week), proves those brethren ARE in error.

It is no surprise (to me), knowing your heart for church planting and evangelism, that you have been called by God to live through a very painful learning curve about what it means to be a pastor. T Austin-Sparks mentions the same pain in almost everything I've read by him. But, being a pastor is just one way in which God uses members of the body. Many are called to be completely out of sight - invisible - profoundly important organs - without which the body would cease to function altogether. But that means they are working round the clock - just like you - on the tasks God has given them behind the (public) scenes.

Only some functions are all about visible service, but for everyone, there is always a need for self-care and regular maintenance to ensure the continuing ability to function. It's at this point that you seem to be saying the only way a Christian can look after their own spiritual health, is by attending a meeting of local 'believers', regardless of what is

being taught there as biblical truth (whether from the Bible or not), regardless of the direness of the music, lack of prayer fellowship or effectiveness of prayer or prohibition on moving in the gifts of the Spirit, and, regardless of the unaddressed sin being enjoyed by members of the congregation from the senior pastor and his elders, to the most vulnerable new adherent.

How I know it's time to stop exposing myself to hypocrisy and false doctrine on regular basis, is when I literally feel physically nauseated at the thought of going back.

The fact is... if a person is going to set himself up - or allow himself to be set up as a leader with a title like pastor - he is opening himself to flock-members comparing him to Jesus. He has himself to blame if he falls short most of the time, because he should have spent far more time allowing God to check him out in the depths of his heart. He should have known that the moment he claimed to be something in God, the testing would start, both from the accuser of the brethren, and by God proving him through new experiences. Thankfully, God doesn't call everyone to the same named ministry, but, the same principles apply to all who will serve Him obediently.

For those who are the Lord's, God is never done showing us how much more like Jesus we could be. To acknowledge that as a preliminary, is the beginning of wisdom. What is truly amazing is, that despite the changes going on in the background life of the minister, God is able to use him for His glory in a public way, and for the furtherance of His kingdom in the lives of others, AT THE SAME TIME.

What those of us who aren't called to be pulverised within the 'IC' would like from those of you who are, is the kind of respect YOU think YOU deserve for being faithful to your calling. Otherwise, none of us are better than the 'Gentiles'.

Matt 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) Matt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

God bless you, brother. 'It's a sair fecht', (It's a sore fight.) as we say in Scotland.

Pilgrim777, on: 2010/10/4 9:50

by pilgrim777 on 2010/10/4 4:48:29

Planetheus,

Quote:
-----1.) Not only was it Paul and the other apostles custom to observe Shabbat there (just like Jesus), but Paul's emphasis was "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

I sure hope you are not HRM. Hebrews Root Movement.

Nope, never heard of it, and i'm not much of an advocate towards 'movements' per se either. In those things, people often put human objective and experiences in front of God's purposes. (idolatry)

i'm not for man's heirarchies as you proolly already know.

My home runs in opposition to that, and better than what any dictated effort could ever do. Praise God!

As for as worldliness goes, most do not even realize how taken in by it they are already. Sadly, those who think that by changing outward things often don't ever get to the heart of the matter: How much of what i affirm and believe is actually Bible and how much is someone elses contrived notion or residual traditionalisms?

We should all remain back with our Root/Branch/Vine and go (with Him) from there.

Outward efforts to change things more often than not are only that, and usually the efforts of the flesh.

OK, let's get this straight. Everybody is tainted by the world. We live in it. This carries over into our faithfulness to God according to how much it has been in effect in our life.

We must get down to the heart of the matter instead of thinking that outward changes will somehow make us different in side.

What do i suggest?

More of the book of James: all 5 chapters.
(take 5 and call me in the morning.)

All i've been saying is let's look at ourselves before we blame things that don't seem right around us.. Every thing that becomes a problem to us is because we ourselves have flaws that need correcting first.

God Bless,
g

p.s. Tackle HRM? Have at it if that's your thing.

Re: Pilgrim777, on: 2010/10/4 10:11

It is now noted you are questioning what i mean by: the world.

The world = whatever is not of God.

i never meant one should become full participant system.

Go in there to bring out is the emphasis.

There are tares everywhere and thinking that by making a few outward changes is going to change this is wrong.

Even Jesus has his Iscarioit

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 10:58

Alive-to God writes.....

"I for one have no intention of writing on the internet about how much time I spend with other Christians, as if there is something extra-spiritual about mentioning it publicly. I believe it's more spiritual to discuss it not at all. You can have very little idea whether I - or many of us - are bringing people to Christ, or giving Him the pre-eminence in our lives, or fellows hiping with other Christians (perhaps in a family group for lack of a wider community), because we probably don't want to draw attention to ourselves by mentioning how God is using us."

Very astute comment. I think Jimmy also mentioned that his Pastor gets up at 3am and works until 10pm, thus deserving a large salary? Anyway, not interested in the hours or the salary, just wondering how anyone knows what time he gets up at? I have found in my walk that you never know much about the dearest of saints. There are so many on this site even that I have no clue what they do or how many hours that they work, because they only ever talk about Jesus, not about themselves. If one truly gets up at 3am, then that left hand should keep the right hand from knowing that, otherwise th

at one has already had his reward. And the reward? The honor of men.

Alive-to God, your a good example of me not knowing much about people's background, a fellow Scotsman eh? And her e in Kansas it is a braw bricht, moonlicht, nicht the nicht, yer aw richt, de ye ken? :)brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 11:05

I am not sure what David's dancing has to do with this thread. I am trying to understand how it is, but just not there yet.

Ok, back on topic.

Structure does have something to do with things. Man's structure is not really conducive to the "preeminence" of Christ o r freedom of expression by all saints.

Why? Because it is man's structure and therefore the center of it is man and man's programs and agenda.

That's all I'm saying.

What is conducive to organic growth? My analogy of a family. Run your family like a CEO and you will demoralize and discourage the members because your wife and children will surely not be participants. The religious kids will love it, the o ther kids will leave home as soon as they can.

In the Church, we don't value the fact that ALL members have the Holy Spirit. The person up front on the stage or platfor m or whatever you want to call it, does not have a BIG Jesus and everyone else has a little Jesus.

God is too big for one man and that is why He has chosen to express Himself through His Body. His Body functions muc h better in a participatory environment.

Yes, structure does have something to do with the health of the Church. Not everything, but not anything, either.

Now, I have seen dictators (brothers who bogart meetings) in house churches, too. But, in a participatory environment h e can be confronted in love about his quenching of the spirit in others. In Man's system, you know going in what the grou nd rules are and you would not do this. You sit and listen and they talk to you.

It does all come down to what is in our heart. If what is in our heart is "I, Me, My", then we will create something that feed s "I, Me, My". If what is in our heart is JESUS and Others then that is the environment that we will look for.

It's as simple as that and that is why Christians are leaving the "I, ME, MY", and looking for JESUS and Others (that are l ooking for HIM).

We use the Bible as a rule book and don't really see how the Church is functioning and knit together in love (not activitie s and programs).

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 11:19

Alive-to-God and Appolus,

Your posts are very edifying. Religious people know how to let people know about their "good" works.

For instance:

"The Lord gave me some great revelation last month, while I was fasting for two weeks and I would like to share it with y ou".

Ok, great, but why mention the fasting. Because, emphasis was intended to be on the fasting, not the revelation or the sharing.

Not unto us O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake.

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. James 3:5

God does not want us to be insecure or feel insignificant. We must get our security from knowing Him and all of our significance must come from Him not man or what man thinks. Otherwise, we will be like the waves tossed to and fro.

Re: Relax Brother, on: 2010/10/4 12:09

Brother Jim, your FINAL WORD was disturbing. Up until this point, I thought I knew what you were meaning, but now, I question your statements.

Brother, your stressed out. 55 hour work week is too much and then church duties on top of that, plus your writings, uh uh, that is simply not going to work, your killing yourself all in the name of God, and believe me, God would have you slow down. And if you have a wife and family, your killing that relationship as well.

I am serious brother you need to slow down. Lets face it, there is no one that is going to stop the "remnant" from thinking the way they think. And I am not against it because I have knowledge that God is in this so called movement called the Remnant. If there is to be a move of God, God's people who want God have to move out of their complacency. And if the Pastor refuses to move with the hunger of it's congregation, then the congregation is going to move out and try to find others of like minded faith and if they can't find another church then they will get together with others. And if they don't know of others, then they will remain alone until they do find others.

Brother, we can't change what's ordained of God and which has been in the works for quite some time. It must happen. But rest assured. Demoninations will flourish like they did before after great revivals when even some of those that had great stirrings end up starting works of their own, separating themselves from others saying that they have the truth and no one else does. Remember there is nothing new under the sun. That is the way of all flesh.

Right now, people are sick and tired. They want God, they want power and they want to see people saved. This is the mindset of the so called remnant, and you have to just hold your peace and watch what God does with this group of people, lest you find yourself even fighting against God.

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 12:18

Quote:
-----Ok, great, but why mention the fasting. Because, emphasis was intended to be on the fasting, not the revelation or the sharing.

We mention it because it gives it a little bit more of "oomph" to what is being revealed. Basically the person is saying, "I didn't just get this by sitting around, I prayed and fasted".

There is nothing wrong in mentioning it, it's how it's being mentioned. I for one fasted and prayed for 24 days. I mention it here because I love it and want to do it again and longer, not because I am looking for praise from men. I am the type of person that when I hear praise, I run away. The Pharisees wanted everyone to know how holy they were on the outside, it was all a show of the flesh. But we who have the mind of Christ, this is not so.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/10/4 13:03

I think I am done on this thread as well (Jimmy has quit it, apparently).

