

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...****You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If..., on: 2007/1/31 14:21**

Just trying to add a little satire... Not sure this is as humorous as it is sad... Anyway, add more if you wish...

Krispy

**You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

- 10.) The usher asks if you prefer the smoking or non-smoking section.
- 9.) Your Christmas Eve service is broadcast live on FOXNews. (think about it!)
- 8.) Regular attendees earn frequent flyer miles.
- 7.) 8:30am service replaced by an extreme image make-over class with Dr. Phil.
- 6.) Baptismal tank has a wave-maker machine.
- 5.) Bibles in pews replaced with Revolve Bible-zines.
- 4.) Sign out front has latest pastors name written with dry erase markers.
- 3.) Offering plates mounted with credit card swipers.
- 2.) Worship team performs their favorite Led Zeppelin medley; with the altar call being "Stairway to Heaven."
- 1.) Banner across front of sanctuary reads, "Today's Worship Service Brought to You by... Chevrolet."

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/1/31 14:40**

Kind of along the same lines, I don't know who said it, 'If you find a Perfect Church, don't go there, you'll just mess it up!'

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 14:41**

Three times you are asked to move because you are in 'their seat'.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 14:49**

...the baptistery is in the shape of a firetruck and confetti cannons fire when a person comes up out of the water.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 14:51**

...when the offering plate is handed to you, an usher opens a notebook and tells you how much you need to give.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 14:56**

...the pastor keeps referring to you by name during his sermon on hell.

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/1/31 15:00**

Ok, I'll join in.

'They just finished their 10 million dollar building project and they've already started raising money for their 20 million dollar building.'

**Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/1/31 15:07**

On your way in you see a bearded man knocking on the door to be let in, and folks inside refer to Him as the crazy legalistic guy outside.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 15:17**

...the female pastor begins her sermon as follows: 'I thought I would begin by telling a story, many people tell me that I am good at telling stories...'

Actually happened at a Methodist Christmas Eve service.

**Re:, on: 2007/1/31 15:21**

Quote:  
-----On your way in you see a bearded man knocking on the door to be let in, and folks inside refer to Him as the crazy legalistic guy outside.  
-----

oooo..... owch!! (thats a good picture of the church in America!)

Krispy

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 15:22**

...after the pastor finishes his series on Mark, he motions for the snakes.

or

...after the pastor finishes his series on Mark, he asks if anyone is thirsty.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 15:29**

...after the 10th verse of "Just as I am" you are tempted to walk down the aisle to Rededicate something in order to end the invitation.

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/1/31 15:32**

...the worship team performs and sings "Born To Be Wild" at the request of the elders to celebrate the pastor's 55th birthday on Sunday morning. (This was my church...)

Quote:  
-----On your way in you see a bearded man knocking on the door to be let in, and folks inside refer to Him as the crazy legalistic guy outside.  
-----

Oh my...that's too close for comfort.

MC

:-( :-(- :-(-

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re: - posted by JoeA (), on: 2007/1/31 15:33**

. . . they have a special "Super Bowl Sunday!" service. God forbid that He should be the main attraction.

**Re: - posted by taco, on: 2007/1/31 15:34**

this is true , of a fellowship I used to attend(which makes it sadder rather than funnier)

The pastor gives a message in "tongues" and then begins the intrepertation

"buttons buttons buttons, there are all kinds of buttons - brass buttons silver buttons yea even choclote buttons"

Upon which hearing, members of the cngregation began praising the Lord with "thank you Jesus" and "Amen".

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/1/31 15:35**

...before the "power service" the entire worship team is outside in the parking lot smoking and joking. (true story)

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/1/31 15:44**

...for "Valentine's Day" the church sanctuary hosts a quiet, candlelight dinner for married couples, replete with chocolate-dipped strawberries and slow-dancing to popular contemporary Christian ballads. (true story - \$20.00 per couple)

...the children's church superintendent brings her Mary Kay cosmetics kit on Wednesday night to teach pre-teen girls how to put on make-up. (true story)

Are you getting angry yet?

**Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/1/31 15:54**

The pastor opens with a joke, and closes with a joke, and everyone laughs all the way through.

The pastor stands up to preach, and opens PDL rather than the Bible, or begins to quote R.W.

The pastor preaches a message you just listened to another man preach the night before, jokes and all.(used to happen almost every Sunday)

When the pews begin to have cup holders for your Starbucks

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/1/31 15:59**

The preacher is wearing sweats and a Carolina Panthers jersey :-P  
(for you Krisp)

**Re:, on: 2007/1/31 16:03**

LOL... ya got me!! Good one!

Krispy

**Re:, on: 2007/1/31 16:07**

Quote:

-----The pastor preaches a message you just listened to another man preach the night before  
-----

Been there, done that... When we were still in the Charismatic movement our pastor did a wonderful series on the move of God, and chasing after God...

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

Then I read The God Chasers. If I had read the book first, I could have stayed home from church for 3 months and not missed a thing!

Krispy

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/1/31 16:10**

Quote:

-----If I had read the book first, I could have stayed home from church for 3 months and not missed a thing!  
-----

Even if you had not read the book you still wouldn't have missed a thing. ;-)

**Re: - posted by Sellsie, on: 2007/1/31 16:13**

Quote:

-----  
JaySaved wrote:

...the female pastor begins her sermon as follows: 'I thought I would begin by telling a story, many people tell me that I am good at telling stories...'

Actually happened at a Methodist Christmas Eve service.  
-----

And then she proceeds to quote from the hit TV show, "The Sopranos."

True Story.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/1/31 16:27**

...there is a large Catholic bible outside the sanctuary in the lounge area that contains a picture of the pope, pictures of how to properly administer the mass, a picture of Mary being 'crowned in heaven', and numerous prayers of concentration to Mary asking her to speak to Jesus for you.

True story, I spoke to the pastor about this and he finally had it removed. Apparently, someone donated it and the leadership didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

**Re: - posted by JennRich (), on: 2007/1/31 16:47**

The preacher never opens the Bible, and instead draws "inspiration" from an Elton John song (quoting the lyrics). . .

Meanwhile, the youth section is so noisy and disrespectful that WE have to turn around and ask them to be quiet (and we were first time visitors!) . . .

(absolutely true story)

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/1/31 18:24**

...you're in an Episcopal church that holds a  
([http://www.christianpost.com/article/20070130/25500\\_Bono%2527s\\_Songs\\_Replacing\\_Hymnals\\_in\\_Churches.htm](http://www.christianpost.com/article/20070130/25500_Bono%2527s_Songs_Replacing_Hymnals_in_Churches.htm)) "U2-Charist" service.

