



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Unconverted People allowed in Church?

Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/20 14:41

Should we continue to have Sunday worship services mixed with the unconverted goats within?

Why do we call out for revival, extra-biblical manifestations when we can't even worship God as He ought to be worshipped, due to catering to unsaved believers within the 'church?'

My question is this: Is it biblical to allow unconverted church people within our worship / fellowship?

If it is not biblical, (which I believe it isn't) shouldn't we be more active in witnessing our faith to others in our daily lives, rather than relying on the pastorate to convert unconverted believers who attend every week?

Is the gospel to be spread throughout this world through pastors in buildings?

When are we going to get back to the book of Acts?

Our "Christian" standard is so far below that of the apostles, I do not know what they would say of us, if they were still alive. We know practically nothing of God's holiness, and His righteousness. Perhaps we have head knowledge, but no true relational knowledge of God.

Do we really believe that without holiness no one will see the Lord? What are we doing with our lives? Were we saved to simply struggle with sin and limp into eternal glory? Were not we called to live a victorious life through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, as a radical group of people, making Jesus Christ shown worthy of a life of sacrifice?

What am I doing with my life... What are we as 'Christians' doing with our lives?

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/11/20 15:04

IWantAnguish wrote:

Quote:

Should we continue to have Sunday worship services mixed with the unconverted goats within?

Luke 14:7-14 (NKJV)

Take the Lowly Place

So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/11/20 15:06

Luke 5:29-30 (NKJV)

Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/20 15:09

I am in no way insinuating that we should not preach to the lost...

People always bring up the fact that Jesus went straight to the sinners and tax collectors, and thus justify that we ought to have unconverted believers in our fellowship...

I would submit to you that this ought not be.

Why?

Those sinners in Jesus' time knew they were sinners, and in desperate need of a savior.

These sinners in our churches don't even know they're lost, and they think they're going to heaven...

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/11/20 15:30

Thank you for your gracious reply. I pray that I can convey my thoughts on this matter with love and respect.

IWantAnguish wrote:

Quote:

-----Those sinners in Jesus' time knew they were sinners, and in desperate need of a savior.

These sinners in our churches don't even know they're lost, and they think they're going to heaven...

Brother, isn't this an assumption on your part? Some places of worship will blast the congregation and preach the "turn or burn" sermons. From what I've seen, these are not the most effective way of reaching unsaved people at churches, because as the old saying goes... "Your preaching to the converted". Most places that preach this lose the unsaved pretty quick I would think, and then you are left with only church membership.

Most of the people that I bring into fellowship at our House Church, and at our place of worship on Sunday, understand that they are missing something...they are lost. They see that we have something that they desire...and it entices them. Sometimes they don't understand the need for a savior yet, but it can be a process for some. In the Lord's timing, He reveals Himself to them.

When they see that your life is not bound by this world, it intrigues them. When Jesus' light shines through the darkness, and they see that you stand in the midst of chaos, they wonder why...

Every minute of the day is a witness to and for the Lord. It doesn't matter if it is in a church, marketplace, baseball game or in a jail cell... Christ is to be preached to the lost.

So to answer your question if we should stand side by side with unsaved sinners in a church setting...

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Yes. Not everyone is called to be an evangelist, pastor or a teacher, but we are called to preach Christ amongst the Nations. Some may do this at a street corner, others may do this by inviting them to a church. Others may do this by loving those who are tormenting and torturing them... it really matters not, as long as Christ is preached.

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2009/11/20 15:40

Yes, we should allow sinners in our services, and the true gospel of Jesus Christ should be preached so that the Holy Spirit will have the opportunity to convict them of their sins.

The problem with many churches in this country is that sinners are made to feel comfortable in our services and they even leave the service feeling good about themselves.

The true gospel being preached would effect sinners in one of two ways. Either they would receive the message and being convicted of their sins would be saved, or they would reject it and become so uncomfortable in that atmosphere that they would not want to go back to that place.

Mike

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/20 15:42

I am simply going by statistics that say that 60-70% of Americans have been 'born again.'

Not an assumption.

And I know for a fact that the great majority of those within that % are going to hell, because Jesus said, Many will say Lord Lord, and that few will find entrance.

My question is this... Is it biblical / possible to function as the True Church while allowing the nominal Christians 'church attendance' week by week?

I would say... Kick em out or get em saved. There is no middle ground.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

I'm not including those that you speak of, the honest searchers who are willing to bend the knee to the Lordship of Christ.

I'm talking about those who say they are saved, and yet they live as children of the devil.

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/20 15:50

You will not find any place in scripture, apostles or disciples of Christ, bringing unbelievers to 'church' or group meetings or worship services or fellowship or the communion table in order to get them saved.

Who are we to do the things that those great saints of past did not do?

Are we not to follow the Word of God, and to bring every thought and deed captive to the Word of God?

Should not our weekly fellowship reflect what is found in the Word of God?

Or shall we continue in the traditions of men, because 'it works?' When apparently, it doesn't.