...I just want to emphasize that this is a very critical hour in the purposes of God. It takes, I think, vision to see that, and so, may the Lord grace our eyes-- all of us--to see. May He anoint our eyes with eyesalve that we might SEE the immensity of the hour that is at the door. It has happened in the past that people missed the hour of their visitation.

Of course, as always, the secret of spiritual vision is to first be able to see we are blind. That's the hard part. It seems so hard for us to come to the awareness that we simply haven't been seeing. We think we see already. And when we think we already see, well... that problem has been around for a long time. Jesus said once (and is saying still) "For judgment I am come into this world that they which see not might SEE, and that they which see might be made blind" (Jn. 9.39).

What an awesome thing. That one thing: the coming of LIGHT-- becomes a judgment that is so wonderful, and great great joy; or something that... I can hardly put it down... something that BLINDS us... depending on which of these two camps we are in. Help us, Lord!

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 14:46

Hi, for anyone who missed it, here is the link for "The terrible Doctrine of the Remnant," by A.W.Tozer. It the other side of the view that Jimmy posted here and was posted just over a week before this thread

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmode=flat&order=0&topic_id=35220&forum=36&post_id=&refresh=Go

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2010/10/4 14:55

Brother Jimmy,

I heartily concur with what you have written.

With care in Christ...

Re: Pilgrim777, on: 2010/10/4 17:36

When speaking of structure, it was meant to refer to the structure: house, assembly hall, office, porch, watermelon patch, etc.

Doctor, your thought are concurred with in what you wrote though.

Most church's format of meeting are viewed akin to the money-grubbing entertainment industry. . . like going to watch a play or recital.

It not known if we are that far apart at all.

Elbows on desk and chin resting between his hands, phanetheus ponders

g

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 17:59

What exactly is "oomph"?

Re: , on: 2010/10/4 20:26

Meaning for Oomph: Energy and Vigor.

Since people might be dropping away like flies from this thread, I want to say that I loved the input that everyone has has stily participated in response and in defense of what they believed. It was invigorating. It was fun!!

Re: , on: 2010/10/10 5:00

Great post Jimmy. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. I have skimmed your posts for time sake and will read them soon but I did read the opening post.

I too have had a difficult time finding a church and pardon my french but I worked my ass off in the last year trying to find one and I have given up many things for Him and God has been for the most part very silent and I feel like I can't do this anymore.

I'm being socially ostracized for speaking up for the truth. I only speak truth, not because I'm better than anyone but it is the right thing to do. I was asking for everyone to be accountable for one another and speak out and even call me out when I'm wrong. I wanted everyone to be treated equally. But they indirectly/directly ostracized me and as a result I have lost all of my friends because they treat church as a social gathering. For most it would not matter if we replaced the word Jesus with Buddha or Mohammed, it's just a place to hangout and have fun and better our lives.

So I was burnt out from going to church, how can you go when church is as representative of Christ as a Buddhist temple. But I'm still going and trying to do what I need to but IT'S HARD. It feels like a piece of me dies everytime I go. I can't stand the hypocrisy, I feel sick everytime I think of it. (again, I'm not proclaiming I'm more holy, because I am a wretched sinner, the only difference is that I am trying to find out who this God is)

I'm burnt out and I'm dying literally. I have no job, money is running out, health is failing, I've lost all my friends, and even my family has turned cold. I've lost a lot and the future looks bleak but how do we solve this problem?

What can we do? What does God want us to do?

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/10 7:52

Escaping the Theology of Babylon, a sermon by Carter Conlon in 2005, speaks into this situation, codek.

There is one paragraph in particular, which made my ears stand up and dreadfully encouraged my heart when I heard it the first time, towards the end of the first half hour.

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=11764>

This is a 'must hear' sermon for those who are feeling strangled (legitimately) by the death in the church system in their locality.

precious codek, on: 2010/10/10 11:52

you testified so fearlessly and honestly:

"I'm burnt out and I'm dying literally. I have no job, money is running out, health is failing, I've lost all my friends, and even my family has turned cold. I've lost a lot and the future looks bleak but how do we solve this problem?

What can we do? What does God want us to do?"

beloved, until a week ago, i was right where you are at...for a year and a half, and the only Thing, besides the kindness of a few friends and family, what kept me going was that God never took away a hunger to stay in the Word every morning....i'd read, then i'd talk to Him, He'd talk to me...then the world would crush me as the day wore on, hence those mornings with Jesus became more valuable than rubies...and as for my 'oppressors', whether it be my flesh, the devil, or the 'philistines at Lachish' i was encamped among, the temptation to sin via rage and anger was ever present, but the Holy Ghost told me, 'now is the time to engage in an impossible love and forbearance, because i love you, and this time of pressing and testing will pass".

Jesus wept Blood at Gethsemane, and so shall we at times, it hurts, its not fun, you see no end, but this too shall pass, and He shall lead you into greener pastures.

many a time, absolutely cratered and helpless, i remembered and breaThed this simple prayer of the apostles, "Increase our faith".

when in "Lachish" and/or Gethesemane, all you can do is pray, believe you have recieved and it will be yours.

i speak the truth in Christ, i am not lying. May the Grace and Mercy and Love of God the Father, and Jesus Christ His S on be with you, always, amen.

Re: , on: 2010/10/10 12:14

Thank you Codek for your honesty. (You may want to scribble out a s s and put something like, a**, we'll get the picture).

Since your health is failing, that should be your top priority. You need to be healthier than you are now if your going to do anything constructive for yourself, your family and the kingdom of God. It's easy for me to speak this way because I am not in your shoes, but like Natan said, that doesn't mean we were never there.

I hear a lot of "trying" in your post and no wonder your burnt out.

If your obese with diabetes, heart trouble etc..., than you need to look after your health, I can't stress the importance of tending to yourself first before you can tend to anyone else for that matter.

If you can't go to Church then don't, stay home. The only one that will condemn you is yourself, and if you hear the devil condemn for not going to Church then that is a sure thing not to go.

Get healthier! :-)

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2010/10/10 18:59

Today, Carter Conlon preached Revival is Coming and What it Will Look Like. I need to listen to it again, but I felt it was more tender towards people in churches who are battling on against the odds, who need to be revived.

<http://sermon3a.tscnyc.ws/2010/mp3g/20101010S1.mp3>

Re: The Remnant is real., on: 2010/10/10 23:25

I see the Clergy Laity/Priest Class as Heresy , along with the One man as Pastor/leader, as a much deeper true heresy than the "Remnant" doctrine; which certainly does have some scriptural authority.

The Priest class, according to the Word, extends to the very least of the believer; as "a nation of kings and Priests.

Jesus also directly confronts this heresy in Revelation 2 and 3, stating the He hates their deeds, and their teaching..
..The Lords or Kings over my people.

The traditional churches are hemorrhaging members at an alarming rate and fleeing to anywhere that has a semblance of reality and life. The "home church" model seems to be exploding, often providing real body ministry and authentic relationships while striving to provide a more "Primitive Church" model in their communities.

I do not see the traditional pulpit based, tithe oriented, pew sitting churches surviving. I believe that this is a last day work of the Lord, in the process of bearing pure fruit to the Lord, and it is World-Wide.

I see the remnant as that Bride who has made herself ready by learning how to love God and people, while having I

earned to walk by faith, in relationship to the Word. They are written in the Lambs book of Life.

In the end, it will be these who inherit the Promises and wear White....and as the children of Israel who survived the dispersion in captivity, and were called a remnant, it is appropriate to name this church the same. The times, they are a changing'....and for the purposes of the Lord, not men.

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 0:44

Amen, BrotherTom!

Everything is being shaken until those things that cannot be shaken (Of Him) may remain.

I have been reading some articles on the Pastor/Clergy dropout/burnout rate.

According to estimates by the Alban Institute in Washington, D.C., at least 17 percent of clergy suffer from stress or burn out, "The Charlotte Observer" reported. About 1,400 ministers a year call a toll-free hot line of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), which counsels ministers through its LeaderCare program. Brooks Faulkner, a LeaderCare counselor, estimates that nearly 100 SBC pastors leave their ministry every month.

Sunscape Ministries of Colorado, which serves clergy in crises, reported that in all denominations nationwide, 1,600 ministers per month are terminated or forced to resign their pulpit, "The Abilene Reporter-News" reported. Although a sense of hurt is unavoidable for both pastor and congregation, it is particularly traumatic for a minister who steps down, Ross said.

It is nothing to rejoice in, but rather let's rejoice that the Lord is building His house all by Himself.

It was not meant to be this way, regarding the current church "system". Jesus is more than capable of leading and orchestrating His people. This is actually a good thing for these brethren, because it is only when you come to an end to yourself in utter failure that you hopefully begin to realize that what you are doing is man's way, in man's strength and it is never acceptable to God.

Our house church met today and a really good word came forth from a brother regarding how the Spirit of God is the Conductor in our meetings. There are many things that regular joes like me don't recognize as we watch an Orchestra. For instance, there are several sections at times that do not play. But what they are doing is keeping their eye on the Conductor and counting measures. The brass section knows that in 32 measures they are coming back to play. If the guy/gal that plays the cymbals comes in too soon or is not keeping their eye on the Conductor, then it will absolutely be abysmal. In music, silence and pauses are also music. But everyone must keep their eye on the Conductor(Jesus) to know when to play (speak). Usually the brass section cannot wait until it's their turn to really "belt" on out. But, how is the symphony if the brass section is always playing, or what would a symphony be like if it was constantly cymbals or drums?