MC

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re: - posted by Smokey (), on: 2007/1/31 18:56**

I am probably just old fashioned, but the last church I attended allowed the youth to wear their hats in the sanctuary during their evening service..

Blessings Greg

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by bereangirl, on: 2007/1/31 19:46**

Ok here's mine...

The pastor is preaching a sermon with 5 points for whatever topic it was...and it was directly from Dake's annotated Bible notes. My friend had Dake's on her lap and nudged me pointing to her notes. Nothing like a just-add-water-and-stir sermon...kinda like Kraft Dinner.

Sonja

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by Smokey (), on: 2007/1/31 20:35**

Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/1/31 20:36**

The music is so loud it gives you a head ache so you leave before your head splits open!

ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/1/31 20:39**

You attend a wedding and the pastor preaches a sermon. The subject deals with physical intimacy which embarrasses the audience and the couple as well. And you wish your children would be elsewhere! (True story!)

ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by searchin, on: 2007/1/31 22:45**

you guys are so kool!

:-D

**Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2007/2/1 6:04**

1. The preacher does not even quote a verse from the bible in the whole service!!!!
2. Every starts having a holy spirit service and people acting like clowns!!
3. A DJ starts leading worship
4. A theme like Finding Nemo Service!! or a Narnian Service!!!

**Re: you know you're visiting a questionable church..., on: 2007/2/1 7:09**

You know you're visiting a very, very questionable "church" when you walk in to find a seat, only to find they have movie theater seats that rock and come with cup holders! 8-)

This is a true story I read in Leadership magazine a few months ago. It was a church in the midwest that was boasting about investing in theater seats "with" cup holders to make their congregation more comfortable (and to keep the drinks from spilling on the floor).

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 7:29**

Quote:  
-----This is a true story I read in Leadership magazine a few months ago. It was a church in the midwest that was boosting about investing in theater seats "with" cup holders to make their congregation more comfortable (and to keep the drinks from spilling on the floor).  
-----

Boy... makes you wonder what in the world Jesus was thinking when He gave the Sermon on the Mount, and He made those poor people sit on the ground! No cup holders... no cushions...

Thankfully we know better than Jesus how to attract a large crowd.

8-)

Krispy

**Re: You know you're visiting a bad church if...., on: 2007/2/1 7:42**

... the church has a sign tacked up outside advertising a series they are doing that at least 10 other churches in the town are doing too.

(My advice: Just keep on driving! God's not doing anything new there!) :-o

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by tj servant (), on: 2007/2/1 7:58**

A church in my home town has a weekly "outreach" program held every Tuesday night. It's called "Vegas Nites"  
I wouldn't want to bet on what's going on inside.

God Bless

TJ

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 8:04**

Quote:  
-----... the church has a sign tacked up outside advertising a series they are doing that at least 10 other churches in the town are doing too.  
-----

Yea... in our town almost all the churches had "40 DAYS OF PURPOSE" on their signs at the same time a couple years ago.

... I just love fads.... not.

Krispy

**Re: You know you're visiting a bad church if...., on: 2007/2/1 8:28**

You know you're visiting or attending a bad church if...

... you can Google the pastor's sermon topic and find hundred's of other church's preaching the same thing across America.

This is kinda like the sign thing but worse. I used to attend a church exactly like this. I found out that the pastor always got his sermons from pastor.net. When I questioned him, he was like, "Why should I labor when someone else has already..."

ady done it?"

There are thousands of churches like that or else pastor.net would not be in business. I'm going to stop before I get really depressed.

Lisa

---

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.  
Romans 15.13

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 8:35**

Quote:  
----- This is kinda like the sign thing but worse. I used to attend a church exactly like this. I found out that the pastor always got his sermons from pastor.net. When I questioned him, he was like, "Why should I labor when someone else has already done it?"  
-----

So much for hearing from the Lord, and then delivering His message to them.

Krispy

**Re: You know you're visiting a bad church if.... - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2007/2/1 11:37**

...The pastor titles his sermon 'No Confidence In The Flesh: Philipians 3' and then talks about himself for the entire duration and boasts about all the famous people he knows and gets to hang out with...

:-?

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by enid, on: 2007/2/1 12:27**

The church has a 70's night, you go, and there is no one there over 70.

Bring in the New Year with feasting, singing, children's dance group and at midnight say 'Let's worship God!'

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 13:06**

Quote:  
-----Bring in the New Year with feasting, singing, children's dance group and at midnight say 'Let's worship God!'  
-----

Not sure what you mean by this... I would like to point out that part of the Hebrews' worship spelled out for us in the OT was feasts and singing and dance.

Exo 13:6 Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD.

Exo 23:14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

Exo 23:16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Psa 149:3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Psa 150:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Moses' wife led the women of Israel in dancing and singing (a celebration unto God... not fleshly dancing) after the Egyptian army perished in the Red Sea...

Krispy

**Re: - posted by enid, on: 2007/2/1 13:16**

There's dancing and then there is dancing.

This wasn't godly in content, and there sure weren't any timbrel's or harps!

It was street style gyrating. You had to see it.

Well, maybe God accepted it, that's all that matters.

God bless.

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 13:22**

ok... just needed some clarification. I agree with you.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by JennRich (), on: 2007/2/1 14:32**

As you sit at your table in the worship service (it's called a "Tea-Room Service"), someone brings you some Play Doh, crayons, and paper so that you can express yourself creatively when you feel the urge to do so.

My sister visited a church that did this about 2 years ago. (God help us.)

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/2/1 14:36**

Å´.

**Re:, on: 2007/2/1 15:11**

This thread has turned into something that I hadn't foreseen... and I think it's pretty cool. I hope it keeps going because it really lets us know how far away from God we have wandered. What started out as humorous has turned into something quite sobering.

Very good so far, everyone! Keep it up...

Krispy

**Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/2/1 16:02**

When the man preaching says, "I dare you to let God write your story." But never mentions Christ

**Re: - posted by tinluke (), on: 2007/2/1 18:54**

The Assistant Pastor bans CS Lewis from the church because she had a dream in which the Lord told her he was evil.... ooh spooky!

**Re: - posted by DIEDTOSELF (), on: 2007/2/1 21:02**

...if the only flowers in the landscaping are T.U.L.I.P's.

Ha! Ha!