The most godless and disgusting nation on the face of the earth. USA.

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Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/11/20 16:20

IWantAnguish wrote:

Quote:

I would say... Kick em out or get em saved. There is no middle ground.

Brother. I respect that this is your opinion. If this is how you feel and are feeling lead to this from the Lord, who am I to refute?

But you have quoted that, "*You will not find any place in scripture, apostles or disciples of Christ, bringing unbelievers to 'church' or group meetings or worship services or fellowship or the communion table in order to get them saved.*"

Nor will you find

Quote:

----- I would say... Kick em out or get em saved. There is no middle ground.

You will find warnings on non-belief, but nothing to do with a gathering unless in willful sin.

This really has to do with personal preference. Who are any of us to tell someone attending a church to leave because they may not be as far along in their walk as we are? Is there now a requirement that one HAS to be saved before they can come to a worship service?

I will tell you this, I would rather be in the midst of a bunch of unsaved sinners than in a "holy huddle" at worship. Again, preference.

:)

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/20 17:23

Anguish,

I totally misunderstood what you were asking so I deleted my first answer because I do not want to be associated with this ... this... this...

anti-semitism (sp?) against God's people who YOU declare not to be God's people. Amazing arrogance on your part, if you ask me. On page three, I have some questions for you!

...but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Ac 10:28b

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2009/11/20 18:04

I do not believe that we should be kicking sinners out of the Church. On the other hand, many Christians have gone door to door trying to get sinners to come to church. However, the church is not a building, the church is the Body of Christ, and we are called to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ, ministers of reconciliation. The Church needs to bring the good news to the sinners, wherever they are at. This might be the work place or even the grocery store. We come into contact with sinners every day. If we would begin to believe God for souls, and to open the door for us to witness to sinners, HE would do so. It is time that we take the Word of God outside the four walls of the church building and start being the Church that the Lord has called us to be.

Mike

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Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2009/11/20 22:22

I agree Mike,

I would say that the body of Christ should not rely exclusively (or even primarily) on the gathering together of Christians for worship, correction, teaching, and the sacraments, ie "church", for evangelism. I liked what Ray Comfort has said- "a good open air preacher can reach more unsaved people in one day than many churches do in a year". I don't think that we must exclude unbelievers, but if the bible is being faithfully taught, they will either leave on their own or the seeds of the gospel will be watered.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2009/11/21 1:31

Quote:

-----Those sinners in Jesus' time knew they were sinners, and in desperate need of a savior.

Oh you mean like the Pharisees? I don't think they cared about being "saved" if it meant coming to Christ, and they would be the first ones to say, "kick those sinners out, so we can have a pure religion!"

And to answer your other question about there not being any mention in the Bible about "mixing" saints and sinners, how about when Christ spoke of the wheat the tares?

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2009/11/21 2:56

hi, a friend of mine shared his testimony with me and it fits nicely in this area... he was brought to church one week and saw how at the end of the service some women would go to the altar and leave their purses in the pew... next week he came to get him a few purses... he got behind some rich looking ladies and sat down... at the end of the service he was the first at the altar weeping over his lost condition... should we allow sick people in hospitals? the Holy Spirit is able and willing to bring people to Jesus... i go to a church that baptizes 40 to 50 people a week and it is not the only great church in the city.jimp

Re: , on: 2009/11/21 8:41

Please don't think that I am trying to get off subject, but there is something that came to mind while reading the posts. The question was put forth, is it biblical for unbelievers to come together with worshipers.

I believe it to be so according to Paul's admonition to the Corinthian Church in regards to speaking an unknown tongue. Let me display the verses and I'll let you decide.

Quote:

-----1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:22 **Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not** : but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. 1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, **and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers**, will they not say that ye are mad? 1 Corinthians 14:24 But if all prophesy, **and there come in one that believeth not**, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 1 Corinthians 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Please do not thwart this thread by turning this into a tongues issue, I am merely pointing out that while the Church was in service in Corinth, unbelievers did come in to their worship. According to Paul it was a common thing.

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/21 9:06

We would be wise to define prophesy in this particular passage... Translated directly from the Greek, prophesy would mean 'to speak before.'

Basically, what a preacher does every Sunday. He stands up and prophesies before men, or, speaks before men.

This is relevant because true prophets will speak forth the truth, with authority from on High... This would bring conviction of sin to the unbeliever, while a fellowship of people speaking in tongues would make unbelievers think of Christians as insane.

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Thus you have the false prophets (Benny Hinn, Joel Olsteen, etc.) Men who speak lies before men, not necessarily that they falsely predict the future.

=====

Of course those seeking Christ (yes...I agree there is none that seeks after God... :-P yet, let us set election and free-will aside for the time being) The honest seekers looking for answers to questions about the state of their soul will come to the worship service... Should we cast out those whom the Holy Spirit drawing? By no means.

Should the majority of our 'church' services include the lost nominal 'Christians?' As well as the lost, carnal heathens who clearly have no appetite / desire for God?

Or should we present a Gospel message that is so utterly radical that it would shake them to the core of their being, and shock them into life?

