

CULT? CONTROLLING? CLUBS? | UNDERSTAND... LOSS OF TRUST

Why Does Membership Matter? September 10, 2023

WHERE DO WE GET THIS CRAZY IDEA? (IS IT BIBLICAL?) - NO VERSE, BUT EXAMPLES ABOUND (TRINITY)

- 1 - CHURCH AS FAMILY/PORTRAIT OF SCRIPTURE VS. OUR REALITY
- 2 - CHURCHES IN CITIES
- 3 - NUMBERS ADDED - Some form of accounting
- 4 - IN & OUT (1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2, 9-12) - ¹It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ²And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you... ⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler— not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you." **UNREPENTANT**
- 5 - LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY (HEBREWS 13:17) - ¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

ALL OF THIS POINTS TO WHAT WE REALLY WANT You can join a church without... but why?

DEEP DOWN, WE ALL WANT TO RECEIVE FROM AND CONTRIBUTE TO A GENUINE COMMUNITY OF GROWING CHRIST-FOLLOWERS. — WITH HISTORICAL/BIBLICAL CONTEXT AND DESIRE ESTABLISHED, LETS SEE HOW THIS IS PRESCRIBED FOR US IN SCRIPTURE. — ROMANS 12:1-8 - MARKS OF GENUINE COMMUNITY

GENUINE LIVES (ROMANS 12:1)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

<p>MENTAL ASSENT → PRACTICALITY APPEAL THRU GOD'S MERCY BODY = COMPLETE SELF SACRIFICE: LIFE WOULD LIVED INSTEAD OF DEATH SPIRITUAL WORSHIP: PRACTICAL OVER JUST SENTIMENT</p>	<p>PAUL PULLING FROM GOD'S HEART IN OT ① AMOS 5:21-24 - "DESPISE GATHERINGS" "INSTEAD LET JUSTICE..." ② ISAIAH 58 - "IS THIS NOT THE FAST I CHOOSE?" GOD CARES THAT YOUR FAITH PAYS OUT IN LIFE. NO HYPOCRISY</p>	<p>ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE? GIVE YOURSELF FULL (WHOLE LIFE) TO WHAT HE CARES ABOUT RECEIVE MERIT / WORSHIP THRU GIVING MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP - GENUINE COMMUNITY? GOD GAVE ALL, WE SHOULD TOO</p>
--	---	---

GENUINE MINDS (ROMANS 12:2)

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<p>ALL OF US BY DEFAULT ARE BEING CONFORMED (MOLDED) BY WORLD ALL OF US BY NECESSITY NEED TO BE TRANSFORMED BY JESUS → THE WILL OF GOD IS DISCOVERED ONLY WITH RENEWED MIND THE WILL OF GOD CAN ONLY BE LIVED WHEN DISCOVERED.</p>	<p>EAGLE / CHICKEN</p>	<p>YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS, GOD, CHURCH, YOUR LIFE ARE EITHER RESULT OF CONFORMED OR RENEWED MIND. CONFORMED: SELF FIRST, AND WILL OF GOD TO SATISFY RENEWED: GOD + OTHERS FIRST, SEEK TO SERVE/BLESS MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP - GENUINE COMMUNITY? UNLESS WE GIVE OURSELVES FULL AND HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST, THE WILL OF GOD IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW-LIVE</p>
---	------------------------	---

GENUINE AWARENESS (ROMANS 12:3)

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

<p>WITH SUBMITTED LIFE + RENEWED MIND, VIEW SELF RIGHTLY...</p>	<p>WITH SHAME 1? PHILIPPIANS 2</p>	<p>ARE YOU EXPECTING MORE OF THE CHURCH (OR OTHERS) THAN YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE YOURSELF? → IF SO, YOU ARE CONSIDERING YOURSELF HIGHER THAN YOU OUGHT MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP - GENUINE COMMUNITY? ARE YOU GIVING AS MUCH AS YOU ARE RECEIVING?</p>
--	---	--

GENUINE SERVICE (ROMANS 12:4-8)

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

<p>WITH A SACRIFICED LIFE A RENEWED MIND A HUMBLE HEART... SERVE THE CHURCH SERVE W/ WHOLE SELF BE PRESENT we need ① before ②</p>	<p>AT THIS POINT... I'D RATHER HAVE ABANDONED HEAVEN THAN RUN MEMBERSHIP I'D RATHER HAVE A DEGRADED CHURCH THAN DEGRADED CHURCH WORSHIP, MUSIC, FOOT BATH, GROUPS...</p>	<p>we are accountable to one another.</p>
---	---	---