**Re:, on: 2007/2/2 12:43**

Quote:

-----The Assistant Pastor bans CS Lewis from the church because she had a dream in which the Lord told her he was evil....  
-----

Let me dovetail that one:

The church has a woman Assistant Pastor.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by vico, on: 2007/2/2 13:38**

... you leave the same way you came in, no different. :-o

**Re: - posted by JoeA (), on: 2007/2/2 14:17**

. . . the church hosts a vintage car show after it's AM service, at the end of which the pastor rides out of the sanctuary on a motorcycle with "Born to be wild" playing over the sound system.

Actually happened a few years ago at one of the largest churches in my city.

**Re: - posted by SDE (), on: 2007/2/2 14:37**

...the sermon is based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (true story)

**Re: - posted by JoeA (), on: 2007/2/2 14:40**

. . . the person leading the music says "I hope we entertain you tonight".

Another true story.

**Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/2/2 16:10**

Quote:

-----...if the only flowers in the landscaping are T.U.L.I.P's.  
-----

Especially if they are Armenian TULIPS

BTW I know it's Arminian, but lately it seems that in discussing Theology people have taken issue with the poor folks of Armenia. :-P

**Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2007/2/2 16:44**

...they won't let you in without your F.R.O.G. bracelet. ;-)

(That one's for Mattie)

General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by enid, on: 2007/2/3 5:22**

The church still sings Amazing Grace!

(that's for the seekers churches. Sorry!)

**Re: You know you're visiting a bad church if... - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2007/2/3 6:28**

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." - Titus 1:16(kjv)

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/2/3 9:55**

The name of Jesus is not mentioned: they only use the term "God". True story. A couple moved into a city nearby, attended a church for several weeks and soon they noticed they never said Jesus name!

ginnyrose

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2007/2/3 10:57**

Hey Krispy...

I just read some of these and they are very funny! Thanks!

:)

**Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2007/2/3 10:59**

Quote:

-----  
SDE wrote:

...the sermon is based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (true story)  
-----

...or worse, the sermon is based on *Waterboy* (true story)!

:-)

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/2/3 11:37**

Hi JoeA

Quote:

----- . . . the church hosts a vintage car show after it's AM service, at the end of which the pastor rides out of the sanctuary on a motorcyle with "Born to be wild" playing over the sound system.  
-----

Don't know if you caught it, but I mentioned another worship service with "Born to be Wild" earlier in this same thread!

There must have been a 'Steppenwolf' anointing moving through the churches! ;-)

MC

(Edit: I had to elaborate on this...our worship team at this church was asked to perform the song one morning. So the singer starts screaming into the microphone against rockin' drums and chugging guitars, "Get your motor runnin' Head out on the highway...Lookin' for adventure, blah blah..." Then just before the chorus he exhorts the congregation like it's a gospel jamboree, "C'mon church!" and everyone all together joins in "Born to be wild! Born to be wild!")

I wasn't there that day but my wife tells me later in that service there were also several prophecies about angels pouring i

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

ncense bowls of blessings out on the church. ...or was it bowls of rainbow flavored skiddles? I can't remember :-( ...)

**Re: - posted by JoeA (), on: 2007/2/3 23:05**

Quote:

-----Don't know if you caught it, but I mentioned another worship service with "Born to be Wild" earlier in this same thread!  
-----

Yeah, i did see that. Your story seems to be sadder than mine because of the "prophecy".

When will a respected man of God stand up in one of these churches and say "Where is God in all of this?"

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by John173 (), on: 2007/2/3 23:58**

You go to the senior pastors wedding and the ushers are clowns.

The pastor wears a rainbow vestment robe.

The pastor prays with you after your own wedding and begins "Dear Father/mother God..."

I'm sad to say this was my own mother :-(

No, she did not perform my wedding.

Help, help, pray for me please!  
(I've been praying for her for years)

Doug

**Re: - posted by Spitfire, on: 2007/2/4 6:00**

...When every week it's the same 50 people talking about how they are going to take this city for God, but that same 50 people's lives never change.

**Re:, on: 2007/2/4 8:33**

...when the first thing you hear after the service is 'What did you think of the rugby yesterday?'

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/2/4 14:16**

...

Quote:

-----Your story seems to be sadder than mine because of the "prophecy".  
-----

Prophecies were a weekly habit in that church. They considered themselves a prophetic people...by this they meant not that they were a people who listened to and obeyed the Word...but that they believed in giving prophecies.

Quote:

-----When will a respected man of God stand up in one of these churches and say "Where is God in all of this?"  
-----

Usually a few seconds before he becomes a disrespected man...

MC

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re:, on: 2007/2/4 18:51**

Not a very funny one but happened to me...

When the minister hurries down from the pulpit as fast as possible at the end of the service, but too late! All the congregation have already gone home - except for the people counting the offering, (one of whom is probably also in charge of locking up).

**Re:, on: 2007/2/5 9:38**

This happened to my wife and I...

You remove your children from childrens' church because the teacher admonishes the children to read their Bible everyday... and then admits to the children that she hasn't read hers in about a month because she is "too busy"...

... and THEN, because we've removed our children from childrens' church we get called into the pastor's office one Wednesday night and get accused of being divisive.

... and THEN, after I inform the pastor that I am the man who has to answer to God for how my children are raised, and for the things they are exposed to and taught... he informs me that I am wrong. The church is responsible for our children

We never stepped foot inside that church again.

(He and I also butted heads over other things... mainly doctrines. This was when my wife and I were beginning to really question the whole Charismatic Word Of Faith/Prosperity Gospel movement... because we started reading more of the Bible and less WOF authors/teachers)

Krispy

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/5 12:12**

You know you might be a Pharisee if on a Sermonindex post you pray and thank God that you're not like this or that church who does this or that wrong doctrine etc.

**Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/2/5 12:24**

Quote:  
-----You know you might be a Pharisee if on a Sermonindex post you pray and thank God that you're not like this or that church who does this or that wrong doctrine etc.  
-----

Brother I believe that you are not right in saying this. I do not believe anyone here has said anything out of a self righteous heart.

To accuse others because you think you know the intent of their heart is wrong. Some may have even been helped to heal over these experiences by having a place to at least laugh over the hideous things that go on in buildings today.

Also, by your thinking men like Luther, Knox, and the others who revolted or spoke out against the Roman Catholic Church should have been ashamed of themselves for daring to say that the RC system was wrong.

If it is pharisaical to speak our experiences (good or bad), then give me a phylactery. For I know that we as a family should be able to share and support one another without the accusations of being bitter, or being a Pharisee.