I believe the reason our 'churches' are so filled with the damned is because we do not present the Gospel in such a way for them to clearly accept or clearly reject it. Thus we run around with however many % of goats along with however many % of sheep, and nothing substantial ever gets done in terms of Kingdom service.

You can call me a Pharisee if you want, but I believe a little leaven leavens the whole loaf. If you're comfortable with that ... then I would pray for you.

-edit for clarification-

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church?, on: 2009/11/21 9:31

My first encounter with it came in the early 90s, with the advent of the "USER FRIENDLY" model of evangelism. It was built upon the idea that LOVE was all we need, and by serving people, JUST AS THEY ARE!, AND RECEIVING THEM, JUST AS THEY ARE! they would recognize God's love in us, the Church, and want what we had; Salvation.

The visitors, however, took this doctrine to mean that God loved them, no matter what, and they were in good standing with Him anyway, so, "Rock ON!" Sin was never preached as detrimental; NO!, It may offend the seeker! Ashtrays were installed in some churches, and the "COFFEE SHOP" became a must.

Preaching to the Lost became "SERVANT EVANGELISM", and handing out Cokes at stop signs, on a hot day, MUTE!, became the neo-Apostolic ministry to the Lost.

Being COOL was imperative; Earrings in the "Pastors", TATOOS..... HipHop coolly hats, barefoot, dreads, and even drag became acceptable.

Most of these Churches never recovered, and though tamed somewhat, from the in your face icon churches..., they effects today are the same. Receive everybody, saved or not, and God's Love will separate them.

Anti-Christ Spirits rejoiced, Repentance became as dirty of a Word as Sin, and gospel messages morphed into a self serving chorus' of "Your best life NOW", Your Purpose in this life, better marriage, better finance, and of course, happiness.

You see, sound doctrine is important, and when we deviate from it, it always bears bad fruit; when we adhere to it, it always bears good fruit by faith.

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Satan invaded the Garden, and the Gatekeepers opened their doors wide, for the sake of success, and power through NUMBERS. Lots of people came, because Church was no longer a temple, but a Party. Everyone likes a Party, you know now.

There have always been Reprobate Christian denominations and local churches, but at least they kept it respectful; they would dress up, suits and Sunday best, to appear Religious. This new wave has cast even that off, to come as you are, and the cooler the better.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2009/11/21 10:39

hi, i do not understand brothertoms post... 45yrs of watching the power of God move on the hearts of people so that their lives were changed but not hardened by the religious spirit that surely rules in the hearts of those that continue to eat of that tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God is love and he who abides in God abides in love ...he who knoweth not love knoweth not God...thousands of people have been truly saved over these years and are walking in the spirit because they were born of the spirit of a living God who loved them enough to send His son to die for such a worm as i.jimp

Re: , on: 2009/11/21 14:40

Quote:

-----This would bring conviction of sin to the unbeliever, while a fellowship of people speaking in tongues would make unbelievers think of Christians as insane.

Paul wasn't saying that they should stop speaking in tongues because they sound insane to unbelievers, he was saying, don't be speaking in tongues unless you know that the Spirit is moving on you so that there can be an interpretation and reveal the secrets of his heart and he would cry out to God saying that of a truth God is in you. The manifestation of this gift is for the unbeliever, so it's a holy and wholesome thing for this to manifest in our midst that all may be convinced that God truly is among us.

I remember on many occasions that when we'd all be praising and worshiping God together, we'd all speak in tongues for our own edification, but when someone came in that wasn't apart of the group, we'd all stop and let the Holy Spirit minister and He would! Someone over in the Amen corner would give a message in tongues and someone would interpret. Paul was pulling them back a bit so that they could be more sensitive to those that did not understand the goings on in Church. I am not talking about those that have an "ism" against this particular gift, but those that are ignorant and have not met our risen Saviour.

In another place Paul said that Prophesying was for the edification of the Church, (this is not just your regular preacher, this is someone who is speaking out what God is saying to them at that moment). Whereas the speaking an unknown tongue is for unbelievers AS A SIGN. For some unbelievers it's necessary that God manifest this gift in a Christian so that he upon hearing the contents of his heart being revealed, gives God all the praise and glory that God is God in us.

Re: , on: 2009/11/21 14:50

Quote:

-----...we run around with however many % of goats along with however many % of sheep, and nothing substantial ever gets done in terms of Kingdom service.

God would disagree with you.

Please read Matthew 13:24-30, especially verse 29&30

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Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/21 15:07

I would be amazed if you could fit your point of view with Galatians 5:7-11 and 1 Corinthians 5:3-13.

There is no contradiction in Scripture.

It would be interesting to note that one cannot easily distinguish wheat from tares until the time of harvest.

I would submit to you that we do not have tares among the wheat in the 'church' rather we have TREES of IDOLATRY growing amidst a few stalks of wheat. It does not take a rocket scientist to identify a tree from a stalk of wheat.

