

Articles and Sermons :: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints**Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/7/16 9:58**

As we are in the end times there will be an influx of those in the Church teaching doctrines of demons to deceive even the elect of God. There will be many false teachers who claim to be of the truth but are not. Perhaps one of the most dangerous weapons against the Church is not persecution, but apathy and deception.

At times the deception in teaching is not obvious but in character it becomes more obvious. Does the minister live like Christ or is he full of greed, selfishness, self-exaltation, soulless and carnal? "The opposite of Christ is called the antichrist in the New Testament. If Christians do not see this clearly, then when the antichrist turns up on the world's stage, with his false signs and wonders, they too will blindly accept him."

A brother from the past century said of this demonic counterfeit: "When Satan gets into the pulpit, or the theological chair, and pretends to teach Christianity, when in reality he is corrupting it; pretends to be teaching Christian evidences when in reality he is undermining the very foundations of faith—then look out for him; he is at his most dangerous work."

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But where religious flesh is, we can almost always find evil spirits parading as anointed vessels. Without keen discernment we will be taken in by one with a false anointing. The devil's servants know how to act and talk like the Lord's servants—but they are counterfeit, and we must learn to recognize them by their fruit. They are all around us and will continue to increase in number as the coming of the Lord draws near."

We must be on guard against Satan's coworkers who appear to have a form of godliness, who seem impressive with a show of power but are devoid of the truth. We must be on guard against Satan as he can transform himself into an angel of light to deceive us. This calls for a need of discernment in the body of Christ especially as it relates to the end times. As we near the end of the age there will be many false prophets and teachers using supernatural miracles and healing to deceive even God's elect.

Our prayer must always be for discernment and a love of the truth as we near the coming of our Lord and as we gather under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

from: <http://gospelfellowships.net/principles-book/>

Re: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints - posted by jstrang (), on: 2013/7/16 10:31

This is so very true and is happening all over right now. Praise God if you are in a church where your pastor prays, weeps and pleads for the fellowship. Praise God if your pastor(s)(elders) refuse to run from biblical truth and at the same time are truly being led of the Holy Spirit of Almighty God. When you are in such a true church, people will either be converted, run for the hills, or persecute you! This is what will happen and is a reality for the saints all over the world.

Jeremy
www.Time2Stand.com

Re: - posted by iceman9, on: 2013/7/16 11:24

Brothers—Where are the weeping pastors?

There are none to be found. Most that I see care more about making a name for themselves than for God. More concerned about recreation and leisure than spending time pressing into God. More time feasting than fasting. Many of the "pastors" I know would be more likely to laugh behind the back of someone with a broken heart than to weep with them. More concerned with not offending people and possibly disrupting their financial security than seeking to have their heart lined up with God's heart.

Where are the true spiritual leaders of today? Where are the men of God? Where are the true prophets of God?

I see the pastors of today who live two lives. They are spiritual when in the pulpit but so very worldly when out. Where are the men of God who are the same person in the church as they are at home?

I have been in elders meetings that would make the boys locker room in a public school look like a Holy Spirit led prayer meeting. People wonder why I stepped down from that church...

I've talked to "pastors" who know all kinds of sport statistics but know God's Holy Scriptures less than my 9 year old.

They can quote someone's batting average or golf score but can't point out the most basic of Christian doctrines in the Bible. These are not shepherds of God's people. They don't know their place, they don't know their sheep, they don't know God's guiding book.

I want to pray and fellowship with people who want God more than anything else. Where are these people? Where is the remnant of true worshippers of God?

Again - where are the pastors that walk so close to God that their hearts break with the things that break the heart of God?

Where are the pastors that weep?

Re: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints, on: 2013/7/16 11:57

Thank you for this post and for the words of encouragement. I have been fed by these daily postings taken from the principles book, because I believe they are relative to the current condition of the church and the need of the hour. Please continue to post as the Lord leads you. God bless and keep the Gordon family in the love of God, K&B

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2013/7/16 12:02

I agree, we need men of God who weep. But we need more than just this. Recently, I have been hearing a loud and earnest call for me who will weep. Jesus certainly did say, "Blessed are those who weep." But in this time of apostasy, we need men who "cry aloud and do not hold back, raise your voice like a trumpet and declare to my people their iniquity and to house their sin!"