What if one musician knew Beethoven backwards and forwards and thought "I know I am suppose to rest here, but I could really fill in this quiet spot or add to the violins and make it real nice?"

Well, even if you do know the scripture backwards and forwards and know all about the early Church fathers, there is a time for you to rest, pause and be quiet, also. Watch the Conductor. No one musician is the Conductor, there is only one Conductor.

I remember, years ago when I was "going to" church, that I had no idea that these types of gatherings were possible. I always thought that man had to organize and lead the meeting. And the better planned and choreographed it was the better the meeting was. Now, I see that so much of it was just flesh. About 99.9%.

We have brothers that are incredible men of God, yet they refuse any titles or position. Not that we want to give anyone a title or position. We are all just brothers. But, the Lord never fails to show up when we all tune ourselves into Him. It is absolutely amazing how the Lord conducts everyone and everything is done decently and in order and we are all growing into a sensitivity to how the Holy Spirit wants to move and what He is saying to us in our meetings. In all meetings we are edified in the Lord and built up in the faith. Eating and fellowshiping afterwards is a bonus. We gather around the Lord and look to Him and yes we have our Bibles (for those wondering) and yes we hear the Word of God and much more.

e as it proceeds out of real people's lives. That is what God is doing and speaking to His people.

God is much too big for one man or two men or 3 men, but usually one big church "boss" as Milton Green would say. He would say, "The guy up on the platform does not have a BIG Jesus and we have a little Jesus." You know, he is so right. In reality we all have a BIG Jesus, but many of us don't know that. We are taught to be dependent on the guy up on the platform. The Lord is too big for one man and what He has to say He chooses to say through all the members of His Body.

It's so nice to be "Just Another Brother", and not trying to take the responsibility for the church on my shoulders. Only ONE was meant to Orchestrate and be the Conductor of the Church.

Because we don't talk about missions programs or evangelization, we have had some people come in and say we need to do this and we need to do that. They usually don't stay around too long. People fail to understand that our lives are lived amongst all kinds of people. But if they don't see any programs in place then they don't think anything is happening.

First, the Lord wants us to know Him and Love Him with all our heart. Out of that, He will use us as He chooses. We don't pre-plan anything or program anything, we just love Him 24x7.

But people want to hear stories and "evidence" of our Christian walk. You know, I could tell you lots of stories and how God has used our brothers and sisters in everyday life, but what is the point? To prove to skeptical people that we are doing works? To prove that simple church is better than programmed church. That is completely fleshly. The Lord is building His Church, not us. We can finally just rest in Him and watch Him do His work like no one else. I was a doer, doer, doer, and it took me awhile to understand what the Lord was really saying to His Church.

I really wish, (many who disdain people that are leaving the system), that they could experience the Lord's presence and leading and care in a gathering of Believers.

We have had people come in with strange beliefs and guess what, we did not apostasize and fall away. And they did not stay around too long. Someone said, "That if we don't have a man leading us, that we may not fall away right away but we will fall away faster than those that do have "leaders".

You know, it's funny. You don't have to tell a child who their mother and father is. Same way in a church where people are all on the same level, just brothers and sisters. We are all organically related, and we spend time with each other, lots of it, just like the NT Church. And you know what, we know who the mature saints are. They don't have to have a name tag on or have a title or position. They already have position in the spirit. We know who the elder brethren are.

I love how everyone respects each one and prefers each one, especially the more mature. And no one has an Agenda with a capital A, or a ministry with a capital M.

Our agenda is Jesus and our ministry is to Him.

Amen!

Isa 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

P.S. And He is doing this all over the world.

When you meet someone whose only agenda is Jesus, tis so sweet.

I have to pinch myself sometimes.

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 0:53

"In the end, it will be these who inherit the Promises and wear White....and as the children of Israel who survived the dispersion in captivity, and were called a remnant, it is appropriate to name this church the same. The times, they are a changing'....and for the purposes of the Lord, not men."

Amen brother. The notion that "The Remnant," is a heresy is a notion from folks who want to hang onto the status quo.

"I see the remnant as that Bride who has made herself ready by learning how to love God and people, while having learned to walk by faith, in relationship to the Word. They are written in the Lambs book of Life."

In Acts 20 the word " elders," is the same as presbyters and the word " overseers," is the same as the word " bishops." Reading the passage, it is clear the the titles refer to the same men. And of course, there are several " elders,' within the city or town church. What we see today is simply not a Biblical model and every single person who has stood up and spoken out against the established church, whether that establishment was Catholic or Protestant , has paid a price, and the least of that price is to be labelled ' heretic."

Every man who was ever martyred by the church, was labelled a heretic. This is exactly what they labelled Priscillian (385) who was reckoned to be the first man martyred by the " church." Those who come out of the present church system will be labelled the same, for it is the same spirit behind such accusations.

When Evangelical leaders (Bill Bright and others) began signing agreements not to proselytize Roman Catholics, this was surely an indication of the rot that had taken hold of Evangelicalism and just one more step towards , what will surely come, a church that will encompass all religions. And that church, will, with a vengeance, come after, as it had done in the past, all that oppose it. To stand up and be counted for the name of Jesus will once again carry a great cost.

Brotherhood is right, people are leaving the established church in droves, not because of any movement or any call of man, but because of an unquenchable desire for authenticity. Nothing short of God Himself will do. No amount of programs or works will fill the void of the presence of God. And so, who are the Remnant? They are whoever is hungry and thirsty for God Himself, they are the " whosever."

Listen to this message by brother Brian Long, an upcoming speaker in Dallas. <http://scottishwarriors.wordpress.com/2010/10/06/the-land-is-in-ruins-weep-all-ye-people/>

Brian recently , after much heartache and effort, resigned his position from a First Baptist Church. Many of the congregation decided to come out of the church, they are so hungry for God Himself and to give Jesus the preeminence. I listened to some of the testimony of those who came out, they testified with tears. No church hoppers, no angry people, in fact people who had grown up in the church, people who had been there 40 years. These are hungry people. As I listened to their stories, it was the exact same stories that I have heard all over the country, in fact, all over the world.

God promised that if we would draw near to Him, then He would draw near to us. God is stirring in the hearts of His people, revival is coming for those who would seek Him with their whole hearts, wherever that seeking takes them.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 1:21

Yes, brother Frank, God is stirring the hearts of His people. I am reminded of this verse, also. Saul, also thought that the se people were wrong. But, it is hard, so hard to stop something that cannot be stopped.

Act 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And then Saul, became Paul. There are a lot of Sauls (proud and mistaken) becoming Pauls (humble and brought to reality) today.

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 11:24

Quote:

-----Amen brother. The notion that "The Remnant," is a heresy is a notion from folks who want to hang onto the status quo.

Well not everyone Brother Frank. I just put it in it's proper historical perspective. The remnant according to the bible were the Jews that believed.

Romans 9:27 Esaias also crieth "concerning Israel", Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved. And a remnant indeed was saved.

Today, I do not discount that there is a remnant of sorts. That is to say that there is a people that are disgusted with how men have been running things and they want God to be their leader not the Pastor. But I do not see this as a remnant, I see this as the true body of Christ in the earth emerging out of the ashes of man made religion. It's a Church waking up as it were and arising from the dead as it were and Christ is giving us light.

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 15:47

Hi Snuf,

Its not just today, its always been that way, its the teaching of the NT. Many are called, few are chosen. Narrow is the path that leads to life and few there are that find it. Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins. All with lamps, all virgins, but only five with oil and the door was shut to the other five. Also the parable of the sower and the seed, wheat and tares, sheep and goats. Read the piece by Tozer called "The terrible doctrine of the Remnant." Also, a good read is "The Pilgrim Church," by E.H. Broadbent. When you read the history of the church, in every century, you will see the Remnant, as opposed to the State church. Re-read Foxes book of Martyrs (for I am sure that you have read it) and see what the established church did to those who tried to bring the gospel to the people.

If you want to call the Remnant, the Body of Christ, I can see that, it still boils down to the same thing. Its still the who-so-ever, the hungry, the thirsty, the seeker. Its still those who will worship the Lord their God with their whole hearts and whose knee is not bowed to Baal.....brother Frank

Re: Being formed; being transformed. It's happening., on: 2010/10/11 19:32

Pilgrim777.....Wow!

It's refreshing to hear the deep calling unto my deep. I long for the body where the least of the brethren are unrecognized because all are so aware of their own exploding need and of the mercies extended to them.

Where the giftings and the shepherds are hidden behind the veil of "BROTHERS FIRST; MINISTERS SECOND", and the little ones are lifted up into Divine esteem as equal members of MY family.

Where the community receives love flowing into and out of her, and the MEETING follows the community;

Isaiah 40, 3-5...The mountains are levelled.....and the valleys are exalted... brought up to Jesus' side in real priesthood and Kingship...

Where the crooks and the crooked are straitened out, by God's revelation of Truth and Love...and THERE....THERE...will I be a leveled plain....equal love, equal honor, as Jesus possesses the inheritance that He has purchased as His own. ... And All of the EARTH shall see it. This church will not be hidden, for when the world sees her, they will see Jesus.

This is the remnant, and we are in the beginning stages of beholding her. She is in Heaven, salted in various venues and stages upon the Earth, but she IS forming. Worth holding out for the very best, I think.

Re: , on: 2010/10/11 21:19

Quote:
-----If you want to call the Remnant, the Body of Christ, I can see that, it still boils down to the same thing. Its still the who-so-ever, the hungry, the thirsty, the seeker. Its still those who will worship the Lord their God with their whole hearts and whose knee is not bowed to Baal.....brother Frank

A refreshing AMEN!