Today's 'tares' look nothing like wheat, smell nothing like wheat, taste nothing like wheat, and yet we call them 'tares.'

They don't even qualify as tares.

Listen... Jesus was clearly stating in those passages for us not to try to distinguish, by nit picking details, over people's seemingly GENUINE CONVERSION.

People that act like true Christians, look like true Christians, adhere to true Christian doctrine, evangelize like true Christians, MAY BE POSSIBLY LOST.

Christ is saying, do not try to nitpick true converts from false converts, who look the same on the outside.

Christ is not saying, do not remove CLEAR false professors from your fellowship. You dig it?

-edit for grammar / Scripture references-

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/21 15:22

According to your interpretation of Matthew 13:24-30, Paul is going against the clear revelation of God.

Thus Scripture is broken, and God doesn't exist.

Re: New Tares in the Church? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/21 17:35

Quote:

-----IWantAnguish wrote:

-edit-

It would be interesting to note that one cannot easily distinguish wheat from tares until the time of harvest.....

Today's 'tares' look nothing like wheat, smell nothing like wheat, taste nothing like wheat, and yet we call them 'tares.'

They don't even qualify as tares.

Listen... Jesus was clearly stating in those passages for us not to try to distinguish...

Were not we called to live a victorious life through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, as a radical group of people, making Jesus Christ shown worthy of a life of sacrifice?

Bro Anguish,

First off, are the tares causing you to not living a victorious life? Is that why you want to get rid of them? How have they hindered you? I submit that the sacrifice we are to make is the sacrifice of giving up **our** fleshly desires; NOT sacrificing the tares!!!

Secondly and another train of thought from above, Jesus was quite clear that we are to let the tares and wheat grow together lest if we try we could very possibly pull the wheat out by the roots - killing the wheat; so by our instruction of leaving them alone and letting them grow together, we are **trusting Him alone** with the task of dividing the tares and the wheat up.

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From reading your posts on this topic, you are having trouble doing that and that is understandable because that is a whole other level of trust (the come up hither kind). But it is clear to me that what you say about tares and what the Bible says about tares are polar opposites so if it's all the same to you I will believe my KJV Bible and my Holy Ghost over your questionable opinion on the matter. I hope you can dig it!
;-)

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/11/21 20:38

Quote:

-----i do not understand brothertoms post

Apparently, you are too young to remember the things he is talking about. I am 62 YO and I remember well, know full well what he is saying cause I lived through the era he is referring to.

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/11/21 20:44

I am a tad bit confused by your question. Scripture is clear that unconverted persons were or may be in the audience...

But 'unconverted people allowed in church?' My take on this issue is that a body of believers should have membership in which all would agree to what constitutes a Christian walk of life. If any fall into sin, they will be dealt with and if there is no repentance, they will be excommunicated.

I have heard of churches who abandoned membership rolls only to have people come in and wreck that brotherhood.

Is this what you are talking about?

ginnyrose

Re: , on: 2009/11/21 21:57

Quote:

-----Thus Scripture is broken, and God doesn't exist.

Anguish, why not admit that your wrong. I mean that is quite a stretch of statement here. People here have given good scriptural valid statements that the unconverted can and will come into the Church.

Isn't one of the disciplines of the word of God Correction? Take the correction and blend back into the fellowship. 8-)

However, I am willing to admit that I might not fully understand what your asking. Perhaps you could clarify the question and zero in on what exactly your trying to convey. :-(

Re: , on: 2009/11/21 22:13

Quote:

-----My first encounter with it came in the early 90s, with the advent of the "USER FRIENDLY" model of evangelism. It was built upon the idea that LOVE was all we need, and by serving people, JUST AS THEY ARE!, AND RECEIVING THEM, JUST AS THEY ARE! they would recognize God's love in us, the Church, and want what we had; Salvation.

How I remember the 90's. I had two ladies come to the Bakery door one afternoon and they were telling me about how the young kids were coming into the Church because of the "Christian Rock" music to which I immediately protested and they responded with, "Well, it's getting them into the Church". They were not interested in if they would change or not, they thought that if they were in the four walls of that building that they were saved. And maybe some did come to a place of repentance, who knows and I don't want to limit God. But I can't help but think of those that have been told the lie and believed it, where are they today? Most likely hardened.

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/21 22:48

Tradition of men > Scripture.

American Christianity is flourishing and millions are being swept into the Kingdom.

I hope we can export our beautiful methods to the 3rd world so that they may learn from our ways.

God bless America.

Re: Questions from God.... - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/21 23:00

I am thoroughly disgusted with your intent on this thread, I had about three or four responses to you but IÂ'll just post these questions from God....

Just a few of the questions from Job 38-41

Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? **Tell Me, if you have understanding.**

Who determined its measurements? **Surely YOU know!** Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundation s fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

Have you entered the springs of the sea?

Or have you walked in search of the depths?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you?

Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? **Tell Me, if you know all this.**

Where is the way to the dwelling of light?

Can you set their dominion over the earth?

Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you?

Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'

Who has put wisdom in the mind?