Men of such times stand up boldly, forsaking all else for Christ. Our times call for such men. Are you on the alert and ready to be such?

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2013/7/16 12:04

I understand that the post is mostly cut/pasting from an article.

However, I must interject. Although there is a kernel of truth in the article it is also so riddled with ungodly fear that it creates as much or more error than it could ever solve, in my humble opinion.

The entire tone and flavor would seem to do nothing but instill fear, fret, and worry to most Christians that may not be mature enough to simply judge by the fruit of a ministry and the content of its message.

Do you see the difference? The article ENCOURAGES people to reject anything supernatural based on the fact that it is supernatural. What a total perversion of truth that is.

He is JEHOVAH RAPHA - THE LORD OUR HEALER. The devil isn't my healer... JESUS is! The article encourages Christians to reject God the Father in one of the ways He has revealed Himself.

In reality Satan can't heal at all as he does not possess that power. What he does in actuality is strike people with sickness and disease (There are literally piles of scripture to verify this, but I am assuming folks know that...but maybe I shouldn't assume so) after a demon strikes them if there is some advantage to be gained by the demon releasing his grip of sickness/disease he might do so for a while. That is all that happens in those cases. Satan can't heal! Jesus

heals those who call on His name in faith!

This article encourages people to judge a ministry based on the fact it has supernatural happenings following it. That idea will certainly take a person INTO being deceived... not kept from it.

DO NOT judge any ministry by manifestations! A ministry is not "of GOD" or "of satan" because it has supernatural manifestations. You can NOT accurately judge on manifestations alone. Judge it by the content of the message it carries and the fruit it produces in the lives of people!

If we were to follow the perspective of this article we would also need to reject the ministries of the Apostle Paul, Peter, many of the OT prophets, Moses, even Jesus Himself! How silly! He seems unaware that although Jannes and Jambres did produce miracles in Pharaoh's court it was the fact that Moses' miracles were more powerful that established his credibility! Do you remember that Moses serpent ate theirs!

If I see demonic supernatural manifestations I intend to confront them in the name of Jesus! I will not run and hide like a coward afraid of the enemy! What a pathetic bunch of weak babies the North American church has become! Instead confront the power of the enemy with the far greater power of the risen Jesus Christ...then when the show down is won, and you have peoples attention, give a clear message of how that same Jesus that just demonstrated His power among them also conquered death, hell, and the grave. That same Jesus paid for thier sin with His own blood and offers eternal life to all who will repent and believe the Gospel. Powerful demonstrations of the supernatural arrest the attention of the world and verify the message of the Gospel (see Mark 16).

God IS NOT in the back seat of power to satan. However, the author does not appear to know that fact.

With my own eyes I have seen arms grown back, people raised from wheelchairs, deaf ears from birth instantly pop open decades later, grapefruit sized cancerous tumors, and larger, instantly melt from the body (once only minutes before they were going to have it surgically removed in the hospital. That one was my own cousin. I know what I am talking about). This is just a small smattering of examples. They are from people I know first hand, know all the back story on, and saw with my own eyes. They were healed in Jesus name in response to believing prayer offered by God's children. This article expects me to believe demons did that? That is utter non sense!

The article states

Quote:
-----We must be on guard against Satan's coworkers who appear to have a form of godliness, who seem impressive with a show of power but are devoid of the truth. We must be on guard against Satan as he can transform himself into an angel of light to deceive us. This calls for a need of discernment in the body of Christ especially as it relates to the end times. As we near the end of the age there will be many false prophets and teachers using supernatural miracles and healing to deceive even God's elect.

While there is again a kernel of truth to that the author appears absolutely ignorant of the balance of scripture. Has he never read 2 Timothy in full?