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by djones6153 (), on: 2012/5/11 14:55

Hi Jimmy,

Amos 8:11-12 has come to pass upon the United States. There is a famine in the land for the words of God and many are starving for want. It was heresy in the church that caused me to consider separating from Christian fellowship. I agree with you that the Bible encourages us to fellowship with true believers and that we should seek fellowship. I was faced with this situation this year. I decided to leave the organized church and here are the reasons:

1. Abandonment of the Authorized King James Bible for hundreds of corrupt Bible versions (they continue to get more accurate with every new version released). Also, these versions cause much confusion concerning the inerrancy of God's word. For more info on this issue I encourage you to go to contendingfortruth.com and type in KJV in the search box and listen to the audio message.
2. Eucumenicalism - The church I was attending was becoming more Roman Catholic every day with teachings on the eucharist, experiential mysticism, monastic practices as well as introduction of rock music.
3. Watered down gospel and preaching with very little Bible teaching (we studied every new Christian book released instead of studying the Bible).
4. Organizational church structure and 501c3 corporate status - Because of these things the preaching of truth was suppressed (you can find more 501c3 corporation churches by visiting contendingfortruth.com and searching for 501c3.
5. Total lack of Biblical discernment among the clergy and laity.

These are a few reasons I abandoned the organized church. After leaving I was left with two choices: find a non 501c3, KJV Bible Believing, independent church or start or find a home church. After much searching through the internet and making phone calls I found an independent KJV Bible believing church. Unfortunately, it is a 501c3 corporation church, but is the best I could do. I have been attending this church for about two months now. I hope this is a help to others.

Dave

Re: - posted by savedtoserve, on: 2012/5/12 13:39

Haven't been around for awhile, but this was a great first article to read! Thanks alot Dave for bringing this old thread back up... The points you made are great and just as valid, too.

Jimmy, your opening article is SO refreshing and SO needed today. I can see that it is easily misrepresented, but nevertheless the message is there. I know that the Lord certainly uses house churches, but it depends on your definition of a "house-church"...everyone has their own idea, and certainly not all of them are blessed by Him. God bless you for putting yourself out there to say this.

savedtoserve

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 14:01

There was an article posted a few weeks ago by A. W. Tozer entitled The Loneliness of the Saint. I have also seen this article listed under The Saint Must Walk Alone. In the article Tozer speaks of those believers who have had an authentic experience with Jesus Christ. They have come into that marvelous experience of knowing Jesus more intimately. These saints seek fellowship with other like-minded believers. But such fellowship is rare in the organized church. It may be this reason that some choose to leave the organized church to go to the wilderness. To find more intimate fellowship with Jesus.

I do not agree that one leaving the church to seek a remnant is heresy. If that be the case then one would have to call every move of God from the time of Pentecost till now heretical.

Let's quickly review. Jesus and his disciples, heretics. First century church, heretics. Various groups that sprung up to combat the error of Rome, heretics. Reformers, heretics. Anabaptist, heretics. And do forth. Frankly those of us on this forum, heretics.

Those who choose to follow Jesus will be known as heretics by the organized church.

This is Bearmaster the heretic standing down.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/12 16:42

I go to a church with about 3,000-4,000 in weekly attendance during our Sunday services. We are highly organized. And we are very big. Yet in spite of all that, for the nearly 15 years I've been a Christian, I have yet to ever belong to such an awesome community of saints. And I see the Lord clearly in our midst, doing an awesome work. Souls are being saved, lives are being changed, and people are growing in their faith.

In the midst of everything the Lord is doing in our midst, I have helped form two small groups. One for 20 & 30 somethings, another for guys in high school. I am in the process of launching a third group. My 20 & 30 somethings group is made up of about a dozen or so people. The high school group is made up of about 8. One group meets at a Panera Bread. The other group meets at a Taco Bell. The new group I'm launching will meet at a Starbucks. The Lord is forming genuine Christian community in our midst, and it is happening at a level that is beyond my ability to lead, and our ability to organize. The organizational dynamic of these things just forms a framework upon which the rest of the body can grow. It is just a skeleton upon which the larger body grows. And grow it continues to do.

For those of you who are leaving the church because you feel it is too compromised, too organized, too big, or is using the wrong translation of the Bible... or whatever other reason you invent to "come out of her," I cannot help but grieve for you. But at the same time, I cannot but be happy to see you go. Because you are a schismatic with whom I have little patience to endure. You hinder instead of helping the body of Christ. And, you have a wound you refuse to receive treatment for, and it makes it almost impossible to minister to you. While you run away to play the role of a self-absorbed wilderness prophet and to play church, "I will call out to you" to drop your ego, humble yourself, and come back to the body of Christ wherever she may be. I will call you to come back and take on the role of a servant, and to follow me as I follow Christ.

edited

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 17:10

"or those of you who are leaving the church because you feel it is too compromised, too organized, too big, or is using the wrong translation of the Bible... or whatever other reason you invent to "come out of her," I cannot help but grieve for you. But at the same time, I cannot but be happy to see you go. Because you are a schismatic with whom I have little patience to endure. You hinder instead of helping the body of Christ. And, you have a wound you refuse to receive treatment for, and it makes it almost impossible to minister to you. While you run away to play the role of a self-absorbed wilderness prophet and to play church, "I will call out to you" to drop your ego, humble yourself, and come back to the body of Christ wherever she may be. I will call you to come back and take on the role of a servant, and to follow me as I follow Christ."

Pure rubbish from the roman catholic pits of hell jimmy. Shame on you.

-Jim

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/12 17:25

If you are saved, love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself, and if the life of Christ is in you, you will never be alone long. If you are a mature saint you will lead others to the Lord and you will form and be a part of Christian community. Some of you have been alone a while and have had very sporadic fellowship because your Christian walk isn't what you imagine it to be. And you are in a place that the Lord has not brought you. The glory for you has long departed. No wonder you haven't led anybody to the Lord in years, and no wonder you can't play nice with your brethren.

Re: Kingjimmy, on: 2012/5/12 17:41

Brother I praise God you are in a blessed church situation where God is using you. But respectfully I must disagree with the thrust of your post. You assume that anyone who leaves the church (I assume you mean organized church) is some sort of a wounded schismatic. You make a blanket judgement that is not valid.

What about situations where one is in a church and the church is departing a Biblical path? If a saint is in such a church and conscience compels them to leave are they schismatic? What about a group of people who leave to start a house church or new work in an area for outreach? Are they being schismatic? Are they wounded?

Brother not everyone who leaves the traditional organized church is a wounded schismatic. Granted there are a few. But there are other reasons why one may choose to leave a traditional church and seek fellowship through other means.

What if Art Katz whom you respect so highly? In a sense he was a renegade as he did not fit into a traditional church model. Granted he had associations with many traditional church leaders. Yet by your own definition it could be said he was a wounded schismatic because of the community he started up there in rural Minnesota. I know you do not believe this. Or at least I do not think you believe this.

Brother one could say that peoples such as George Whitfield, the Wesleys, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainard were schismatic because they left the organized church. Except in the case of these men they were forced out of the church.

Jimmy I would like to suggest there are valid reasons why people leave a church. Not everyone who leaves the established church is some wounded schismatic nursing a wound. But many are in the wilderness advancing the kingdom purposes of Christ. I, myself, being one of them.

Bearnaster.

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/5/12 17:43

Quote:
-----While you run away to play the role of a self-absorbed wilderness prophet and to play church, "I will call out to you" to drop your ego, humble yourself, and come back to the body of Christ wherever she may be.

Really brother? Drop our egos?

Physician heal thy self, read your posts on being a 30 year old virgin and the above on how many 'wonderful things' (ie the Taco Bell and Panera groups) you have done and then come back into this thread and honestly tell me to drop MY ego.

Then read the New Testament and notice how after Jesus healed someone or fed someone He would tell them "shhhhh, don't tell anyone".

I read your virginity post and grieved over it, you just sacrificed all of these years for Christ (to be sure an honorable thing) and then chose to blog about it to be honored by men and squandered your heavenly reward.

Please, get the tree out of your eye and then come help me with my speck.

Quote:
-----"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand (DON'T LET THIS BODY MEMBER KNOW WHAT THAT BODY MEMBER) is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ~Mt 6:1-4

Re: - posted by gators52 (), on: 2012/5/12 18:01

Brother jimmy, although your intention may be good but your aim is WAY off. I am totally grieved by the situation of the church in America. My pastor quotes from other authors, not dead ones either, and entices us to allow Jesus to be our "teacher". We live in a world where we are swimming upstream while the church says we are headed the wrong way. Sadly it is the total opposite. Now granted there is a lot God is doing that we may not see here. I hope so. All I know that this current system is flawed and we are over cooked. Sometimes silence on our opinions should be heeded.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/5/12 19:31

Surprising view brother Jimmy, seeing you have a great appreciation for brothers as Art Katz. (myself having listened to most of his sermons and reading much of what he has written) i would say follow God if that means stay or leave, God puts us in different situations, there are times to stay and times to leave. Some words of wisdom from Zac Poonen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAM3YjynoAg>

We can not judge one another for going or staying, but we can encourage one another to seek what God says in scripture and how he speaks into our situation. God may lead Jimmy to stay, and another brother in that exact same church to leave, and both are in God's will.

just some thoughts.

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 20:11

. Follow Jesus and the apostles teachings and pattern. You won't go wrong.

