

Some Do's and Don'ts of Church

January 24, 2019

What we perceive by sight and intellect is very often the diametric opposite of God's perception and wisdom:

- *true and false*
- *good and evil*
- *success and failure*
- *wisdom and foolishness*
- *possible and impossible*

1 Samuel 16:6-7 ESV

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

James 4:4 ESV

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed (*syschēmatizō* - to conform or fashion one's self to another's pattern) to this world, but be transformed (*metamorphōō* - transfigured, transformed) by the renewal (*anakainōsis* - to renovate) of your mind, that by testing (*dokimazō* - test, examine, prove, scrutinize) you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

If we are not spiritually alert to the carnal/worldly mind warring against the Biblical/spiritual mind, we will perceive and function as the Church in error, according to human/worldly wisdom.

The ministry of the Church:

- **Guided by the Word of God (absolute and uncompromised)**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1 Corinthians 3:9-13 ESV

9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw--

13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

- **Birthered, empowered, administrated by the Holy Spirit**

Zechariah 4:6 ESV

6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Psalms 127:1 ESV A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Acts 2:1-4 ESV

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- God birthered the Church by the Holy Spirit in such a way that no man could ever imagine, design, manufacture or duplicate what God did.
- The Church is to continue today in that same pattern and manner of the supernatural.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- **All for the Glory of God**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ESV

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,
29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Four of the greatest dangers to the Church:

- **Apparent success and the need to keep the appearance of success going.**

- *If the visual, temporal appearance of success is not there, the natural man/woman is not attracted.*
- *If the visual, temporal appearance of success is not there, "something must be wrong."*
- *Religious activity for the sake of appearance can hide the true, internal condition of the heart.*

Revelation 3:1-2 ESV

1 And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

- **Acceptance by the world and keeping the world's respect.**

- *There can be a compulsion to convince the world that the Church is worthy of their respect and acceptance.*
- *There is often the desire to prove that the Church is all-accepting, all-inclusive and non-judgmental.*
- *There can be the danger of altering and compromising the message and the methods to be more appealing the carnal intellect and appetites.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Jude 1:4 ESV

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- **Institutionalization by man's wisdom and methods.**

- Especially with numeric growth, there is a need for greater structure and organization, which many times leads to the machinery and strategies of human and even worldly methods being employed.
- When human machinery and strategies take over a Church, many times if not most of the times, the work of the Holy Spirit is hindered and choked out.

Mark 7:9-13 ESV

9 And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'

11 But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)--

12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother,

13 thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

- **Comparison**

- One of the fastest ways to hinder and even stop the work of God in a Church ministry is to make draw comparisons to other ministries.

John 21:18-22 ESV

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

1 Corinthians 3:1-15 ESV

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 ESV

1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.