Quote:
-----This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come....Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. - 2 Tim3:1,3 ESV

. The article appears to actually do that very thing..deny the power! Did you also notice how he took a portion of the 2 Timothy verse and then 180 degree perverted it into exactly opposite of the message and words in scripture? Timothy was actually advised to turn away from the ONES WHO DENY THE POWER.

Again, I can list piles of scripture to verify that. However, I tend to think based on the responses I often see on the threads that the scriptural balance would not have much to do with the discussion. Far more simple emotion and defending of positions has seemed to happen on those topics.

The author appears to put people at risk of possibly rejecting God Himself by his position. It appears to me to be a quite dangerous and immature stance that the Gospel fellowship article took. I have no grievance with them at all. However, this specific article presents a view that will rob Christians of receiving from their Heavenly Father and dampen out His power demonstrated in the earth. This will result in a weakened witness of Him and anemic evangelism resulting.

It appears that the author of the article is AGAINST demonstrating Mark 16 to the world.

Quote:
-----these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover....And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. Mark 15 ESV

Seems fairly obvious what the signs following believers are to be. He appears to reject that.

He appears to give virtually all credit for power and the supernatural to satan. He appears to fear the power of satan more than the power of God to overcome demons. That is in itself dangerous!

Quote:
-----God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil . Acts 10:38 ESV

In the New Testament we find it is demon powers afflicting and tormenting people....NOT GOD! Read that verse from Acts again. The article appears to be in direct contradiction to that scripture.

Again, there is a kernel of truth in the article but it is so riddled with fear and error that the end result actually is more deceptive than any deception it tries to reveal.

Do you notice about he speaks at length about the power of satan and great deceptive abilities of the enemy. However, he does not mention the greater power of God to keep you, engage the enemy, or kick the stuffing out of the enemy. It appears he does not realize he actually has the greater power and bigger guns residing in himself if he is a child of God.

Quote:
-----Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world

Simple enough isn't it?

This article is a result of fear not faith.

If some would actually like to dig on their own the Apostle Paul specifically gives the things that are the marks of a true Apostle in his own words. Surely helps to clear out the type of confusion that article presents when you know what they are from his own mouth.

I apologize for the length of the response. However, I started typing and it just kept coming. If you were patient enough to read through it all it is appreciated.

Blessings!

Re: Don't be ruled by paranoia or fear., on: 2013/7/16 12:33

I hope we don't go on "witch hunts", now. We should not walk in fear or spread paranoia. The Lord DID SAY that the "goats and sheep", "tares and wheat" will grow up together.

I can see that there is going to be a lot of good sheep destroyed if we continue down this road.

And that there will be heresies amongst us.

1Co_11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

If you try to separate you will harm many sheep.

Mat 13:28 He said unto them, AN ENEMY HATH DONE THIS. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up (PARANOIA,FEAR)?

Mat 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, YE ROOT UP ALSO THE WHEAT WITH THEM (DESTROY THE SHEEP).

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, WARN THEM THAT ARE UNRULY comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, BE PATIENT TOWARD ALL MEN.

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Who knows that some might be converted.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/16 13:17

Solomon,

I totally get what you are saying. I definitely don't want to walk around in fear. But I don't think the article is advocating rejecting anything miraculous.

This is a very small example, but it happened yesterday. I was witnessing to this man and he was sure that he was saved, although he completely lived like a lost person, and it didn't bother him in the least. His testimony was that he was sitting in church, not paying attention, when suddenly he couldn't stay sat down. He, out of complete control of his own will, rose up and headed to the front and got baptized. There was no presentation of the gospel.

I told him, "Buddy, I don't care if an angel from heaven appeared to you and told you that you are saved; if you never heard the gospel before then you do not belong to the Lord." Now that man was depending on those things that seemed miraculous to him to confirm his stance with the Lord. But it was clear to him and it was clear to me as we finished talking that he didn't know the Lord. It still didn't bother him, but he knew where he stood.

Jesus will send many to hell and their defense will be "Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we heal in your name? Didn't we cast out demons in your name?" Obviously they were convinced that they were the Lord's because of the miraculous things that they did. But they did not know the Lord.

It should cause us to fear and tremble to hear these things. Doesn't the scripture admonish us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling?