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 21:18

Quote:
-----If you are saved, love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself, and if the life of Christ is in you, you will never be alone long. If you are a mature saint you will lead others to the Lord and you will form and be a part of Christian community. Some of you have been alone a while and have had very sporadic fellowship because your Christian walk isn't what you imagine it to be. And you are in a place that the Lord has not brought you. The glory for you has long departed. No wonder you haven't led anybody to the Lord in years, and no wonder you can't play nice with your brethren.

You will (and already are) get a lot of heat for saying this, but this is true. No matter who disagrees with it.

Proverbs 18:1 He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 21:40

Even a root of bitterness is cancer to the soul, especially among the immature. May the Lord pour out His Spirit upon His children.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 21:49

Amen brother Frank.

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 22:00

Brother Allen said way back on page 1

=====

Jimmy said, "But God has called us to stick at it..."

Stick at what, Jimmy?

What about His call to "come out of her, My people..." (Rev. 18.4).

God never ordained the denominational system in the first place. I know, He has used it, and He uses men who are in it. Of course He does. His people are there.

But there comes a time when He says loud and clear, "COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE..."

Come out of her... who? The rebels? The heretics? No. Come out of her MY PEOPLE.

I am all for the assembling together of the saints. But if people would lay that to heart -- that Scripture about not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, Heb. 10.25 -- they would be leaving the denominational system in droves! That's not what the Holy Spirit means by being assembled together!

I remember once a brother talking about this, and using an illustration from boyhood. He said he used to love building models, cars and planes and so on... and he'd look at the beautiful picture of the model on the box... How beautiful that '57 Chevy looked. But then it would say, "Assembly required."

THAT's true assembling: being fit together so that each individual part is functioning in the capacity the designer had in mind for it when he made it, and so becomes a vital part of a beautiful whole.

Just because you have all those parts together in the box does not mean they are assembled.

Just because you have a hundred or a thousand Christians in a big... "box" does not mean they are assembled.

And that's what's happening in this hour, Jimmy. That's why people are leaving. People are leaving "the box" because they are tired of being isolated RIGHT THERE IN THE BOX, tired of being just jumbled together with a whole bunch of other parts that aren't really fitting together the way the Designer intended. They are feeling unfulfilled, and they are leaving. It's of GOD. He is the one who has put it into the hearts of His people to become ASSEMBLED in beautiful unity... to the praise of His glory.

Sure, at this time we are not seeing that quite yet. The home churches themselves have not yet become assembled the way God has in mind. But they are going to be. More and more as we learn to give the ASSEMBLER His Lordship in our midst, we are going to see a beautiful -- and fearsome -- manifestation of the living CHRIST in the midst of His people... I mean in every single one of them from the least to the greatest.

Re: , on: 2012/5/12 22:15

Often times people who have decided to come out of the established church have been accused of many things, among them anger. I am personally not in fellowship with any angry people. I have seen comments on this thread and even the OP (which is fleshed out later by comments) which show anger and bitterness. Let us not forget, that no matter what side of this subject that we may be on, bitterness and anger is always going to be dangerous to the soul. It causes pride and self promotion and begins to eat away at the soul. If we believe that our brothers or sisters are in error, genuine error, that should lead us to sadness and prayer. Speak the truth yes, boldly even, yes, but in love.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/13 1:29

Quote:

What if Art Katz whom you respect so highly? In a sense he was a renegade as he did not fit into a traditional church model. Granted he had associations with many traditional church leaders. Yet by your own definition it could be said he was a wounded schismatic because of the community he started up there in rural Minnesota. I know you do not believe this. Or at least I do not think you believe this.

To clarify:

I am not speaking here, nor was I originally, of anybody who leaves the traditional denominational, or even non-denominational church structures. I am all for house churches and fellowships like that which Art Katz planted. My own theology is much more in agreement with such fellowships than it is with any traditional model of church. Although currently, I'm involved in a very traditional church scene.

In my original essay, and most recent post, I only have in mind here only the individual who has done nothing more than gone rogue, and has virtually declared anathema over every church in the towns and cities in which they sojourn. I only have in mind here brethren so full of their own piety, doctrine, and ministries that they have found the inability to get along and fellowship with brethren who are still in "institutional" circles. I only have in mind here individuals who sit at home and pretend that they alone are left, with the exception of some random people they come in contact with, or meet through Sermon Index fashioned ministries and conferences.

God never called a people to forsake the regularly assembling of themselves together, as is the habit of some, so that they could blog about it over the internet, and find some sort of narcissistic comfort in a mutual lamentation that there are others out there just like them.

I could personally care less whether you meet in a living room or a cathedral. I have my conviction in the matter. Personally, theological wrangling about the location one meets bores me to tears. And I'm quite convinced the Lord could care less too. Yes, I am one hundred percent convinced He could care less. Which is why I am happy as a clam to meet in living rooms, coffee shops, and cathedral style buildings just the same. And interestingly enough, I've found the Lord to show up powerfully in all three. Jesus Christ is Lord of all the earth. He is all and in all.

Yes, it is true that the traditional institutional churches are formed upon faulty theological patterns that deviate from the pattern given by the apostles. And I'm all about doing things according to their patterns. But if some of my brethren in the traditional churches haven't discovered that pattern for themselves, I'm not going to refuse to have fellowship with them, nor am I going to refuse to gather with them, nor am I going to refuse to participate in whatever work they are doing. And I'm certainly not going to run around crying, "come out of her My people."

If you want to start a house church or an Art Katz style fellowship, wonderful. May God bless you richly in your efforts to do the work He's called you to do. You have my full support. I feel called to a similar work one day myself. But! If you feel God has called you to shun every church in your town, and all you do is sit around at home praying, reading your Bible, and blogging about the remnant God has called you to be, then I have nothing but rebuke for you. God has no more called you to do that than God has called anybody to divorce their wife.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/13 2:09

Quote:

Even a root of bitterness is cancer to the soul, especially among the immature. May the Lord pour out His Spirit upon His children.....bro Frank

I don't have a bitter bone in my body. I've been hurt too deeply to ever be bitter.

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/13 8:49

Well i'm sorry Jimmy but just because you say it doesn't make it so. Don't get me wrong, i'm sure there ARE some people who leave for the reasons you give in your post and who think of themselves as prophets, etc. But plenty have left simply due to the rampant heresy and apostasy in the churches today. Not every community has churches as wonderful as your's (IF indeed your's are Biblical and wonderful; i wouldnt know just as you don't know the ones in mine) and yes Jimmy, God HAS called some people out of churches. It is written, "Come out from among them and be ye separate..." and "touch not the unclean thing". God does NOT want His children to be fellowshiping with apostates and heretics. For it is written, "Rebuke a heretic once or twice and after this have nothing more to do with him,...". When this is only describing one man or a couple people in the church one does not have to leave but if it describes the pastor and/or church leadership then it is best to leave if they won't listen to scripture. Jesus prophesied that before his return there WOULD be world wide apostasy. We are seeing that today, with every single major denomination having apostasized. Homosexuals in the pulpits is only the most blatant form, the subtle ones are much more spiritually dangerous and i dont believe for a minute that God want's His children there. God wants fellowship between His children, yes, but nowhere in His Word does He ever say it has to be in a church building, what day of the week it has to be, how often it has to be, or how many people one has to gather with. Instead He said, "Where two or three are gathered in my Name,..."

Let the dead bury their dead. The churches of America are filled with dead mens' bones. If you have found one that is not, good for you. Hip Hip Hooray! But don't anyone DARE judge me or others who are not members of an "official" religious building created by organized religion. You don't know my circumstances or where I live or anything whatsoever about me and ANY attempt to judge is nothing but pious self-righteousness. Your post may be written in love but there have been far too many I have met who are anything but. And if all the self-righteous church people care so much about those of us who do not attend an "official" gathering, why do you never visit nor call those who you so self-righteously criticize for leaving??? If you behaved like REAL brethren and a REAL family they probably wouldn't have left in the first place.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/13 10:13

I once counseled a woman who said that God told her to divorce her husband. I pointed out to her while there are some Biblical justifications for divorce, there isn't one instance in Scripture where God commanded anybody to divorce anybody.

The same parallel can be said for fellowshiping with a local body of believers. While we are called to distance ourselves and even shun believers who are clearly not following the Lord, the Lord did prescribe a way we are to conduct ourselves regarding this. And in application of this teaching, the apostle Paul and others showed great mercy. So much so that the Corinth church was full of sexual immorality, idolatrous practices, and even denying core truths like the resurrection of the dead. Let's not even begin to talk about the seven churches of Asia minor in Revelation. I would venture to say that these churches were far more corrupt than your typical evangelical church in America.

Yet nowhere in all of Scripture does the Lord call anybody to cease fellowshiping with an intentionally gathered local body of believers in their locality. There are zero instances of this. Period.

And if for whatever reason you find yourself in a town where there are zero born again Christians, and you are the only truly saved person where you live, then it is incumbent upon you to go make some disciples and form a local body of believers. And if you are failing to do such, flee to the next town. But some of you aren't doing such, and you've not made a disciple in years, because frankly, you aren't where you need to be in the Lord. It's a Biblical fact: Christians make other Christians.

If you are alone, you shouldn't be alone long. Those who have the life of Christ always bear fruit and multiply themselves. If you are not, then you are dead.

Re: , on: 2012/5/13 10:17

Beware the root of bitterness.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2012/5/13 10:40

Quote:

-----Let the dead bury their dead. The churches of America are filled with dead mens' bones.

AMEN!!

In my neck of the woods we refer to churches as mausoleums.

Christ is outside the church of this time knocking on the door, to really get to know Him you are going to have to come outside.