Maybe the pharisee is the one who ridicules those who speak against the religious system, as was the case when Christ walked the earth.:-)

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/5 12:27**

After reading the posts on this thread I really cannot say honestly that this was edifying, encouraging, but instead it left me sick to the stomach, both at the truth of what was being said and the chagrin of the people saying it! It's all sick!

I myself said one thing, which in retrospect I am equally ashamed of, I feel dirty having added anything to this thread.

**Re: - posted by HopeinChrist, on: 2007/2/5 12:31**

I have only read 2 or three posts in this thread. So while I realize I am speaking without examining the whole matter, I accept the responsibility for it. There is just something about this thread that ties a sink line to my heart.

In Christ,  
Hope

**Re: - posted by HopeinChrist, on: 2007/2/5 12:38**

You know you're attending a bad church if....1909 views

What True Prayer is....63 views

Mercy and Truth....30 views

???????  
Hope

**Re:, on: 2007/2/5 13:26**

Before everyone jumps off the deep end here... let me say a few things.

Over the course of this thread I have been both encouraged AND saddened by the truth that has come out. I think this thread is a thermometer of where the church is today. No one wants to criticize some of the worldly practices that have come into the church today because to do so isn't politically correct, and someone might get offended.

Well, truth is offensive sometimes.

If anyone has posted here with an impure heart, then that's between them and God. But I don't see anyone here mocking any churches, or doing this for laughs. There is a heaviness to this thread among the humor. People relating experiences they have had is good and healthy. No one has named names of any churches. No pastors have been named.

If a church is worldly, doesn't preach the truth, is afraid to preach the name of Jesus, is here to entertain, and avoids ever preaching passages of scripture such as Leviticus 18-20... then they have no business calling themselves "Christian" churches anyway... because they are not.

No one here is criticizing true Biblical churches. No one here is criticizing a particular doctrine. The main thrust of this thread is exposing the worldliness of most "churches" in America and Europe. Personally, I haven't found that much humor on this thread because it's rather sad to see the truth of the matter.

And as a thermometer... this thread shows that many "churches" in America today are not even luke warm... they are cold. Many are not even "Christian". They just call themselves that.

Call me a Pharisee if you want to. The Pharisees followed the Law, but their hearts were far from God. They didn't do what they did to please God, they did it to impress everyone and to achieve positions of power.

If you know this to be true about me, then alright. I'm a Pharisee. But if you don't know me (which you don't), and you don't know my heart (which you don't) ... then you are judging me in a way that scripture forbids. And that's a precarious position to put yourself in. You're putting yourself in God's position when you judge my heart and motives.

You can weigh my actions against scripture, but when you judge a man's heart, you better be careful.

Krispy

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/2/5 13:36**

I appreciate your sensitivity guys. I apologize for any offense or tainting.

For what it's worth I certainly don't see this as us being better than them...I was talking about the church I was attending.

While in prayer last week I raised the issue of worldliness in the church and a brother, who believed he could see my heart, said, "Well that's just because you've been hurt by other Christians."

I replied with some disappointment in his comment..."I was talking about us brothers. I wouldn't have believed in 'almost Christians' unless I had known my own story."

That having been said...it's a tragic subject that if discussed poorly can often hurt more than help. While I think people were just sharing, I can see how this thread can be perceived as glib and self-righteous.

Ian, your complaint is understood and well received. Again I am most sorry if my contributions, which were admittedly cynical, also seemed self-righteous. They probably were.

Foolish talk is a hard habit to break.

MC

**Re: - posted by JennRich (), on: 2007/2/5 15:42**

Reading this thread has been good for me, because it's broken my heart afresh for the state of many churches in our country today. I've been praying much more over them.

**Re:, on: 2007/2/5 15:43**

I would like to echo what Compton said... on the surface someone could perceive this thread as "holier than thou", but I would ask that people read the posts carefully. I don't think people are saying "I'm so glad I'm not like those people!". I think people are saying we are all in desperate need for revival. If some of these examples are any indication... the church is in trouble. Some of the foolishness that goes on in churches today is appalling.

I also think this thread has been very healthy for some people because they realize "Hey... I'm not the only one out there who sees these things!"

I don't know about anyone else, but I know when I was a part of the "institutional church" I was made to feel like an odd-ball because I didn't go along with "the program". Even made to feel like there was something wrong with me spiritually.

Come to find out... no, I was reading *just* the Bible, and being taught by the Holy Spirit (as Jesus promised He would do) instead of being deceived by Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland etc. (I will name those people because they are false teachers)

Krispy

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/2/6 2:19**

i dont know but this says much....

You know you're attending a bad church if....1909 views

What True Prayer is....63 views

Mercy and Truth....30 views

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 6:00**

Quote:  
-----  
KrispyKrittr wrote:  
I would like to echo what Compton said... on the surface someone could perceive this thread as "holier than thou", but I would ask that people read the posts carefully. I don't think people are saying "I'm so glad I'm not like those people!". I think people are saying we are all in desperate need for revival.  
-----

Revival isn't coming, Krispy. We need to wake up to that fact and be men of God, speaking the truth in righteousness. If we have His life, it must come forth from us. Thats the only "revival" we need to understand ...and be about making it happen.

One more thing: Expect persecution, but for only for acceptable reasons that bring glory to God.

Peace, Orm

**Re: - posted by searchin, on: 2007/2/6 7:47**

Quote:  
-----  
tjservant wrote:  
A church in my home town has a weekly "outreach" program held every Tuesday night. It's called "Vegas Nites" I wouldn't want to bet on what's going on inside.

What happens there...stays there!

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 7:53**

Greetings All...

I've only been a member of sermonindex for a very short time, but it seems that a lot of threads go in this similar direction...down.

However, I believe we are able to lift it all back up, if we work together. I know it sounds cheesy, but if we (christians) cannot work/talk together, who can?

This is my attempt to change the tone in this thread...

You know if you are in a bad church if...

it becomes an online sermonindex and you are the only one there and are left talking to yourself...

Hello?!...Is there anyone here?! Is this mic on?!

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

Silly, I know, but this thread started out as humor in a unhumorous world...let's not take joy from one another, there are enough of those people in the world already.

:-) :-( :-D ;-) :-o 8-) :-? :-P :-x :lol: :-? :smart: :beard: :knockedout: :eek: :roll:

God Bless / One Love  
Brian

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 8:24**

Quote:  
-----Silly, I know, but this thread started out as humor in a unhumorous world...let's not take joy from one another, there are enough of those people in the world already.  
-----

Thank you Brian! I agree! It doesn't matter what the topic of a thread is, there will always be some folks who will not be happy about it.