I think this article is only advocating that we need to be discerning and seek the Lord.

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 13:32

Quote:

-----I hope we don't go on "witch hunts", now. We should not walk in fear or spread paranoia. The Lord DID SAY that the "goats and sheep", "tares and wheat" will grow up together.

I can see that there is going to be a lot of good sheep destroyed if we continue down this road.

And that there will be heresies amongst us.

1Co_11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

If you try to separate you will harm many sheep. just-in

This business of the wheat and the tares speaks of that place in which the dominion of the kingdom of heaven extends its influence. The parable itself clearly states that its meaning is a field and also that the field is the world. Given that in Revelation we read that in the end, the kingdoms of the world "have become the Kingdom of heaven...." and further that the scripture tells us that the kingdom was in sight from the foundation of the world, it may be possible to understand that when the Lord spoke of wheat and tares growing side by side He was speaking about the world.

What appears to be lost today in many quarters is an understanding that the church is not all that which stands in visibility and name as "the church". When we meet together it is inevitable that tares will come in amongst the wheat. It is also necessary that the wheat in the end bear fruit and thus are the tares and the wheat separated in visibility. The final separation will be by angels and the meaning will be the end of the world ruled by Satan from the air and the beginning of the visible kingdom of Christ and of Christ Himself ruling from Jerusalem.

So yes we don't need a witch hunt if that means are tare hunt, but if a witch does come into your meeting and you do not contend with them in the power of the Holy Spirit you will be handing the place over to them in whatever measure they are used by Satan. This may seem like a silly thing to say but it is not silly it is precisely true and happens. How can it happen? Because not all of the tares are simply foolish men and women with good intentions following every sign and wonder and therein believing they have some evidence of God. Who by that means of the visibility and show of the power of God, in name though in truth not so, are thereby deceived into believing they are part of the kingdom of God. Of course they are in one profound sense yet it is not a life relationship if in fact they are not born from on high, but a relationship of death in Adam and in the world, perishing and passing away. Some of these tares are in fact wicked and deceitful men and women. Who as the article says can be recognised by their sensuous greed lives. They are the false workers and the false prophets and false apostles and false men and women who profit from God and the things of God taking that which is not theirs, rather the Father's purchase, by the blood of Christ and making it a thing of their own. Such men and women should be feared and rejected. If they who behave in this sensuous and covetous way in the end prove to be brethren it will be because in their rejection of the true saints will once again turn and repent of their greed and sensuality.

The idea that it is possible to simply wield the power of God like a sword and lay waste to these men and women, although this would in any event prove anything, is similarly wrong. There are a few exceptional deceivers and they do in fact need to be contended with in the power of the Spirit. There are even fewer truly wicked men and women as these things are measured and they can be dealt with by the power of God and this must needs be apostolic; yet show me the apostle and I will show you the power of God working in sound truth. In the end the Lord Himself permits these things because it is His body and if His body is lazy and fleshy He will permit the enemy to have his way among them, even unto death. Such is the meaning of end time deceivers of which there will be many because they would not repent and would not turn away from their wickedness who listen to these false workers.

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 15:34

Amr,

"witch-hunt" is an american colloquialism.

But, good post.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/16 15:44

Another issue that ties into this is church discipline. Matthew 18 and 1 & 2 Corinthians are prime examples of church discipline. Church discipline will result in the repentance of a believer or it will result in safeguarding the flock from an unbeliever who is spreading lies and deceit.

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 15:49

Church discipline seems to have taken a back seat to pews filled with tithers.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/16 16:28

That's something I have been pushing to teach in my church. It's scary though. It always seems to either get taken to one extreme--where a brother, filled with pride, gladly takes a swing at his brother in front of the whole congregation--or the other extreme--where everyone says, "Oh, it isn't that bad. It's not like they are killing people." and it just keeps growing and growing as a problem.

I wanna see men who humble themselves and prayerfully and lovingly correct other brothers for the sake of the Gospel, who don't rejoice if it ever comes down to removing them from the fellowship, who accepts back with open arms those who repent, who can take loving correction as well, and who watch themselves, lest they fall. If we, seeking the Lord, humbling ourselves, I believe it is possible. This will not harm us, but benefit us incredibly.