OJ

Re: , on: 2012/5/13 10:52

Quote:
-----In my original essay, and most recent post, I only have in mind here only the individual who has done nothing more than gone rogue, and has virtually declared anathema over every church in the towns and cities in which they sojourn.

I resemble that remark! :-)

OJ

DO YOU FOLLOW THE LAMB?, on: 2012/5/13 12:02

"Let the dead bury their dead. The churches of America are filled with dead mens' bones. If you have found one that is not, good for you. Hip Hip Hooray! But don't anyone DARE judge me or others who are not members of an "official" religious building created by organized religion. You don't know my circumstances or where i live or anything whatsoever about me and ANY attempt to judge is nothing but pious self-righteousness."..Trekker.

" Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, Â“What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.Â”

As it was then, so it is today. This is the nature of the Religious spirit, which is the spirit of the Priest Class, or Ministry Class.....who deem themselves alone qualified to exert power over God's people; The Priest Class. Add to this, the fact that this is how they make a living, and the fact that they will fight to the death to preserve their chosen profession. Jesus called them Hirelings.

Most Pastors today operate on this level. All Pastors in the New Testament are unpaid and PLURAL, to escape the tyranny of the One Man Show. The only place that this heresy is found is in 3JOHN:

"I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this,

He himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church."...The Apostle John

Either his way, or the Highway; the little kings, the dominators of God's people, the Nicolaitan.....

"Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."...Jesus.

and.... "So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth."...Jesus

Some things Jesus hates and wars against, and this is the issue paramount in the modern church, and their numbers and finances are dwindling. Why?..for reasons Old Joe, Trekker and others have outlined. When the Spirit of God no longer rules, but man does, He is quenched, and man is glorified; Jesus leaves the room, grieved.

God made an equal body where all are equally honored and loved, and USED as they are gifted, and as they have learned to love. The Pastors are instituted to assure that the Holy Spirit is not quenched, and that is ALWAYS to the least of each brother or sister.

How do you know in advance just what the Lord is about to do and say in the average church?

READ THE BULLITIN, SILLY!

After a while the pew sitter gets used to it, I guess, and either starves to death and becomes one of the system, or flees t

o greener pastures where there is real LIFE.

In this those remaining in power frustrate themselves as they behold the GREAT DRAIN of the rivers of life, and yes, there is a remnant who survive and prosper in the wilderness.

"AND THEY FOLLOWED THE LAMB WHERE-SO-EVER HE WENT."

The Assembler!.....Amen. , on: 2012/5/13 12:11

"Sure, at this time we are not seeing that quite yet. The home churches themselves have not yet become assembled the way God has in mind. But they are going to be.

More and more as we learn to give the ASSEMBLER His Lordship in our midst, we are going to see a beautiful -- and fearsome -- manifestation of the living CHRIST in the midst of His people... I mean in every single one of them from the least to the greatest!"..Jimdied2sin

AMEN AND AMEN!

Re: "Don't forsake the Assembly!" - posted by rorichts (), on: 2012/5/13 15:34

May I inject what I believe to be of some help into the "Don't forsake the Assembling" One can have a room which contains individual bins of automobile parts enough to make one complete car. But that does not make it a car that can function as a car until they are assembled together each in its appropriate place. What I see in the local churches are bins of parts, not an "assembling" as the Word admonishes. Until we lay down our lives as we said we would when we were Baptized and allow the "assembling" to take place by the direction of the Holy Spirit we will only be a group of people with similar understandings. That is the reason why we have denominations.

I long for the day when other Brothers are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to function in molding by the Masters hand in the remaking of the clay that is marred.

I see no point to fellowship with those that insist that their assembly function by democratic means with a CEO who is to be called the pastor.

Looking for those who are also willing to come out from among them.

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/5/13 17:45

"Where two or more are gathered in MY Name, I am in the midst of them." Jesus Christ

The primary phrase is "IN MY NAME", not two or more. Two or more is dependent on whose name they gather in.

Sadly, many gather but not "in His Name" which is more than just a phrase, it is true heart orientation producing fruit in your speech and actions.

When men boast about their "spiritual accomplishments", they do so to gather others around them and in their name and they do so because Jesus Christ is not exalted in their hearts.

Psa 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Psa 44:8 In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Boast in Him and He will stay in your midst.

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/13 17:54

Don't let your romantic ideals about what church is, and what it means to assemble together in the name of Christ keep you from the actual practical application of gathering together. There is nothing spiritual about sitting at home, and blogging on Sermon Index, and being a cynic.

Re: C - posted by lindi1208 (), on: 2012/5/13 21:41

Hi

I have been following this thread closely and I feel so condemned. Brother Jimmy not every person who is in the wilderness is proud, or schismatic (not too sure of the spelling). There are seasons whereby the Lord may lead us out in the wilderness.

As a babe in Christ I have done my wandering from fellowship to fellowship both IC and home churches. What my experience has been is I have often ended up feeling like a stranger amongst other believers. My joy is often quenched. After an orderly service or bible study of about an hour to an hour and a half everybody stops talking about Jesus. Once the music stops it's social time. The talk is now about work, politics etc. I look for someone who is bubbling over and wants to talk about Jesus and the word preached/ discussed that day but no one seems interested after all they have just given their hour to Jesus and that's enough right. I have been to churches where fellowship time is time to sell or boost one's business, some selling shoes, perfume, handbags etc.

I have sat through many services because I did not want to forsake the fellowship yet my heart was grieved, my spirit being quenched and I felt I was dying of hunger for the pure word. I felt withered inside I try to share the truth but the false accusations come oh you have a divisive spirit, you are being used by the devil etc. This is when you point out biblical truth.

It's very difficult to explain how it feels to find no place or saints in your area who are passionate about the word or Jesus. To sit under deceived and apostate pulpits. It is so hard for the Lord to willfully lead you out of fellowship for a season and have your brothers and sisters look at you with contempt. Sometimes the Lord does pull his people out of the church and believe those who are in the wilderness are longing and crying in their hearts to find someone nearby or even one person in their town who really loves the Lord with all their heart and is a Berean who searches the scriptures to see if the things they have heard from the pulpit are true.

I am in tears now and the Lord knows I long so much in my heart to find even one such person in my town. Believe me I want to find that church where I can truly belong and grow in the Lord and in faith. A church where CHRIST is the centre of worship and HIS SPIRIT dwells. I occasionally attend services in the church I grew up in. It teaches some biblical truth but does not promote the gifts. Nothing is ever taught about gifts of the Spirit. There is a Pastor General and all sorts of hierarchy in there. Again the word preached rarely ever cuts deep or feeds your hungry spirit but just for the sake of gathering together I still attend occasional services. I have friends in other cities I spend time talking to on the phone and it's often hours sharing the word, burdens, encouraging, exhorting one another. We visit each other once in a while.

Though I am not a regular attender God has been ministering to my friends and family through my life. I have seen friends growing closer to the Lord. God brings people to Himself he ministers to people through the life we live in Him. Just wanted to share my experience through His Grace for I am nothing without Him. He alone is worthy to be Praised. He loves His Children and He extends His grace to all whether in weekly or sporadic fellowship.

shut up, alone, depressed sometimes, but still alive..I get back up., on: 2012/5/13 21:52

"There is nothing spiritual about sitting at home, and blogging on Sermon Index, and being a cynic." hmmmhmmmm; Could there be a double edged sword here?

Surely you're not saying that people who choose to fellowship in a more Spirit-led medium and different than your ideas are cynics, Are you? Some may be very pleasing to the Lord, even a sweet aroma to Him, and be out of "church" for long periods of time.

The Word speaks of Abiding in Him, and are we sure we should condemn others who may be in His perfect Will, and still not measure up to your standards of obedience, or any man's?

"The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what

t he approves."

"But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin."

It is not a good thing to project your faith upon others and then judge them if they do not measure up. This, Jimmy, is exactly what you are doing.

If I boast, let it be in the Lord. I am in fellowship with true believers wherever I go, for my fellowship is with the Holy Spirit who Dwells within me, wherever I go.

I have led people who never once heard His name, or about Jesus to Him, and saw them go from demonic paganism to salvation, and baptized with the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands.

I have real Hospital confirmed healings of deadly diseases, and have cast out devils screaming blasphemy, and seen these filled with the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues with great sweetness emanating from them afterwards. I have led people to Jesus for over 40 years.

I have travelled alone all over the World. I am going again soon to Africa, preaching and teaching Jesus. I have no support, no fellowship sending me...but I have something better. I am an ambassador of Jesus and He sends and leads. I do not ask for money; I don't care...He provides.

He can trust me to go to any city in the World, drop me off alone, and I will be used and safe; That's how I feel. I also go to American venues and minister when led, like the Rainbow tribe gatherings. One day, 11 years ago, I led everyone I met to Jesus.

I have been an elder, in an independent church, with a huge homegroup of 50....and have led in other churches over the years. I minister to the solitary one, for they are as important as the crowds. What is important is to follow Jesus, is my point.

I must add here, that I am a failure deluxe, and no winner. I am a redeemed loser who lives on mercy. He cleanses me; I fall, and get up again, and His blood is my only hope.

This, is my understanding of eating His Flesh and Drinking His blood; which is: LIVING ON MERCY.

It is all I have got. PS: I hate being set on the shelf by the Lord...where I am shut in as much as a prison, and I feel I am all dressed up and have nowhere to go.

Anyone else ever feel that way?

Re: Coming Out of The Church: The Remnant Heresy, on: 2012/5/13 22:05

Quote:
----- Right now I believe we are seeing a rising tide of Christians who have, for various reasons, deliberately chosen to remove themselves from fellowshiping with any intentionally organized local body of believers.