Anyway... you know you're in a bad church when...

The Sunday bulletin is written on gold plates.

(get it?? Gold plates... Mormon... nevermind!) lol

Krispy

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 10:25**

You see, the problem I have, is that by creating this thread we've cast judgement on all the churches that have done anything like this -irregardless of the whether this was justified.

Now you justify yourself by saying 'don't take yourself too seriously, we're just having a bit of fun.'

Come on!

Why do churches play songs like 'Wild Thing' for their pastor -for a bit of fun. Why do churches have valentines dinners for their married couples -I really don't see a problem with this! Someone even said that a believing church can't sing Amazing Grace!

You're all legalistic hypocrites! You'll use fun as a defense but not allow it to any of these churches that don't muster up to your requirements.

I dare say there may be a larger remnant of people who understand the GRACE of God in those churches than in this forum!

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 10:35**

Quote:  
-----You're all legalistic hypocrites!  
-----

You're being judgemental... while accusing us of being judgemental. I tend to think that would fall under the definition of hypocrisy more than anything anyone else has written on here.

Enough of the name calling, Ian... if you dont like this thread, then ignore it. The moderators apparently havent had an issue with this thread so far. I know these men well enough to know that if anything was out of line they would have interjected themselves into the conversation by now.

When you run your own forum then you can condemn whoever you wish.

In the meantime, I maintain that it is healthy for folks to share their experiences... positive and negative. We're a family. Thats what we do.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 13:03**

I want to share three things that I thought about after typing my post thismorning.

I recalled Zac Poonen's message on 'condemnation' where he talked about someone coming up to him and complaining about how much TV some 'believers' watch. Zac Poonen's answer was pretty telling -he said that if it really bugged him, he should go out and get a TV himself! He was condemning all these believers for watching TV, but he was the one in error.

Zac followed by saying that he didn't watch much TV, but he wasn't going to go around telling others not to, or that it was wrong -that's something that they need to be led to by Jesus himself.

The next thing that came to mind is when Keith Green talked about the woman eating the six foot long sub sandwich. He said that if he had eaten it he would consider it gluttony, so he broadcast his own condemning heart about his own sin onto others and regarded them in sin when they had no problem with it at all! In fact, Keith even went so far as to say that it was in fact him sinning at that point and not the one eating the sub sandwich.

Now I take some offense at this entire topic, and this is my third reason.

Leonard Ravenhill often railed against similar things going on in the church, and we read his books and agree. We then think it is OK if we say the same things, well I was considering this; It's NOT!

We have to remember that Leonard Ravenhill was past sixty years old when he said most of his most provocative statements, he had the authority of years of service and testing behind his words. When he spoke about the rottenness of the church he spoke as a Pastor to pastors!

We forget that Ravenhill had a congregation of pastors, he had prayer meetings that were attended by pastors... and when he spoke harshly of pastors he was admonishing his own congregation -not someone else's!

I very much doubt Leonard had in his heart to condemn churches, but instead to encourage them to get back to their biblical foundations!

So what if a church plays 'Wild Thing' for their Pastor! He without sin throw the first stone!

So what if a church has a dinner for married couples on valentines day! Would you rather have them going to the buffet at the casino?

I can't believe someone actually said that a saved person cannot sing 'Amazing Grace!'

You don't have the authority, you're assuming sin where there may be none and you're judging and condemning others.

I get told to shut up because I just won't play along!

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 13:36**

Ian...

I appreciate your points, and they are well taken. However, I think that there is a difference between considering someone a glutton for eating a foot long, and pointing out apostasy in a church. Most people on this forum are walking much deeper with the Lord than the average believer. I agree we should encourage others to walk closer, but in today's apostate church I believe God has turned some churches over. The Spirit has departed.

I don't have a problem with a V-Day dinner either. I do have a problem with churches trying to be just like the world. Singing "Stairway To Heaven" during the invitation?? That deserves to be scoffed at.

In Leviticus God stated multiple times that His people were to make a distinction between the holy and the profane. In many churches today they have become so worldly in their attempt to reach the world that there is no difference. It's ungodly and apostate. I've even begun to question some of the Christian music I have defended on this very forum.

I think this thread (which is pretty much gonna die now anyway) has been good for people say "hey... wake up folks... this is what passes for "church" these days!" Yea, some of it has been humorous. So what? But it's also been very sobering.

I'm not gonna debate it any further with you. If you feel you need to get the last word in... go ahead.

I'd prefer to agree to disagree.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2007/2/6 13:42**

Members,

I was feeling led to post a few days ago regarding this thread. I believe some of the motives are like that of the pharisee who exalted himself. I can say that because the Lord has convicted me of doing the same thing. In some of my past posts, I was complaining about the worldliness of the church I attend. The problem is spiritual pride had crept in. I was exposing these things more for the reason of complimenting myself on how holy I am and not for my concern of their worldliness.

Truth be told, I have enough of my own love of the world that needs to be dealt with before I can correct others on this subject.

Well we can all attest that the majority of churches have a lot of spots and wrinkles that need to be taken care of.

If all the of the posts were made out of love and for the purpose of correction, then that is wonderful.

Our hearts are deceitful beyond cure, that scripture should be pondered often. Especially before clicking the "Submit" button.

Murray

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2007/2/6 14:20**

Quote:

-----  
BrianMira wrote:

Greetings All...

Silly, I know, but this thread started out as humor in a unhumorous world...let's not take joy from one another, there are enough of those people in the world already.

God Bless / One Love

Brian

-----

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

Amen Brian, Might I add, you might know if your visiting a bad Church "these days" if you happen to see someone smiling. :-) It's kind of funny we have about two or three of us "one is me" at Church that people just seem to flock to before the service begins just to laugh with us because were alive in the Joy of Christ, it's almost as though these folks hate to return to their seats when the service is beginning, go figure. :-P

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 14:21**

Now that, Murray, I can agree with. We all can easily get caught up in spiritual pride. It happens to me all the time, especially on this forum.

I dont believe everyone posted with malice & pride. I think your post shows that you understand that. One thing Ian did was he caused my to examine my own motives. I think I was being honest when I expressed that this thread is very sobering for me... meaning saddening. Sad that the church in this country has become so immune to the Word that it has slipped away from the things of God and become a circus.

In a way the American church reminds me of Israel when Moses was on the mount. They built a golden calf and began to behave worse than pagans. God told Moses to go take a look... and Moses was shocked.

