The Church vs. The World

By

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The Devil’s challenges of lies, seductions, twist of the truth, and slandering the truth, have always attacked the young of the Church.

Isaiah 5:20—“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

Satan is a counterfeiter of the truth and transforms himself to be an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:14

Satan does this to mislead the naïve and unsuspecting.

What happens between birth and college years? As a small child it seems as if they are all fun and a bundle of joy. Ass they get older they form their own identity and part of that identity may not include the church.

II Timothy 4:10—“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”

Having felt the need to be just like their friends and peers, many young people entangle themselves into the world of alcohol, drugs, popularity, greed, sexual pleasure, entertainment, and other sinful desires.

Some of our Christian young people having felt the pressure from their peers have quit criticizing sin for what it is, simply because they want to be popular with their friends.

Many times when that happens then the parents become less likely to criticize their children’s sin or sinful attitude or nature, no longer standing for what is right in the sight of Christ.

STATISTICS:

One in five claim to have no religious affiliation at all

49% say that attending church services is important or somewhat important

51% say that attending church services is not too important or important at all

(Resisting to church attendance impacts the downfall of American culture, morality, politics, and religion)

The average church of Christ has about a 76% attendance rate on the Lord’s Day, but those numbers have been drastically falling over the last few decades.

There are large gaps in the numbers of are active members of the Lord’s Church and those who claim to be part of the Lord’s Church.

According to US Religious Landscape Survey (1.5% or roughly 4.5 million) More than a million people who were once involved members of the church are no longer attending worship services, but still regard themselves as members of the Lord’s Church.

WHY DO PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH:

Some think the Church is boring

Some thing the Church is irrelevant to their lives

Many consider the Church as far too judgmental on issues of sin

Some have left the Church because they believe it is incompatible with science theories

Some leave the Church because they feel unwelcomed

BROADLY SPEAKING:

Church attendance for all religious groups is around 20 percent

Half the population of the US, attend occasionally

Others are too busy. They have work, other priorities, whatever the case; their love for God has gone awry

Hebrews 3: 12-13—“Take heed, brethren, lest there be any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) But exhort one another daily while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

One must diligently set his heart on serving God. When Christians drift away from this they drift away from God.

For us to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life eternal.

Romans 8:5-8

HOW CAN WE FORTIFY OUR CHILDREN:

FIRST: we must train our children to love God. (Proverbs 22:6)

 Parents still have a strong influence in the moral and spiritual direction of their children,

PRODICAL SON

Ephesians 6:13; Matthew 6:21; 24; I John 2:15-17;

SECOND: We must help them to understand the severe consequences of sin and the joy of salvation,

Sin is our constant barrier between God and us. Sin is our constant enemy.

Romans 6:23

Sin deceives and hardens our heart. Temptation entraps, enslaves, and destroys the one who yields to sin.

John 8:34

Sin causes a loss of peace, a loss of hope, and a loss of joy.

Knowing one is right with God brings about a great joy that cannot be replaced.

THIRD: We must teach our children right from wrong and live the example.

When parents provide the fundamental teaching for their children when they are young, they will be better able to deal with other issues as their children mature.

No parent should allow their children to remain spiritually immature while they develop physically.

FOURTH: We must distinguish forgiving of sin from excusing sin.

Sometimes parents get into a situation where instead of seeking repentance from their children they change their thinking on the sin. What they once considered inexcusable is no longer a salvation issue.

We must understand that ultimately, Jesus has the last word.

FIFTH: We must help our children find joy in worship and in serving the Lord.

Don’t go around criticizing the church and it leadership and members, think of ways you can make the congregation a better place to worship. We are not perfect. We all need help when it comes to living our Christian lives.

Young people must treasure their identity in Christ as a glorious one.

SIXTH: We must show our young people that worship and service in the church is not only commanded (Hebrews 10:25) but is also a great value.

SEVENTH: We must gently restore those who fall away.