What do you guys think? I am not a church discipline guru, but I believe it could work, if we do it biblically. Is this done at any of your churches?

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 16:54

havok, I cannot even relate to what you are talking about. I'm in a house church where everyone loves each other and no one is protecting any "turf" or taking advantage of one another.

I would go find a few brothers that want to dwell in peace, focus on Jesus and hang out with them.

Read Jeremiah 9.

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/7/16 16:56

I was in a meeting where a person got up with a supposed prophetic message and the speaker told them to sit down and be silent. The down side with many discernment articles is that while they can present some truth, they often neglect love of the brethren,..."by this shall all men know that you are my disciples....Love, one toward another"... It would appear that suspicion is the seed planted with division being the fruit born..Unfortunately to go the opposite direction can be equally damaging. I think 2 Cor 12 is probably a good place to start when looking at people who desire to minister in the congregation, whether from the pulpit or the pew.

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 17:38

It seems to me that many people are just related by the organization they belong to, the meetings they attend and the programs they have volunteered for. And for some reason they think they treat each other, rudely.

That is a lot different than seeing yourself related to one another through Christ, as sisters and brothers in a world that hates Him.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/16 17:45

Just-in,

it's great that you have a fellowship that does that. Church discipline is in the scriptures for a reason. I have seen it needed where I attend. If you guys don't need it, that's great!

Re: , on: 2013/7/16 18:17

We have not needed it as a corporate body. Fathers and Mothers bring discipline in their own families. We have not had anyone acting rebellious in our gatherings or trying to take over the fellowship meeting or living in open sin.

We have had people come through and try to hijack the fellowship with doctrine like sabbath-keeping, but ended up realizing they could not, and moved on.

We just told them that if they believe God is telling them to keep Saturday as the Sabbath, then they better obey the Lord, but He has not spoken that to us. They realized they could not put a wedge between us and with no one agreeing with them, they moved on.

Another fella, wanted to start evangelization "programs", judging that we did not evangelize enough (how could he know that?) so some brothers went with him downtown to preach (to support him) and we went out with him one day to a park (again, to support him) and in the middle of our picnic, he jumped up on a picnic table and started preaching fire and brimstone to the crowd. It wasn't even annointed and lacked compassion and brokenness.

He ended up moving on. We did not tell him to go.

The fact of the matter is that everyone goes to work, shops, has family members that don't know the Lord, and any number of other relationships they have, where they are next to people and have many chances (led by the Spirit) to share the gospel.

I guess this fella was a bit uncomfortable with open meetings and wanted to "organize" us.

Anyway, been together for over 10 years and several new families have joined, lately. Not that numbers mean anything (they never have). Kids have grown up, many are teenagers, some love the Lord and some are slowly making their way towards Calvary.

One piece of advice is don't build a fellowship on meetings. Be friends and be involved in each other's lives during the week.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2013/7/16 19:27

QUOTE:

"Is this done at any of your churches?"

Yes.

We have a brother in our church that struggles with immorality. At the present I am not sure of his membership status, but he has been banned from holding any church office, assume any leadership position, including teaching, having a devotional or any business office. He attends and the leadership is working with him...

Havok, you are right, if church discipline would be used it would do a lot to weed out the leaven that infects the entire body of Believers. Having said that, I have never seen it done perfectly, but I suppose that even feeble attempts are better than none at all although a pastor can soon run into selective confrontation depending on the offender, becoming politica

I.

I understand Greg's concern and commend him for sharing OP.

Re: - posted by docseth1 (), on: 2013/7/16 19:35

"The article ENCOURAGES people to reject anything supernatural based on the fact that it is supernatural. What a total perversion of truth that is."

I see your angle, but I disagree with your assessment of this post.