Thats where we're at, only it isnt Moses comin'... it's Jesus.

Most churches are not holy anymore. They are profane. And I'll go out on a limb and say many are just flat out lost.

Krispy

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 14:22**

Hey Bill... I thought you attended Osteen's happy church???

:-) :-( :-D ;-) :-o

Krispy

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2007/2/6 14:30**

Quote:

-----  
KrispyKrittr wrote:  
Hey Bill... I thought you attended Osteen's happy church???

:-) :-( :-D ;-) :-o

Krispy  
-----

Actually, I quit going there I got "plenty happy" to last me for a while, now I am at a meat of the Word Church but hey they don't know what happy is everyone looks like this :-x there except me, so I am still attending, but also looking for one with Meat and Happiness I really think I will probably never find one but I am going to stretch my faith and hope for one in the near future. :-)

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 14:40**

Total Topics...14282

Total Posts...112566

Total Humorous...1 (You know you've visited a bad church if...)

Numbers, like scripture, or anything else can always be used to make your point...good or bad.

Relax in Jesus,  
Brian

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 16:05**

Check out this paper if you think this thread is a waste of time and the warning doesn't need to go out:

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/orrel12.html>

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 16:21**

Quote:

-----Numbers, like scripture, or anything else can always be used to make your point...good or bad.  
-----

Brian... maybe I'm thick or something... what's your point you're trying to make? :-)

Krispy

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/2/6 16:28**

Quote:

----- don't have a problem with a V-Day dinner either.  
-----

The point with the V-Day dinner is that it took place in my church a few weeks after a brother delivered a message about how worldly-integrated the church of Jesus Christ has become, how far it has fallen from its Apostolic beginnings. The brother mentioned in passing how the "house of prayer" which Christ was so zealous for has since degenerated into a banal meeting place where worldly, secular festivals are now upheld and even sponsored! This was right after Christmas. Our pastor wasn't there for the message, and, sadly, the next week everyone saw in the church bulletin:

Come to Valentine's Nite for Couples!  
Chocolate-dipped Strawberries  
Gourmet cuisine  
Candlelight dining and dancing  
Cost per couple - \$20.00

I'm sorry, brethren. Call me a legalist hypocrite if you like - but this really vexed me in the spirit. And I think it would vex a *nyone* who has been praying for revival of holiness and brokenness and personal travail. Actually, I got what I prayed for - spiritual anguish - over the compromised and worldly state of my church. God always answers prayer! The answers are invariably "yes", "no", or "wait." God gave me travail, only through a means I wasn't expecting.

I pray this post is understood.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 16:36**

I think my whole focus, however abrasive was that instead of focusing on what other churches are doing wrong that we should instead focus on what we are doing to get right with Jesus.

There is a place for the Leonard Ravenhills and Keith Greens to go out and storm strongholds -but there's also a place for quiet intercessors like Praying Payson of Portland (one of Len's favorites).

One of the incredible blessings we have here at SermonIndex is the wealth of scriptural teaching -but just like Jesus' disciples we can still bicker about who's greater than one another even after listening to an amazing sermon by Zac Poonen or Art Katz. That is what I see so often in this forum -and it gets to me.

I hope it gets to you too...

The other day I was sitting in a cafe, and I overheard a conversation between a highschool student and a college advisor. This kid told the advisor how his parents were missionaries and he grew up in Russia, and he hoped to go to Princeton University and study business so that he could go abroad like his parents.

I sat there and slapped my head and thought to myself -why doesn't this kid go and follow his parents into the mission field instead of getting into a hundred thousand dollars worth of debt going to Princeton. The mission field is way more exciting than international business!

I very seriously thought about going and interrupting, but realized that the realization was not for his sake, but for mine! If I had gone over there and broken in I would have looked like a fool -even if what I said was entirely truthful!

But here's what I also realized -God has shown me that missions are exciting and that's where he's put my heart! But that young man's heart was elsewhere, and it may be that God is going to use him in international business for His glory.

How much more like a fool would I have looked if I'd walked over there and said he should go be a missionary if he'd already been told by his parents to go to Princeton, if he'd had it confirmed by God in his heart and been encouraged by his church.

The fact of the matter is that we sit and accuse all of these churches of sin -some of them no doubt are sinning. But on the off chance that some of them are being led in a different direction and ministry than ourselves, I would not be so bold as to condemn them all!

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 16:47**

Paul,

I don't know if you're married -I should start by saying that I'm not, but God help me I'd like to be some day! But for me, I think about it this way; if I had a wife I'd want to do something special for her on valentines day. So what if it's a pagan festival, we can eat meat sacrificed to idols.

This would be a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with your wife, show her how much you love her and do it in the presence of your church brethren!

Honestly, I think by doing it at the church, they're actually taking the pagan out of valentines vs. putting the pagan in the church!

Like Zac Poonen said about the man with the TV, instead of condemning it, maybe the reason that you have a problem with it is because you have a condemning spirit in your own heart and you're living under the law.

Zac Poonen's answer to that man was to go and buy a TV. Instead of condemning his brothers who weren't walking in sin, Zac turned around and showed that brother who was really erring.

I wasn't going to mention it, but Mars Hill church had a party on New Years Eve -with wine! Yes they served wine and champagne in the church. Why? Because everyone attending was adults... they were going to have a Christian message, listen to some good music and celebrate the new year.

Now that was just one night, and if you took it out of context you'd think that Mars Hill was the most pagan church on the planet. But quite to the contrary, Mars Hill is one of the most dynamic and powerfully moving churches in the Seattle area. Heavily involved in missions and social ministries, preaching the Gospel from the word of God with authority!

You can even download a sermon from Mars Hill, and no doubt you'll hear the word SIN, and that Jesus is the only way! That we have to get on the cross. But if we condemn them for having a new years eve outreach party with drinks and a band we'll entirely miss the fact that they are walking powerfully with the Lord and doing mighty works in his name!

**Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2007/2/6 17:22**

Ian,

We are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols.

"As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality." Acts 21:25

"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols." Revelation 2:20

Is Mars Hill, the same organization that did the "Bullhorn Guy Video"?

I personally think that becoming like the world, to win the world is a bad strategy.

Murray

**Re: Tangent! - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 17:41**

The teaching of Paul concerning food sacrificed to Idols.

