



A 15-year study in the USA of why “so many churches are failing” by FASICLD in partnership with “Into Thy Word Ministries”, revealed some startling discoveries.

\*Every year 4000 churches close their doors against 1000 new ones that start.

\*Every year 2.7 million church members fall into inactivity.

\*Half of all churches in the US do not add any new members to their ranks.

\*2-4% of Europe attends church (It’s about 15% in USA).

\*Recent statistics from the Barna Group report, “that perhaps 50% of people who go to a church are not even Christian, they only go for show”. In some denominations it’s over 80% not Christian!

So what are the reasons for this decay?

Excuses from “church” leaders in this study blamed “cultural decay”, “changing values” and “the average American views the church with little regard”. The study declared that these excuses by leaders were just symptoms of a disease! The study wanted to find out what led to these problems of cultural decay and downgrading of moral absolutes.

They asked people who left the church for their reasons. They weren’t the same reasons leaders had given. Reasons are:

- \*They believe the church wants their money not them
- \*Ineffective teaching
- \*Ineffective pastoral care
- \*Not teaching the Word or making it boring (no demonstrations of power)

\*Corrupt leaders (tolerating their own moral misdeeds and those of others)

\*Was shunned, belittled, or treated with contempt or insolence

\*Revolted by gossip

\*Turned off by conflict and strife

In the study the other excuses leaders thought caused failure had “nothing to do with theater; entertainment; that chairs are better than pews; storefronts are better than cathedrals; a lack of parking; of drama or power point presentations”. The study said, “The problem is the church had lost its way, we have fallen off the path that Christ has for us.”

The study examined non-Christians who saw, “the “so called” evangelists who are seen on TV living lavish lifestyles... disillusioned many people.” They also don’t see a difference between a Christian and a non-Christian.



“Church” leaders blame “cultural decay, changing values and the average American views the church with little regard”, which are symptoms of a disease they started and continue to perpetuate with man-made, compromising religions.

Going to a “church” building or belonging to a denomination does not mean someone is or is not a Christian (as we’ve just seen from Barna Group statistics). So what does God’s True church look like?

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,” 1 Corinthians 2: 4. “For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power” 1 Corinthians 4: 20. “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Mark 16: 20. God’s Word says preaching of God’s Word is not with persuasive words but must be with demonstrations of His power with signs following preaching His Word to confirm the Word. When the Holy Spirit’s gifts of healing, prophecy, casting out demons, words of knowledge are evident, people come running!

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them” Ephesians 5: 11. “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person” 1 Corinthians 5: 11. God’s Word says that we don’t fellowship with unbelievers or sinners. Not only that, we are to warn them and expose them. This isn’t talking about evangelizing sinners, as we must walk among them to bring them Jesus. We don’t fellowship with unbelievers and deliberate sinners, which include those, considered a Christian (brother/sister); nor have them as friends nor take them in marriage.

“For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person”” 1 Corinthians 5: 12-13. “And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” 2 Thessalonians 3: 14-15. God’s Word says that we are to judge people inside the church and those who do not obey God’s Word we are to warn them and avoid them. Allowing deliberate sin and unrepentant sinners within the church body only sends these people to the lake of fire; exposes True Christians to temptation and brings God’s judgment upon leaders for allowing it. We must warn leaders who preach a different Gospel about their heresy. If they won’t repent, then a True Christian must leave this leadership and those who accept counterfeit Christianity.

So how do we judge ourselves and others to make sure we’re part of Jesus’ church? Besides the scriptures above, there are many ways that God’s Word says we are to govern ourselves. A few main church infections are pride, self will and fear.

**PRIDE**-Brought down Lucifer and brings down many leaders and non-leaders today. Christians battle each other on whose traditions and “gospel” is right. Many prideful leaders refuse to equip others for ministry, preferring to manipulate others through guilt, rules and restrictions, so as not to endanger their position of power and the crowd worship they desire.

**SELF WILL**-Those who follow their own will (ala Lucifer), instead of Father’s will and His FULL Word are lost and all those who follow such leaders. The false church accommodates and compromises with sin, people and the world in a vain pursuit of power, control and wealth. It can also be a leader making “looks good” decisions such as to start a church or a school. Jesus never made “sounds good” decisions nor followed His own will (John 5: 19). God says, “He who knows My will and doesn’t do it, will be beaten with many lashes” (Luke 12: 47). God is serious!

**FEAR**-I know many leaders who know God’s Truth such as the Holy Spirit power and gifts, but refuse to bring it into the congregation as they’re afraid. Most seek approval and credibility from the world (i.e. titles, institutions, Universities) rather than from God. They fear man more than God. They fear losing their dignity or their paycheck. God says man’s wisdom is foolishness and futile (1 Corinthians 3: 18-23). I know one former religious pastor who had a huge congregation. He received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and tried to bring God into church. He was fired; his wife divorced him; his children and friends disowned him. He ended up leading True Christians, having demonstrations of God’s power.

“For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ” (2 Corinthians 2: 17). False leaders in Paul’s day mixed the Word of God with their own inventions to accommodate hearers and to obtain gain. The world’s church is still conning people today. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven (Matthew 7: 21). “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me” (John 14: 24).

The world’s church is an abomination to God and is failing, as well as all who lead them and attend them. Attending “church” or calling oneself a Christian won’t save a person. The True Church of Jesus Christ is spiritually alive and NOT FAILING. The True Church is made up of the born again (John 3: 3); those baptised with the Holy Spirit (John 3: 5); who worship in spirit and truth (John 4: 23-24); who demonstrate God’s power (Mark 16: 17); who follow the full gospel (Galatians 1: 6-9) and those who follow Father’s will. The True Church is without spot, wrinkle or blemish (Ephesians 5: 27). A True Christian is the holy temple of God, not some building or denomination. “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17). God describes exactly what His Bride the True Church looks like; what He expects of it; the rewards The True Church receives and what judgments await a false church of false Christians. Warn and teach others. Good Hunting!