I see this sort of thing on these forums quite often! You have read something into this article that's not there. If you will go back and carefully read the article, the emphasis is on false teachers and prophets who use the "miraculous" to deceive, which according to Mt 7 & 24 is a real possibility. The writer never stated that the supernatural or miracles themselves were a form of deception. Now that may have been what the writer meant, but that's not what was written. He wrote that false teachers who use the supernatural to deceive are the ones we need to be on guard against.

Having said that, I agree that presenting a problem without giving a solution is not helpful. This too is a very common occurrence on SI. I'm sure I've done exactly the same thing. I do think this letter was intended for more mature Christians who know these things but who simply need to be reminded that deception is real.

Re: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints - posted by acarrollfan (), on: 2013/7/16 23:06

This is a good read.

Re: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2013/7/17 9:02

"At times the deception in teaching is not obvious but in character it becomes more obvious. Does the minister live like Christ or is he full of greed, selfishness, self-exaltation, soulless and carnal? The opposite of Christ is called the antichrist in the New Testament. If Christians do not see this clearly, then when the antichrist turns up on the world's stage, with his false signs and wonders, they too will blindly accept him."

Jesus said that we would know them by their fruits: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (Matthew 7:15-20).

Is the teaching that is being brought forth in line with the Word of God? The enemy will attempt to mix in false teaching with the Word of God. Scriptures will be taken out of context. We must study to show ourselves approved of God and be able to rightly divide the Word of truth.

The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth, is living within us. If we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit we will know, and be able to discern the difference between flesh and spirit, truth and error, and we will also know when there is mixture. "As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him." (1 John 2:27)

The gospel of Jesus Christ is still the power of God that brings salvation unto every one that believes. When the good news of Jesus Christ is preached people will be saved, they will be delivered, and healings will take place. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (Romans 1:16).

Mike

Re: hey bro. Mike - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/7/17 9:26

what was going through my mind as I read your response and have read through this thread is the Hebrews who the apostles stated crept in unawares and Paul called them false brethren and the teaching they had was scriptural according to the OT teachings....circumcision however Paul called that a false teaching. What I have seen in the church is some people just by nature are very disciplined or regimented in their own course of life, they may be very moral people, upright in their ways but they embrace a righteousness by works type of religion, just like the days of old, a little of Jesus, a little of works, but ultimately when push comes to shove they will never lay down their lives for the (brethren) saints or body of Christ. As I've been reading many of these ...discernment type threads I have become increasingly aware of what Jesus said..."BY this shall all men KNOW that YOU are my disciples" and it boiled down to one characteristic , Agape' love. And we all know the characteristics of love found in 1Cor13 and Gal. but it seems that much of what we pass off as godly is really just a person who can discipline themselves to act a certain way in public and teach a certain doctrine but genuine christianity has always been a willingness to lay down our life for the brothers and sisters where God has placed us.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2013/7/17 9:49

"but it seems that much of what we pass off as godly is really just a person who can discipline themselves to act a certain way in public and teach a certain doctrine but genuine christianity has always been a willingness to lay down our life for the brothers and sisters where God has placed us."

Amen brother! Only the Holy Spirit can give life, and much of the time the dead letter of the law is taught, which is the ministry of death. The words of Jesus are spirit and they are life. The ministry of the new covenant is a ministry of life.

Mike

Re: , on: 2013/7/17 11:07

Quote:

-----what was going through my mind as I read your response and have read through this thread is the Hebrews who the apostles stated crept in unawares and Paul called them false brethren and the teaching they had was scriptural according to the OT teachings....circumcision however Paul called that a false teaching. What I have seen in the church is some people just by nature are very disciplined or regimented in their own course of life, they may be very moral people, upright in their ways but they embrace a righteousness by works type of religion, just like the days of old, a little of Jesus, a little of works, but ultimately when push comes to shove they will never lay down their lives for the (brethren) saints or body of Christ. As I've been reading many of these ...discernment type threads I have become increasingly aware of what Jesus said..."BY this shall all men KNOW that YOU are my disciples" and it boiled down to one characteristic , Agape' love. And we all know the characteristics of love found in 1Cor13 and Gal. but it seems that much of what we pass off as godly is really just a person who can discipline themselves to act a certain way in public and teach a certain doctrine but genuine christianity has always been a willingness to lay down our life for the brothers and sisters where God has placed us.