1 Corinthians 8:4-9 NASB

Quote:  
----- 4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,

6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

**8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.**

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.  
-----

Since God is God and idols are just hunks of wood and stone, we know that meat sacrificed to idols is in fact meat that has been sacrificed to wood and stone -there's nothing wrong with that BBQ!~

Now the problem is, that there is so much freedom we're given under grace that can be misunderstood for sin. But there's also so much religiosity that can be misunderstood for piousness and holiness that is wickedness according to Jesus.

That is why we are called to the narrow road. We are on a path that is bordered on one side by wonton abuse of grace, and on the other side by dead legalism. We have to be careful how we tread this way.

**Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2007/2/6 18:57**

Ian,

I knew you were going to use those scriptures. I almost included them in my previous post. I don't think Paul is telling us to heap on the food sacrificed to idols. He knows idols are nothing, but most people don't. Therefore their consciences are made guilty if they partake.

Murray

Sorry for hijacking the thread!

**Re:, on: 2007/2/6 19:04**

Krispy,

Maybe I am not sure of my point exactly, but...

hmmhmm and HopeinChrist both said:

You know you've visited a bad church if...1909 views

What True Prayer is... 63 views

Mercy and Truth... 30 views

I do not know their intent, but it could have meant that we are spending too much time on this topic, however, if you took a broader picture of sermonindex, you could see it differently. So, those quotes mixed with the way this thread took a nose-dive, I wanted to point out that with all the 'seriousness' on sermonindex (rightfully so), that one thread, with humor, out of all the posts and topics would be a blessing. And that numbers can work in someones favor or not, just like false teachers with scripture.

Total Topics...14282(but now there is more)

Total Posts...112566(but now there is more)

Total Humorous...1 (You know you've visited a bad church if...)(this topic remains, which is good)

Sorry, Krispy, there was a point, hopefully I made it more clear. You are not thick, I am thin. I just wanted to state that a thread like this is good to have amongst everything else.

With all the 'debates' and people trying to get the last word. I truly believe that this thread has made a great point.

The other day, I walked into my door frame, because my door was not fully open and I tried to hurry through and squeeze by. At the time it was not too funny and I did not understand why it happened. Now I can laugh about it because I know I was in error, not the door frame.

We can have a laugh or crack a smile over many things. Remember, God gave us the ability. If we cannot laugh at ourselves (Christians), who or what can we laugh at or with?

;-) :-)

The truth does hurt sometimes, but it also can be funny. I do not recall one single person saying that our churches were 'sinning', rather they are 'saddening'.

You know you've visited a bad church if... everyone agrees!!!

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

Therefore, we have a wonderful 'church' here in sermonindex...Keep the fires alive, they prepare us as soldiers for the real enemy of the world; satan.

God Bless those that agree to disagree,  
Brian

P.S. Please do not try and make the point that a little poop in my brownie or bad language in a movie is the same as here. It is not.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/2/6 20:17**

Dear Ian,

Yes, brother, I am very married. I totally understand your point, I know how you feel. Right after I posted, I got a check in my spirit that I shouldn't have contributed here. The whole tone just seemed too jocular and irreverent.

Quote:

-----Zac Poonen's answer to that man was to go and buy a TV.  
-----

Ah, but this is not the same. I'm not sure Poonen would throw a wine and champagne and dancing party in his church. This is different than "condemning" someone for watching TV. I would never "condemn" a person for watching TV, just like I wouldn't "condemn" a man for getting a tattoo or earring who professes to be a Christian. But it would certainly be an indication of weakness and immaturity. Brothers and sisters are at different levels in the school of God. And conversely, a brother who is clean cut and pure-looking on the outside could be filled with a plethora of germs and bacterial sin on the inside. Only God knows our hearts, and how far we've advanced in his invisible school.

Quote:

-----Yes they served wine and champagne in the church.  
-----

Why? Why would a church serve wine and champagne? Why the surging music and dancing? Is this walking in the Holy Spirit and making no provision for the flesh? Ian, where do we draw the line? O, that we could just get a single *glimpse* into the face of Jesus Christ with all his blazing holiness and glory - brother, I assure you we would never pick up a glass of champagne or turn on the filthy idiot box again.

We would be changed. And go on and on from glory to glory into progressive perfection and holiness. We would begin to love the things God loves and hate the things God hates. We would become zealous for his righteousness and purity and humility and truth to shine like a sun through us. We would be totally crushed and self-deprecated to the level of a worm in a dunghill (dancing, gyrating, champagne drinking worms?) and there be exalted in knowledge and wisdom through godly affliction and suffering. Our only desire, our sole insatiable thirst would be to gain a more perfect revelation of Christ's holiness and conformity to Him in the inner man.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 22:49**

Quote:

-----  
murdog wrote:  
Ian,

I knew you were going to use those scriptures. I almost included them in my previous post. I don't think Paul is telling us to heap on the food sacrificed to idols. He knows idols are nothing, but most people don't. Therefore their consciences are made guilty if they partake.

Murray

Sorry for hijacking the thread!  
-----

Murray,

Maybe I have a particular affinity towards Paul's words as a self confessed carnivore! God made it good, so let's enjoy it! Pass the BBQ! (I hope you realize I'm attempting humor).

And on the 8th day man ate steak and it was very very very good!

**Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/2/6 23:17**

Brother Paul,

I wanted to input that I am not a member of Mars Hill and don't know their thinking behind their New Years party.

I do know some Mars Hill members and might be able to argue along their line of reasoning.

Mars Hill is very much about being a church to underdog, the prostitutes, the poor, the down trodden in the same way that the salvation army in the 1800's and preachers like Charles Spurgeon were.

In fact there is a rationale for allowing drinking goes much along the lines that 'Jesus wasn't against having a glass of wine, even with sinners and prostitutes.'

They take this farther to say that even Charles Spurgeon could drink with the best Sailors. However they do draw a strong line against drunkenness.

The point of me mentioning this event was to show that if taken out of context it could be easily misunderstood. Mars Hill is a very biblically grounded church. I encourage you to look up Mark Driscoll on youtube and listen to some of the short snippets about a 'missional church.' He talks about an open hand and a closed hand theology -something which I think is biblical.

So yeah, Mars Hill = Great Jesus Centered Church. I'm not a member, but I've seen their fruit. If I had just mentioned the new years eve party you'd probably think they were the worst church in the world. The thing is, their party was more about the irony of the fact that they were partying than just mindless fun.

**Re:, on: 2007/2/7 8:16**

Ian said:

Quote:

-----I hope you realize I'm attempting humor  
-----

Imagine... that's what I was doing when I started this thread. Huh.