Or who has given understanding to the heart?

Who can number the clouds by wisdom?

Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, when the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together?

Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

Would you indeed annul My judgment?

Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?

Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook?

Will he make many supplications to you?

Will he speak softly to you?

Will he make a covenant with you?

Will you take him as a servant forever?

Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens?

Will your companions make a banquet of him?

Will they apportion him among the merchants?

Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears?

Who then is able to stand against Me?

Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/21 23:57

Are you equating your opinion / conviction as God's ?

Let us be honest and real.

What would happen if we exported our practice of contemporary 'church' and 'worship' to Afghanistan? Or Iran? Or any Muslim nation?

How long do you think it would survive?

Be honest.

This weak, effeminate, spineless mass of corruption has been white-washed and stamped with the word 'Christianity...' thus it may pass as authentic for the moment in America because there is no persecution.

I would be as bold as to say that Christ was speaking about those of us, even here on this blessed website, as the wheat and the tares, and that we may not know for sure as to who was / is / shall be saved until the judgment seat of Christ.

Puts a whole nother spin on Phil. 2:12

-edit-

I am thoroughly amazed that you have been given the gift of mind reading, and thus are able to ascertain my intent in this thread.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2009/11/22 1:28

hi, our church has started many churches in that area and are seeing many muslims converted to faith in Jesus...what are you doing in this part of the world?jimp

Re: The Devil's Love., on: 2009/11/22 9:30

I went into China in 2007, and got to Pastor a small church for a while. It was unexpected but a golden opportunity to preach Jesus.

I soon discovered that there was another Gospel being preached there, the one that we are talking about on this thread...the "Emerging Church" gospel, that God loves us and desires our best life now, receives us as we are and is the positive force we should attain to for gaining meaningful purpose.

There was a doctrine in place that implied that it just took time to be saved. The previous "Pastor" of the fellowship told me that it took at least two years to become a Christian in China....Really.

There was no direct consciousness of the blood of Jesus, no apparent KNOWLEDGE of the resurrection, no admonition to depart from SIN... and no requirement to be born again. The fellowship studied an American Bible study,.. and had bi-weekly meetings and assorted activities. Everyone was always excited and happy.

I put an end to that, as much as I could, and began to preach the Gospel...."You must be BORN AGAIN, and Jesus making a way by His Blood.

At a dinner one night.. they asked me , "How many Christians are there in America?" ...90%?....80%?...They were stone cold serious.

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I answered maybe 2% or so. They were sure it was a mistranslation. They looked stunned....It can't be!...AMERICA!..because they equated Christianity with Prosperity and happiness, they saw life looking out from this shade...It's all GOD!

If I loved them, I must speak the truth in Love. You will die in your sins unless you are truly born again...You will be lost, and if you live a life of sin, you will die forever regardless of what you believe.

In the end, several came to me, and admitted that indeed they were not Christians, and the true conviction of God was churning in them. The Word will not return to the Father void.

Yes, we are importing a gospel all around the Earth, but it is the Gospel of the great WHORE who sits on many waters. It is not Holy, for there is no Holy spirit, or Holy doctrine called the WORD to preach. It is deception, and corrupt, just like her mother. Without holiness no man shall SEE GOD!

To lead the unsaved to believe that God loves them unconditionally without the Truth of repentance and being born again, and living a holy life, is the same as murdering them, for you have made them trust in a lie. It is not the Gospel, but it is ANOTHER GOSPEL,,,one that murders, one that speaks of Love without holiness. It is the Devil's love that you will end up with.

Re: , on: 2009/11/22 11:17

Kill the tares, end it all. YEAH!

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/22 11:31

Jim, I would love to be able to be a part of a church body that would send missionaries into the most dangerous parts of the world... missionaries who would be tortured and ultimately killed for the sake of the gospel.

Please let me know if you know of any.

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Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/22 12:18

Deepthinker / Lysa please interpret 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 for me.

I am extremely curious as to how you would interpret this passage of Scripture in light of Matthew 13:24-30.

You must contradict yourself in order to bring those 2 passages into cohesion according to your interpretation.

Re: , on: 2009/11/22 13:01

Quote:

-----You must contradict yourself in order to bring those 2 passages into cohesion according to your interpretation.

Both passages are not speaking of the same thing.

One is speaking about seeds that the enemy had planted into the field of wheat and the other is speaking about brethren (true believers) who were caught up in sin and the Church that was supposed to have judged this situation was not doing their job. They were to shun them so that they would fear and come back into fellowship. The Tares of Matthew 13 are people that blend in with everyone else. These people are like "angels of light", they appear good and acceptable, but they have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. Jesus said to let them grow up together because they not only sprouted, but they look like the genuine article. However at the harvest, you'll know what kind of fruit they will produce, and that is nothing. At the end of the maturing, there is only one plant that will bear fruit and that is the good seed, weeds do not bear fruit, they just boast a lot of green and flowers. The Corinthian Church needed a lesson in dealing with their members, because Paul said in verse 13 "But them that are without God judgeth".

"Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." This last portion is basically telling them that if your not going to judge him, thrust him out of the Church so God can judge him, perhaps then he'll change his mind. Because when you come under God's judgment, it ain't pretty, you'll either run back to Him in full repentance or run further away.

The judgment that the Corinthian Church was to judge was not his particular sin, but to judge why he has not recognized that He is dead to sin and alive unto God. It's not a pointing finger ceremony of Christians who have fallen into sin, rather it's those that continue in sin and why?

It would seem that they might have done all the grilling but were at odds as to what to do with this fallen brother.

I hope that your not of the opinion that once your saved that if you fall into sin then you've lost your salvation, especially those sins that are notable, like adultery, fornication? This teaching is fluent in the fundamental Baptist realms.

Re: Anguish question - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/22 16:38

Quote:

-----IWantAnguish wrote:

I am thoroughly amazed that you have been given the gift of mind reading, and thus are able to ascertain my intent in this thread.

From your first post I thought you were talking about taking the church outside of its four walls to the people! Sooo, I ask

Are you or are you not trying to convince us that it would be best to kick the "nominal believers" out of the church??

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/22 17:27

I don't want to convince anybody of anything except what is correct according to Scripture.

I am personally trying to find the balance between the previous couple passages of Scripture found within Matthew, 1 Corinthians and Galatians.

If a person obviously is not bearing fruit in their lives, and is obviously lacking the fruit of the Spirit listed in the latter part of Galatians... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... should we continue to include them in the fellowship and allow themselves to blend in with the congregation, without confronting them with texts such as examining themselves, and bringing up the apparent sinful nature in their lives... since anybody cannot be walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit simultaneously.

It is one or the other.

Should we allow those nominal believers the comfort of fellowship without bringing up the apparent lack of desire to conform their own lives to the will of God revealed in the Word of God?

Or should we speak forth the truth of Christ, when He said many will say Lord Lord and go to hell?

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/22 17:32

My reply to Deepthinker's post...

I do not believe salvation can be lost. But if a person falls into sin, and remains in sin for the rest of their lives unto death, I believe they were never regenerate to begin with, rather they were like the seeds that Christ speaks of, that fall upon shall soil, with a rock beneath.

They flourish for a moment, and yet they fall away, because they never dug deep with the Law of God, and were never completely regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So... the question is... if a person is obviously a NOMINAL Christian (whatever that means) and they don't care about conforming their lives according to the will of God, should we allow them comfortable entry and fellowship within the 'church'?

Re: Love covers a multitude of sin - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/22 18:29

Quote:

I do not believe salvation can be lost. But if a person falls into sin, and remains in sin for the rest of their lives unto death, I believe they were never regenerate to begin with, rather they were like the seeds that Christ speaks of, that fall upon shall soil, with a rock beneath.

They flourish for a moment, and yet they fall away, because they never dug deep with the Law of God, and were never completely regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How in the world can they "flourish for a moment" if they were NEVER connected to the root in the first place? You want it to be all or nothing with a Christians's life but it's like you said, "It is one or the other." Concerning salvation, a person is either saved forever or OSAS is not true. "It is one or the other, dude!"

Quote:

So... the question is... if a person is obviously a NOMINAL Christian (whatever that means) and they don't care about conforming their lives according to the will of God, should we allow them comfortable entry and fellowship within the 'church?'

Yes, we should. Because . . .

#1, according your strict standards, I would have been kicked out 10-15 years ago but I allowed the Lord to change me. People change.

#2, If we remembered that by OUR judgments we will be judged, I believe we'd show much more mercy.

#3, the Bible says that "love covers a multitude of sin."

I will partake in no further discussion on this. I meant this nicely not so rudely as it sounded when I went back and read it!

God bless you!

Re: , on: 2009/11/22 21:08

Quote:
-----So... the question is... if a person is obviously a NOMINAL Christian (whatever that means) and they don't care about conforming their lives according to the will of God, should we allow them comfortable entry and fellowship within the 'church?'

No!

After reading into this further regarding a "nominal" Christian. I would have to say Yes. A Nominal person is someone who is following the LORD in all the capacity that he knows. For example, I would be considered nominal. In regards to the fruit of the Spirit, after judging myself, I would have to say that I have zero fruit. However, I have had people say to me that they see the love of God in me, a generous kind person. Though I don't see it, others do. And it's their word that will matter over mine.

Quote:
-----If a person obviously is not bearing fruit in their lives, and is obviously lacking the fruit of the Spirit listed in the latter part of Galatians... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... should we continue to include them in the fellowship and allow themselves to blend in with the congregation, without confronting them with texts such as examining themselves, and bringing up the apparent sinful nature in their lives... since anybody cannot be walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit simultaneously.

Unless God has called you to be a Fruit Inspector.

You have three different thoughts in this paragraph.

- 1) The lack of Fruit
- 2) Fulfilling the lust of the flesh
- 3) Walking after the Spirit

I am going to attempt to answer the 1st one and the others I will either leave them up to others or I'll come back in later to finish it.