Well, I wouldn't say "deliberately". For me, it was God who told me to leave the congregation to which I enjoyed being a part. There was no reason to leave on my part, but God had other plans and I could not shake His will though I pushed at Him. Others may leave because they feel that the Church is going down hill, THAT was not my reason for leaving.

Before, I have never had any problems whatsoever in God leading me to a Church that He wanted me to attend. After I I

eft that Church my prayers to go someplace have gone unanswered. Every other prayer is answered except this one. When I need fellowship, the doors open and I see Christian brothers and sisters all over the place to fellowship with but the door to go to a regular Church does not open. I have left off praying about because the Lord knows that I have prayed about it and as far as I am concerned it's filed away in God filing cabinet. Someone bold enough could say that maybe God didn't want you to leave that Church, maybe He didn't speak to you at all. Well, one could have said that on the onset, but you see, two years later, the Pastor ran off with the secretary, the building was sold the people scattered.

As far as the biblical prophecy concerning the Remnant, I don't believe a word of it that it means our day. The wording of the Remnant in bible prophecy refers to the period in which the Jews who were as the sand of the seashore would be reduced to a mere handful for salvation, "such as should be saved".

However, that doesn't take away the fact that in all instances of what God desires to do with each generation that pulls away from God and walks after the flesh, that there isn't a Remnant that He has chosen to move through to stir the people to repentance. There is always a remnant of some sort. There has to be a group of people that seeks the face of God that stands in the gap and makes up the hedge.

I believe in what God is doing with those who are being called out of this present day Christianity because something is deeply wrong with it. There has to be an awakening and it's not being done in these Churches, the system is flawed and people are not waking up.

In David Wilkerson's prophecy the Vision, he tells of a Church coming out of the church as it were, from all of Christianities religions, people that desire truth in the inward parts not religious form and the same thing over and over again each week. God is a speaking God, He is not a dumb god like the idols that people worshipped back in the day that couldn't speak. He the living God and these called out ones or the remnant or whatever these people are called want that living way, and to be frank, the Churches won't allow that. They won't allow people to expand and move forward and up, lest any of their own people become more than they. There is a great pride in the land that is absolutely sickening.

Yes, there is definitely a remnant in our day and I know I am very much apart of that. If that makes me rebellious, then you'll need to talk to my Father and make your complaint because I am not my own, I can't even do what I want to do because His restraining Hand keeps me. I am boxed in.

Re: , on: 2012/5/13 22:22

Quote:

----- I have been following this thread closely and I feel so condemned.

Stop condemning yourself, you're doing nothing wrong, you're doing everything that you're able to do with the mercy and truth that He has given you. We are always going to hear other voices of condemnation, ignore them. Condemnation does not come from God, know that.

You are in Christ and there is therefore NOW no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus because you walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

We don't walk after the flesh, we have His Spirit we walk after the Spirit and there is no condemnation there, so if you're feeling condemnation, then what your hearing is not of God so don't listen to that anymore, move away from that foolishness and give thanks in all things for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us.

Be Blessed Beloved.

Re: - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/13 23:06

QUOTE: "Don't let your romantic ideals about what church is, and what it means to assemble together in the name of Christ keep you from the actual practical application of gathering together. There is nothing spiritual about sitting at home, and blogging on Sermon Index, and being a cynic."==KINGJIMMY

I confess I was very suspicious of the "love" you claimed to have written your post with, and now this comment of yours seems to prove to me that you are really just sitting in judgement of others regardless of what reasons they have for not attending a local church denomination building or not. This quote right here betrays your TRUE attitude. You profess to only be speaking in love but I have met far too many church people who look down their noses at people who have left to never believe you. And here is your true attitude; you assert that everyone here who has left the churches even for good reasons is nothing but a cynic and a foolish romantic and spiritually lazy etc. You have judged people here without knowing any of them and have painted us all with a wide brush. I was right to be suspicious.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/13 23:18

It's ok. I will let you sit in judgment of me. I am glad you were right in your suspicions. I'm glad you connected all the dots and figured me out. Too bad it wasn't sooner. We might have gotten somewhere.

Geez brethren. I don't even know what to say to all this. Perhaps it is best we say no more on the topic.

Re: , on: 2012/5/13 23:28

"Why do you not attend church?"

Â

Answer:

One day I heard Christ knocking on the door of the church (Rev 3:20), so I got up and answered the door. He invited me to join Him outside (Rev 18:4), so I did, and have never looked back (Luke 9:62), lest I be turned to a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26).

http://www.theinvisiblechurch.ca/invisibly/The_Lone_Ranger_Christian.html

OJ

Re: , on: 2012/5/14 0:08

Humility is always the best path, when you stick to your guns, you only go further down the path of pride. I offer that as honest advice to a younger brother, I know, I have worn a path down the pride trail many times in my 21 years of Christianity. The truth is, very few of us know very little about anyone else on SI so it's always dangerous to make judgements and assumptions about why people do what they do. Love is also the antidote to bitterness and unforgiveness.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by lindi1208 (), on: 2012/5/14 2:33

@ approved thank you brother! Amen! There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! I realised that the accuser of the brethren took this as an opportune time to fire his darts at me through my thoughts and longings. I too am in a box:).

My father would have me right where I am in the wilderness that is His perfect will for my life at present. I asked Him again to confirm what He laid on my heart through His word and He led me to Isaiah 8 : 11-22. Praise be to God our Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ for His mercies are new every morning! He loves each and every one of us and is patient and even more gracious towards all His children in all our different stages of growth in His most Holy Faith!

If only we all could come to understand this I think we would bear more fruit speaking to one another in love and bearing with one another. For there will always be new births, babes in Christ and mature believers. If we know and live this we will have no cause to stumble one another! Our levels of faith are each according to a measure given to us by Our Father. He has room for us all. That is why I love Him so and am learning this principle of faith and growth in Him and also understanding the same is being done to all his other children!

Blessings in Christ Jesus

Re: - posted by lindi1208 (), on: 2012/5/14 2:33

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Blessings in Christ Jesus

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/5/14 5:49

Personally i believe in "coming out of her" and the times witch we live in there are many such instances where that is the call, but i also think brother Jimmi touches upon something that many may leave their church or fellowship upon wrong grounds because the church do not ecome what they themselves want or desire, it is not so much for Gods kingdom to have a physical expression upon earth that is their concern but that "I" will have my way what i think is right. surely there are such people that switch church and cry "come out of her" because they had their pet-doctrines trampled upon or their pride took a turn and instead of being molded together through the battle one decides to leave instead of endure.

I think it is easy just as with any other teaching to take a way "left" or "right" position and denounce everything else.

I found this article by Sparks that touches some upon what Jimmi is saying. I think it boils down to following God, if God says leave then go...

Corporate Life
by T. Austin-Sparks

In order that life may fulfil its function, reveal its power, reach its full measure, and pass on its potentialities, it must assume form. Life in itself has never been seen. Only through the form which it takes can it express itself. It must have a body. It is only through the body and corporate relations that the great laws of life and the spiritual kingdom can come to fullest expression and efficiency. Life involves relations. Isolation spells death.

The relation into which the new-born child of God is introduced is twofold - first to its risen Lord, as Head of the Body which is the Church, and secondly to all its members, consisting of those who in every age and country have heard His voice, and come out at His call. They have not merely been 'called out,' they have been 'called in.' It is a call with a double object.

First it is private, personal, specific, as between the individual and his Lord. Stripping himself clear of all relations, entanglements, and environments, he must come first of all into the consciousness of his own nakedness, face to face with God alone, bringing nothing with him of his own personality. We are as truly born naked in the spiritual as in the natural realm. In the private presence of God relations are set up which are primary and fundamental. Spirit meets with spirit.

From that personal relatedness the child of God is introduced to a new order, a great spiritual fellowship, a relatedness of all who have been "born of the Spirit." This relatedness is as absolutely essential as is that of the organs of the physical body. For growth, function, safety, balance, and fulness, this co-ordination, interdependence and co-operation in spirit a

nd practice is indispensable. It involves an utter repudiation of independence, separateness, and self-centredness. This is inherent in new birth and being "in one Spirit baptized into one body," and the sooner it is recognised the greater the saving of the precious time in spiritual maturity.

We are related to an order which is higher than anything on this earth or of the natural creation. The higher the organism, the longer the process of co-ordination. It takes a very much longer time for an elephant to be formed than other animals. But the presence of life can and will consummate the order if it is not violated.

"Till we all attain unto... the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Re: , on: 2012/5/14 6:06

I am amazed that this thread has garnered such attention.

I guess many care for jimmy and want to see him more balanced.

EDIT ADD

jimmy while your intent I cannot fully judge I can only go by what you have posted.

I would suggest you refrain from using words like "children in a sandbox and other little demeaning, sly remarks that you pepper some of your posts with.

When you do this it reveals a condescending attitude. It reveals also that you need more tempering and maturing.

We all need to be careful when introducing certain subjects on a forum.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2012/5/14 15:22

Quote:

----- I think it is easy just as with any other teaching to take a way "left" or "right" position and denounce everything else.

I couldn't agree more. If there is a lesson in this thread, it is that we should not confuse our ability to see trends with our ability to discern motives. People leave churches for a variety of reasons, and they stay in churches for a variety of reasons as well.

Quote:

----- We all need to be careful when introducing certain subjects on a forum.

Again, I couldn't agree more. In an environment like this where there are so many ideas and voices, it is tempting to use controversial and provocative statements to stand out and be heard. This is not a flaw in anyone's character per se, but a dynamic of social media that we should be aware of.