Very well, said. Amen!

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/17 13:27

Just-In,

That is something I was talking about recently with another brother. That very few of us had anything to do with one another outside of church. I referenced a few scriptures and he agree, but nothing was done.

That kills me. I can't walk with the Lord by myself. I can't grow in Christ without my other brothers and sisters. Yes, there must be some separation and a personal walk with the Lord, but without true fellowship with other believers and their constant interaction in my life--their watchfulness, their love, their encouragement, their correction, their spiritual gifts, etc --I will never more than what I am now. I am just a piece of the body, not the whole. And it is the same with all of us. They need me just as much as I need them. That is why I am excited about house churches, but the ones I have been to around here are very emergent/mystical in their practices and that sends up all kinds of red flags. I long for fellowship and I know those who are in my church do to. But we seem to be unable to break through all the formalities of churchiness. My church is very close to being financially bankrupt. Sometimes I wish it would happen and we would lose the building so we we be forced to meet in a home and really, truly have fellowship.

Either way, it's devastating me inside and out. That is why I came on these forums and read what the Lord is doing in other's lives and what things He is teaching them. Cause I want some form of that more than what I currently have.

But I am pushing. I am pushing as hard as I can to break down all those walls. It is hard though.

I am not being selfish, but it is the reality of our faith. I can't grow without the rest of the body. And only being attached on Sunday and Wednesday to the body does not give the support that it needs to live.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2013/7/17 15:15

havok,

You say you long for fellowship...What say if you invite these people into your home for food and fellowship on a regular basis?

After our daughter Regina died I felt led to do this very thing. Once a month, I would invite people from church on a Sunday evening when we did not have services. We would all sit around the dining room table and sing for one hour. I provided them with a sweet drink to lubricate their vocal cords so they can sing. I was also particular who I invited - I wanted a good mix of people who could sing four part harmony. For example, I did not want all bass singers and one weak tenor. If there is a weak tenor, invite also someone who is a strong one. Doing so, did wonders to help me deal with the grief of losing our daughter. AND the spirit of that fellowship was awesome. The Spirit of the LORD was there...

Need to do it again - got out of habit doing it. BTW, I did serve some snack food afterwards...you can't meet without eating something!:-)

God bless.

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/7/17 15:20

BTW, I did serve some snack food afterwards...you can't meet without eating something!:-)

AMEN!

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/17 16:07

My Sunday school class has started having dedicated days of fellowship each month, it is a start. I am hoping that eventually, we'll be close knit. There are some brothers in the church that I am very close to. But My church isn't just me and them. I want us all to strive for godliness in our relationships with one another. That doesn't mean just not hating each other or not treating each other unkindly. Lost people can do that. I am talking about us being closer than any husband/wife or mother/child, etc.

Re: , on: 2013/7/17 16:28

Quote:

-----I am talking about us being closer than any husband/wife or mother/child, etc.

I am closer to my wife than anyone else. The only way I would be closer to someone else more than my wife is if I invested more time with them and less time with my wife and the Lord is not leading me in that direction. He never has.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2013/7/17 17:32

lol...I was just trying to express closeness. I wasn't saying anything beyond that. That was over the top, I suppose.

Re: , on: 2013/7/17 17:53

no problem. I'm chuckling, too.

Re: Satan's Co-workers found in meetings of God's saints - posted by murrcoir (), on: 2013/7/18 5:08

The Early Years of the Tongues Movement

<http://www.banner.org.uk/tb/lang.html>

I read this online book non-stop I was shocked, but it will show you clearly that Satan's Co-workers are found in meetings of God's saints.

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/7/18 8:54

I remember the first Sermon Index conference held in Canton, I had witches come up to me and speak curses at me right after a meeting or service, and strange things would happen...no big deal though, normally just grabbed another believer and used the promises of God in prayer and those things would stop.

Re: , on: 2013/7/18 11:07

Movements may be invalidate but the Gifts of Spirit cannot be.

There are counterfeits and there is the "real thing".