The fruit of the Spirit is something that will not show up over night. We see one of the fruit of the Spirit is patience.

Romans 5:3-4 we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

If we pray for patience we are really praying for tribulation to come our way. We need certain elements to come into our lives in order for us to bear fruit. I want you to understand something right off the hop and that is this is an exhaustive subject. I would like to continue on this subject but I would like to know, do you WANT to know what I am writing about? or do you KNOW what I am writing about or do you CARE if I continue writing at all?

Thanks muchly

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Re: , on: 2009/11/22 21:12

Quote:

-----I will partake in no further discussion on this. So Lisa out!

Lysa I wouldn't take that stand, it's merely a discussion. I don't think Anguish is laying down the law or anything, I think he is wanting to balance this whole thing out. I am hoping that he is looking to learn about what we should do with wayward believers that have no interest in pursuing the kingdom of God.

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by twayneb (), on: 2009/11/22 21:39

Thought I would throw a little historical context into this discussion. The early Methodists (ca. 1800) had separate "services" if you will for both the lost and those who were born again and part of the local body. The exclusive meetings were called classes and were times of personal accountability before the group. The leader may go around the room inquiring in turn about each Christian's walk with the Lord that week, their battles with temptation, their time in prayer and the word, etc. It was a time of very personal ministry of the body to the body. There were other services where anyone was welcome.

In my opinion, if we boil it all down to a once a week or twice a week "service" and then ask whether the lost should or should not come, we have missed the point of the body of Christ entirely.

The body of Christ should be fulfilling both the growth and personal accountability of one another in private so to speak as well as reaching the world for Christ and bringing precious people into the kingdom. What that structure looks like may be as varied as the body in any location and the circumstances that body finds itself in.

Travis.

Re: , on: 2009/11/22 21:49

Quote:

-----Thought I would throw a little historical context into this discussion. The early Methodists (ca. 1800) had separate "services" if you will for both the lost and those who were born again and part of the local body. The exclusive meetings were called classes and were times of personal accountability before the group. The leader may go around the room inquiring in turn about each Christian's walk with the Lord that week, their battles with temptation, their time in prayer and the word, etc. It was a time of very personal ministry of the body to the body. There were other services where anyone was welcome.

I like that structure, wow. That is non-existent in today's Church realm, unless you're a heavy tithe payer.

Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/23 1:35

Hmm... I've had similar ideas about this class meeting type service... of getting serious believers together and digging very deep into the Word of God and applying it without compromise.

And yes Deepthinker, I would like further discussion.

My ultimate question is this... is the 'Church in America' salvageable in the state that it is in, or must there be a complete reformation from the bottom up in every way things are done...

All the way from those allowed into fellowship, how offering should be done, what constitutes true salvation / being born again, responsibility of elders, criterion for pastors, church discipline, missions, living the gospel, pronouncing the gospel etc.

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Re: - posted by IWantAnguish (), on: 2009/11/23 1:45

Quote:
-----Yes, we should. Because . . . #1, according your strict standards, I would have been kicked out 10-15 years ago but I allowed the Lord to change me. People change. #2, If we remembered that by OUR judgments we will be judged, I believe we'd show much more mercy. #3, the Bible says that "love covers a multitude of sin." I will partake in no further discussion on this. So Lisa out!

I am really not in this for an argument.

But I deem a simple response necessary for this reply...

1. I believe if you were kicked out for whatever reason, the Lord would have used that in an edifying way to bring you back to the church repentant and seeking forgiveness from the Lord.
2. Our judgments are much more lackadaisical than the Lords... This is a fact. I believe what you meant to say is that the Lord is much more gracious and forgiving, although His judgments are uncompromising.
3. The most hateful thing I could do to an individual living in open sin while he proclaimed Christ as his savior would be to let him live the way he wanted to, and hear from Christ's mouth on the final day of judgment, "Depart from me I never knew you."

I do not wish any ill will between us, and I would even beg of your forgiveness if I have insulted you in this discussion. Let us both seek to provoke one another unto godliness.

I will pray for you Lisa, and thank you for your time in all this mess I'm trying to organize.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/11/23 1:51

Quote:
-----how offering should be done

When ever I hear that churches will record a person's giving- the amounts, I have been mortified. This flies in face of Jesus' admonition to not let the right hand know what the left hand does.

I think I would run as fast as I could from a church that does this.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2009/11/23 17:17

IWantAnquish wrote:

Quote:
-----My ultimate question is this... is the 'Church in America' salvageable in the state that it is in, or must there be a complete reformation from the bottom up in every way things are done...

I don't want to be too quick to disparage the body of Christ, however, I also need to be honest enough to recognize where things are not as they should be. I grew up in a very traditional American church structure. The governing body of the church was the board, elected by popular vote by the body. They primarily dealt with business matters and made sure the pastor did not get out of line. The pastor was chosen by popular election as well. It was a defective and unscriptural system. Still, God moved among us. I grew up knowing what the presence of God among us "felt" like, even though I understand He is spiritually discerned and not through the carnal emotions. However, we were locked in tradition that often made the word of none effect and limited what God could do among us and through us. Evangelism was definitely not a focus of the body. Maintaining our unique doctrines and traditions was. Although the sense of tradition did tend to preserve many good things as well, and I was born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and a great hunger for God was in

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stilled in my heart.