Krispy

**Re:, on: 2007/2/7 8:23**

Quote:

-----I do not know their intent, but it could have meant that we are spending too much time on this topic, however, if you took a broader picture of sermonindex, you could see it differently. So, those quotes mixed with the way this thread took a nose-dive, I wanted to point out that with all the 'seriousness' on sermonindex (rightfully so), that one thread, with humor, out of all the posts and topics would be a blessing. And that numbers can work in someone's favor or not, just like false teachers with scripture.  
-----

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

I think the numbers show something as well. #1 People here like to laugh a little now and then... and #2 we can all relate to a topic like this.

There have actually been several humorous threads on this site from time to time, but unfortunately they usually end up in a long drawn out debate about something... I'm not sure why that is. I'm not sure why everything has to become a theological debating campaign.

I could post something like "The color orange is a very bright color!" ... and a debate about creation will break out, and someone will claim that orange is not just a color but a spiritual metaphor for salvation... then someone will point out that where the KJV says "orange" the NIV says "tangerine"... and someone else will argue that orange is not as intelligent a color as I am making it out to be (after all... I said orange was a very "bright" color)... etc etc.

I'm all for discussing the Bible in a manner that people learn and are encouraged and grow in the Lord... but I am convinced there are a lot of people here only because they loooooove to argue. Please notice the Spurgeon quote below my name.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/2/7 8:37**

Quote:  
-----I could post something like..."The color orange is a very bright color!"...and someone will claim that orange is not just a color but a spiritual metaphor for salvation  
-----

:-P

MC

**Re: Mr. Krispy - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/2/7 8:37**

Quote:  
-----then someone will point out that where the KJV says "orange" the NIV says "tangerine"....  
-----

If you take it back to the Greek...tangerine is actually the better word in this case. :-P

TJ

**Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2007/2/7 9:27**

Krispy,

The orange/tangerine debate, don't get me started. This could get uglier than the Cal/Arm thing!!!

Murray

**Re: - posted by MSeaman (), on: 2007/2/7 9:39**

Quote:  
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KrispyKrittr wrote:  
but I am convinced there are a lot of people here only because they loooooove to argue.

Krispy  
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Unfortunately, I have noticed this as well (and am probably one of the culprits), which is why I don't participate much in the forums anymore...

I thought that your thread was humorous and sad, how far have we fallen from what we've been called to...

**Re: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If... - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/4/26 1:23**

You know you are in a bad church when the visitors are ignored by the regular attendees. True story

ginnyrose

PS: I found this, thought it good ... and perhaps some may find it helpful?

**Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/4/26 10:43**

If the Pastor's introduction to giving tithes and offering is longer than his sermon.

**Re: - posted by Theophila (), on: 2010/4/26 11:30**

I strenuously object to the use of oranges as a metaphor for salvation!

I prefer apples.

And no, oranges aren't quite as bright as they seem.

There, I said it. You may all carry on with the serious conversation now....

**Re: You know your visiting a bad church if....., on: 2010/4/26 11:54**

The preacher screams BAM! a lot, and talks about the deaconess being a 3 foot tall angel with invisible bags of gold.

The preacher karate kicks the sick rather than laying on hands, and knocks out some teeth of an elderly sister.

The preacher got his learning on various trips to Heaven chatting with Abraham, the Apostle Paul, and Jesus himself, and converses with angels all the time..

There are 35 resurrections from the dead claimed, and ten thousand healings, but not one turns out to be real or verified.

The preacher gets caught committing adultery with a staff member, divorces his wife and children, marries his new girlfriend, and doesn't miss a beat as he goes on in ministry.

Everyone involved thinks this fellow is the Elijah to come, and the leader of the great end time revival, and coronates him and anoints him as such.

It could be time to vamoosh. Become historical. This might be a church to avoid.

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/4/26 12:42**

You know your visiting a bad church if.....repentance is not preached and Jesus is not the Head of the church!

God Bless  
mj

edit left out a word by mistake:)

**Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/4/26 14:20**

You know you are in a bad church if... Everyone is yelling in tongues so loud you can't hear yourself think nor praise God yourself and men are running up and down the isles with tambourines yelling as well. (True Story)

**Re: - posted by Joyful\_Heart, on: 2010/5/2 3:38**

If the preacher is making jokes or putting down his wife or family down. Or a new person comes in and everyone is more interested in their friends than welcoming them. Or when the Holy Spirit is quenched after an awesome worship time and someone who didn't even worship gets up and gives the craziest announcements. Or the Pastor singles a person out in the message instead of going to them in private. Or what is it, two fast and one slow song for worship. Or when asked, "how many are you running". I guess this means how many in your congregation. Or the wealthiest get the most honor. There is no call to repentance or time of prayer of any kind. Or no one goes forth for any kind of prayer.

But we are the light of the world so where the Lord has us that is where we should let it shine with the love of Jesus and pray, pray, pray! Amen

**Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2010/5/2 9:03**

you know your in a bad church when they have ATM machines for tithes and offerings.

**you know you have a BAD thread, on: 2010/5/2 10:06**

when it doesnt bring Glory to God.

**You know your visiting with the true church when - posted by wind\_blows, on: 2010/5/2 11:48**

How about this thought; You know your visiting amongst those in the "true Church" when Jesus is lifted up as head of a body of believers completely in love and devoted to HIM. You know that these believers, these followers of Jesus are not the same as so many others because there is genuine love in their hearts for one another and a real desire to live daily in submission and obedience to the Lord. Things of this world, like ministries, building bigger structures, and huge budgets don't concern them, when a need comes up they know that God will provide and is faithful. The main thought that binds them not only to each other but also to Jesus Christ as their Lord, is to see HIM glorified and HIS Kingdom preached throughout all the world. They have a heart for the lost even though they know that most in this lost world hate them and wish them harm. These followers of Jesus they don't focus on that, they focus on the ONE who suffered and died so that they might live. You know your visiting with the "true Church, the Bride of Christ...when their fruit bears witness to the ONE who redeemed them!"

**Re: You know your visiting with the true church when, on: 2010/5/2 16:22**

You know you've walked into a bad church when you thought you were going to church instead you end up walking into a zoo.

**General Topics :: You Know You're Visiting a Bad Church If...**

**Re: You know your visiting with the true church when - posted by Joyful\_Heart, on: 2010/5/4 14:17**

Amen Ellie! Amen!

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/5/4 17:09**

hi,when you run into al those who wrote on this topic,me included.jimp

**Re: - posted by knitefall, on: 2010/5/4 23:34**

Boy I'm sure glad I didn't post on this topic...