

TRUE Church – Pt.4

Rom 13:11

¹¹ And *do* this, **knowing** the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of **sleep**; for **now** our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first believed*.

.....Again, this is probably the same reason why **Paul** had to encourage Timothy.....

2Tim 1:5

⁵ when I call to **remembrance** the **genuine** faith that is **in you**,⁶ Therefore I **remind** you to **stir up the gift** of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a **sound mind**.

#1 – SKEWED Church uses **RELIGION** as **Mans** Way To Find **God**
TRUE Church lets **JESUS** be **Gods** Way To Find **Man**

#2 – SKEWED Church focuses on the **PAST**
TRUE Church allows **JESUS** to focus on your **POTENTIAL**

#3- SKEWED Church relies on **RELIGION** to produce **Behavior**
MODIFICATION

TRUE Church relies on **JESUS** to produce **Inward TRANSFORMATION**

SKEWED Church = Elevates **Problems** ABOVE the **People**.

TRUE Church = Elevates the **People** ABOVE the **Problem**.

SKEWED Church = **Rules/Regulations**

TRUE Church = **Reliance** on Christ

SKEWED Church = "Follow this **METHOD** to get to God"

TRUE Church = "Follow this **GOD** and He'll show you the **METHODS**"

SKEWED CHURCH = says you must **OBEY** and **STRIVE**

TRUE Church = says simply to **ABIDE** in the **VINE**

//---> **GOD** does **NOT** want **US** to just become **Members** of a **Congregation** -
He's **CALLED** Us to be **PARTNERS**, & **FELLOW WORKERS** in a **CONVOY....**

CONVOY....

= a **group** of vehicles or ships **traveling together** for **protection**

The one main thing-

SKEWED Church = produces **CONGREGATIONS**

TRUE CHURCH = produces **CONVOYS**

CONGREGATION = people who regularly attend religious services

CONVOY = a group of workers, vehicles or vessels that are traveling together on a mission under the protection of an armed escort.

Matt 28:18

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “**God authorized and commanded me to commission you: GO out and **train** everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by **baptism** in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then **instruct** them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you GO and do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”**

2Cor 5:17

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.... And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

As God’s partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God’s kindness and then ignore it.

6:4 - **In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God.** ...⁶ We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us,* and by our sincere love. ⁷ We faithfully tell people about the truth. ⁸ We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us.

**//-> SKEWED Church produces CONGREGATIONS through Religion
TRUE Church produces CONVOYS through Relationships**

*** BEFORE WE LEAVE - I've asked God for ONE THING ----->**

--> That we would Change the way we THINK about WHY we come to CHURCH

- Congregations SIT & GET
- Convoys COMMIT & then SPLIT!
 - Congregations SIT & GET
 - Convoys GO & GIVE
- Congregations have MULTIPLE visions that create DIVISION
- Convoys have multiple DIVISIONS but they all have the same VISION
- Congregations get focused on what they don't agree on which causes separation & fights
- Convoys must focus on what they DO agree on so they can be in unity & fight the GOOD fight
- Congregations are SO concerned about what's going on INSIDE the building they cannot effectively reach those who are OUTSIDE
- Convoys are so concerned about what's going on OUTSIDE the building, they re-produce what's happening INSIDE to those OUTSIDE

Rom 16:3

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers (They were on a CONVOY with Me!) in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who labored much for us. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles,

⁸ Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the *household* of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹² Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. ¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. (In the FOX HOLE TOGETHER)

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ

✓ There are **TWO** types of Church People - Those who are a **MEMBERS** of a **CONGREGATION**, and those who **PARTNERS** with a **CONVOY** to get to a **DESTINATION**

✓ A **CONGREGATION** works **AGAINST** God when it becomes all about **them**.

CONVOYS are **FELLOW WORKERS** *WITH* God when they make it all about **HIM**.

1Cor 3:9

⁹ For we are God's **fellow workers**; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

2Cor1:24

²⁴ we are **fellow workers** for your **joy**;

Phil2:25

²⁵ ... Epaphroditus, my brother, **fellow worker**, and **fellow soldier**,³⁰ .. he came **close** to **death**, **not regarding his life**, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

---> **Why is this SO important?**

✓ **CONGREGATIONS** can do **NOTHING** for God unless they become a **CONVOY**

✓ **RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS** are everywhere, but a **RELATIONAL CONVOY** is VERY Rare.

//-> **SKEWED Church** produces **CONGREGATIONS** through **Religion**
TRUE Church produces **CONVOYS** through **Relationships**