I have since studied church government and leadership quite extensively and, although I have a lot to learn, I have come to know some things that have totally transformed my leadership paradigm.

I noticed that you said this:

Quote:

-----, responsibility of elders, criterion for pastors, church discipline,

The fact that you stated, "criterion for pastors", shows that you recognize that there are problems with the system, but are locked into modifying the existing structure to "fix" it. What if I said the whole structure must come down and a Biblical structure built from the ground up?

Ephesians 2:14-22 talks about God's design for the structure of His body. It says that the body of Christ is established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets having Christ as the chief corner stone. Ephesians 4:7-15 talks again of this body and the foundational leadership structure. Christ is the head, and He has given gifts to men. These gifts are enumerated in verse 11. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These are grace gifts given to the body by Jesus Christ to establish and grow the body into the mature bride of Christ. Look at Romans 12:3-10. Paul says, "I am speaking out of the grace given me." He then goes on to talk about the grace given to all men in the form of unique gifts to the body and the necessity of all of those gifts.

If you will study carefully what took place in the early church recorded in the New Testament you will find, without exception, this pattern.

Apostles with prophets establish and coordinate new ministry. They are not the only ones who do this, but often this is the case.

Apostles always ordain Eldership/Bishopric (Look at Titus 1:5-7 and you will see that these offices are one and the same scripturally, and the terms are used interchangeably by Paul). There was usually a plurality of eldership in each local body.

Either elders, or the body themselves by popular election chose deacons to oversee many various aspects of ministry within the body.

The five equipping gifts given to the body are not by man's choice, but by God's calling. Eph. 4:8; 1 Cor. 1, 2 Cor. 1, Col. 1, etc. Men can choose to aspire to the responsibility of eldership/bishopric. 1 Timothy 3:11. Eldership and deacons are offices. Five fold equipping gifts are NOT offices, but rather gifts to the body.

Interestingly enough, Paul NEVER writes a letter in which he mentions the pastor of a church. He always mentions bishops and elders. Pastor only appears once in the entirety of the New Testament, and that is in Eph. 4:11. The same Greek word is translated shepherd several times and usually refers to Christ, but never to a single man with the sole responsibility of ministering to a local body of believers.

A pastor in the grace equipping gift sense can serve in the position of an elder in a local body. In fact, the nature of that grace gift makes one with the calling of pastor an ideal candidate for eldership in a body of believers.

I believe God intends for the church in a location (the local body) to have plurality of eldership, functioning deacons, and the five equipping gifts operating in the body to lead the body into maturity for the active work of ministry that body is called to do in that location.

Looks very different from the traditional pastor and deacon board structure we are accustomed to.

Travis.

Oh, as to finances... Paul talks very openly about the giving habits of the Phillipian church in Phil. 4. I am not opposed to the eldership of my body knowing how much I am giving. It would be very inappropriate indeed for that information to be shared openly among the body and people compared as I have heard happen in some bodies. I think this scripture is helping to make the point that your giving is unto God, and is not for show before men. That is, give without announcing what you are doing. You are giving to God, not trying to impress men.

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Re: Is the church salvageable? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/11/23 18:34

Quote:
-----IWantAnguish wrote:
My ultimate question is this... is the 'Church in America' salvageable in the state that it is in, or must there be a complete reformation from the bottom up in every way things are done...

All the way from those allowed into fellowship, how offering should be done, what constitutes true salvation / being born again, responsibility of elders, criterion for pastors, church discipline, missions, living the gospel, pronouncing the gospel etc.

Brother,

The end is near and the **Church** does not lie in ruins, "little" c church does but not the Bride!

I know many argue with me on this but this is the road I try to take in all things....

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

James 5.19-20

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 4.7-8

Re: , on: 2009/11/23 20:31

Travis that was an excellent exposition of true Church office and order, I loved what you said about the Pastor.

Quote:
-----But the end of all things is at hand 1 Peter 4:7

Just as a side note, that was written 2000 years ago. If something was "At hand", then it was very near to happen.

Re: , on: 2009/11/23 20:36

Quote:
-----My ultimate question is this... is the 'Church in America' salvageable in the state that it is in?

More than you know.

Re: Unconverted People allowed in Church? - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/11/23 20:51

Quote:

Should we continue to have Sunday worship services mixed with the unconverted goats within?

1 Cor 14:23-25 makes it clear unbelievers are present during an assembly.

I don't think any other discussion is necessary :-)

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Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/11/23 20:55

Quote:

My ultimate question is this... is the 'Church in America' salvageable in the state that it is in?

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, didn't He? God saved you, didn't He? God is able to make dead bones live yet again, isn't He?