MC

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/14 19:08

Quote:

jimmy while your intent I cannot fully judge I can only go by what you have posted.

I would suggest you refrain from using words like "children in a sandbox and other little demeaning, sly remarks that you pepper some of your posts with.

Noted.

I only use such imagery for illustration purposes. I don't use it to demean, but to only bring to light hidden things. And while such illustrations may come across as abrasive to many, and rub some people in the wrong way, ultimately at the end of the day, I think they will usually only ruffle the feathers of those whose feathers are in need of ruffling.

No doubt, I concede I have pushed things a little too far in this thread.

But ultimately at the end of the day, I am very concerned. You have many people claiming that God actually told them to do something that God never told anybody else to do in all of sacred Scripture. And not only that, you have these same people saying God told them to do the actual opposite thing which we as Christians are commanded to do. The Scriptures have commanded to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but to gather all the more as the day of the Lord draws near. That word is universal, and applies to you, no matter where you live, and what side of church history you are in. And as God would have it, here we are in are what undoubtedly the last days, and you have large segments of Christians saying God told them to stop gathering with other genuine born again Christians, because of x, y, and z. I have discovered that there are Christians who are claiming God told them to do the exact opposite of what God has actually commanded us to do, and all the more so in the very times we live in!

If this were merely a private revelation that God was but calling these individuals to for a short season, I would not object. If it were but a fast of some sort, I would be entirely ok with this. But we have a dreadful problem. The problem is that many of these saints have been "out" of the church for years, and any gatherings they participate in are few and far in between. And not only this, these individuals are not only claiming that God commanded they do this, but they are also preaching what they are doing as being part of a larger movement that others should participate in.

This is a terrible claim that departs further from the clear teaching of Scripture, and the model left to us by the apostles. It is actually a movement that causes us to further drift from the apostolic model than the traditional institutions have done that have existed in Christianity for about 1900 years. Far from being a movement that is about purity, in practice, it actually only further perverts the model the apostles left to us to follow. I'm sorry, but I simply cannot tolerate or stomach something claiming to be prophetic when it in fact does nothing but perpetuate further perversion in the lives of others.

Proponents of this idea can claim Revelation 18:4 all they want as their Scriptural justification for refusing to gather together with other believers in their locality. But such a violent misuse of the Scriptures to justify their "God told me" mindset is something that fails to actually stand up to what God has actually told us and revealed to us in His word. This sort of mishandling of the Scriptures is known as nothing more than proof-texting. It is taking a random verse of the Bible, and making it mean whatever you want it to mean, with total disregard to the actual context of the passage.

The fact of the matter is, Revelation 18:4 says nothing about forsaking the assembling of yourselves together because you've detected impurities in whatever form your local fellowships have taken. Revelation 18:4 doesn't care if your local churches have theological errors in them. It doesn't care if the hearts of the people in your local congregations have become dull. It doesn't care if the preaching is watered down. It doesn't care if the deacons are sleeping with somebody besides their own wives.

Let's read what the actual verse says:

Quote:

"Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;" (Revelation 18:4)

This is a call for you to not participate in the sins of the spirit of this age. It is a call for you to not allow your own mind and heart to be seduced by whatever is going on in the world around you. For the failure of you to check your heart, mind, and your actions, Revelation 18:4 says, will cause you to participate in the judgments and plagues being poured out upon the world in the last days. And to use it in a way that somehow causes you to forsake the assembling of yourselves together with other believers, no matter how imperfect they might be theologically, or immature they might be in their walk, is something that is simply unconscionable. And I would be so bold as to say that those of you who are using this verse in this way, and have taken up the specific mindset I have addressed since the beginning of this thread, however long ago it was that we started all this fuss, I would say that you are in fact the one's who are in danger of receiving the punishment.

ents of Revelation 18:4.

The mindset you have embraced is false. And the word you claim God has told you is contrary to the one revealed in Scripture. To be blunt, I believe God would say to you: You have believed and perpetuated a lie. And there is grave danger in that. And the danger is all greater when you invite others to participate in that lie.

Now, this word many of you will undoubtedly reject. And I'm ok with that. I will lose no sleep over it. I have bigger fish to fry elsewhere, and things that are of greater concern. And frankly, things for which I am ultimately much more passionate about. Topics such as the resurrection of the dead, and the ultimate purposes of God come to mind.

But I say these things --all of it-- ultimately out of great concern and love. Love not only for you, even in my usage of over the top language, and a love for the random people who will read this thread but not post in it, but ultimately, a fierce jealousy for the word of God, and what God hath said. It is a love and a jealousy that propels me to constantly reach out and pour myself into the lives of people around me. Not only in real life, but in whatever degree it is possible here.

In fact, when God filled me with His Spirit about a dozen or so years ago, at the time I was not a part of any local church. I had been out of church for a while. But the day and the hour He poured His Spirit upon me, I felt a strong compulsion to involve myself in the life of the local church. And not only do I feel this compulsion burning in me like fire, I see this compulsion burned deeply into the writings of the apostles, and the teachings of our Lord. No matter how tired I may sometimes feel, no matter how busy I may be, and no matter what may be going on in my life, I feel deeply compelled to serve the local body of Christ, which I in fact knows exists in many localities throughout this country, and throughout this world.

I have participated in small gatherings in coffee shops, living rooms, and cathedrals. I have participated in very loosely organized expressions of the body, and I have participated in heavily organized ones as well. I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. I know what it is to be rejected, celebrated, and everything in between. I've been in churches where pastors regarded me as a false prophet who they needed to shut down. And I've been in churches where I was regarded as the real McCoy. I know what it is like to feel like leaving a church. I know what it is like to be inwardly tormented and grieved over sins and situations in local fellowships.

I also know what it is like to weep with great joy in the presence of my brethren over what Christ is doing in our midst, and to see saints grow, mature, and go on from faith to faith and glory to glory. I know what it is like to pour yourself into hardened backsliders, who although claiming to be saved, are running around, partying hard, and sleeping with anything that will move. And then to see God finally break through to them, so that they cease doing those things, and are now leading others to Christ, and teaching others how to follow Him.

And all this, I know in the context of the local church. The local church which many of you who will have nothing to do with, and are claiming that God is drawing people out of, to be part of something you are calling "the remnant." Forgive me for my passion and overstating things, or any remarks that may be interpreted as condescending and rude. I understand we all have some very unique situations and may live in some very small towns in which it is possible that there are no other Christians to fellowship with. I get that, really, I do. What I say is not directed towards you.

What I have said, however, has been to a very specific attitude and mindset. And in that, I'm not talking about people who have what would be deemed "non-traditional" churches i.e. house churches. I'm all for house churches. I have never nor will I ever come out against them in any way, shape, or form. But what I have in mind here, is the attitude of simply those who are schismatic, but don't even realize it. That is, they are the heretic who has cast a blanket judgment upon the churches of their locality, and declared Ichabod over all of them, although God has in fact, done no such thing. Some of you imagine yourselves prophets and participants in some special secret and hidden movement of God. In fact, you are not a prophet, and although you may be participating in a movement, it is not of God.

Indeed, for some of you, God is in fact doing a great work in the midst of many of your local assemblies. But some of you refuse to see this. You can only see your cause, and have made an idol out of your pet doctrine. And it is a shame. Because some of you are actually great people, with great giftings, and with much to offer. And you have much that you still are in need of receiving. But you are unable to do either, because you willfully belong to no local body of believers, and refuse to gather with others. You have imposed an exile upon yourselves, and you suffer for it. Your fellowship consists of internet forums, e-mails, phone calls, and special conferences. Which is sad. Because for some of you, there is actually a good church just a few miles down the road from where you live.

I don't apologize if this post is very personal and direct. This is not an impersonal, formal, or academic essay. It's something that I hope will be much more pastoral, and Lord willing, parts of it might even be prophetic to some of you. I pray for nothing but healing to emerge in these words, and for nothing but the blessing of Christ to perpetuate into your lives. That is my honest and earnest prayer. It is the deepest cry of my heart.

edited for grammar/clarity

Re: , on: 2012/5/14 21:08

Quote:

-----I don't apologize if this post is very personal and direct.

Me neither Jimmy.

If you believe that Renovatus is one of the good churches of these days, then you have got a lot to learn yet. Out of courtesy to you I listened to the latest sermon where Twitter and Facebook dominated the scene. I wasted too many hours listening to that prototypical nonsense many years ago, and the nonsense I wasted my time with before was better than what I just wasted the last hour listening to. I would have to be dead to be hauled into that church, and if that were to happen my spirit would be beseeching God to raise my body for another 30 seconds so I get up and leave the building shaking the dust off my feet as I left.

That church is among the best of examples of the heathen overrunning the pulpits. Partake at your own risk.

OJ

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/14 21:21

Renovatus is a good church. It's not without its faults. But knowing a few of the saints there, and having spent some time in their midst, I know them to be a very serious minded body that loves the Lord. And if you wish to walk out on such a people, you are rejecting a people in whom Christ dwells.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/5/14 21:47

This thread has been painful to read. My dear brethren, SermonIndex is not the place to feud like this. When we engage in such debates and accusations we expose our immaturity and lack of spiritual wisdom regardless of where we worship or with whom we worship. Being a part of an organized structure or separated from it is completely irrelevant when we bite and claw each other in public before all the world. Worship where God will have you worship and be led by the Lord and do it as unto the Lord, and judge not the motives of your neighbor's heart by the non-conformity of his actions to your convictions. Especially refrain from critical spiritual judgment over such a dry, faceless means as an internet website.

I am terminating this discussion.

Brother Paul