



Missing the Mark - 2 (Liberalism)

Matthew 15:6,13 -- "...And thus you invalidate the word of God for the sake of your tradition... Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up."

Introduction

1. We began part – 1 with the story of Floyd Decker who in 1929 left the Christian Church and became a member of the church of Christ. In 1944, he wrote an article titled, "Why I Left the Christian Church."
2. In that article he listed THIRTEEN differences between the Christian Church and the church of Christ.
3. Today we are looking at those differences to determine if the problems of liberalism have followed Mr. Decker into the Lord's church. Here are the last seven of his 13 reasons for leaving to begin with.

G. The Christian Church Appeals to Carnal Means

1. With the use of carnivals, bands, plays, choruses, dramatics, church kitchens, camps and fellowship halls.
2. In the last part of the first century a major meal was added to the Lord's Supper and termed an "Agape Feast." Even in Paul's time it was getting out of hand. By the second century it was abandoned because the people couldn't keep from abusing it.
3. The best advice given by Paul was to keep a separation between the worship of God and the satisfying of our own appetites, which seem to need measuring even then.

1 Corinthians 10:7 -- And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."

Romans 14:17 -- For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 11:22,34 -- What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you... If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.

H. The Christian Church Elevates Preachers.

1. It gives them titles as: Pastor, Superintendent, President and Doctor.
2. It also forces them in a "Pastor System" of "running after members," taxi people around, hold hands of the sick, and lets the preaching of the gospel slide.

Matthew 23:5-12 -- But they do all their deeds to be notice by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments. And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi. But do not be called Rabbi; for One your Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Job 32:21-22 -- Let me now be partial to no one; nor flatter any man. For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.

3. From what we have seen in our study of Deuteronomy, God's intent was for no one to have preeminence over others, whether king, priest, judge, etc.

I. The Christian Church uses "Christian" as a Non-Noun.

1. Thus it speaks of "Christian nations," "Christian schools" and "Christian churches."
2. If Christ did not start a nation or school how can you designate it as something He did? If it is His church then it is not something "like" but "is" Christ's church.

3. When we get away from the original meanings of words as found in the New Testament we begin to come up with all sorts of strange ideas. Etymologically we have gone from something “of or belonging to the Lord” to “Christ-like tattoos and jewelry.”

Acts 11:26 -- And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1 Peter 4:16 -- But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

J. The Christian Church takes up Collections other than on first day.

1. The money is also collected by unscriptural means with the church holding suppers, property rentals, etc. and these occurring throughout the week.
2. It is not for the church as a whole to make money or to go into business other than what the Lord established it for: preaching the word, helping fellow Christians, worshipping God.
3. The collection is rather for the individual to give as he has prospered in order that he may see how God has blessed him and that he may glorify God accordingly.

2 Corinthians 9:7 -- Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 -- Now concerning the collection for the saints... On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

K. The Christian Church owns and operates other organizations.

1. Publishing houses, Radio stations, Hospitals and Benevolent societies all seem to develop into ways people come up with to pay someone else to do their work of evangelizing for them.
2. Even to the point of allowing other churches to run their church.

Ephesians 3:21 -- To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:10 -- In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

L. The Christian Church owns, supports and operates secular Schools.

1. Often this is done through theological schools. The responsibility of a godly education falls upon the shoulders of the church and the family, not a school.
2. When churches participate in secular education, the government has always become involved which has meant the government dictating what is to be taught and who can teach it. It is a sure path to liberalism and even humanism.
3. Further, when churches have been involved even in lower grade schooling, the trend has been for the school to be successful and for the church to fail.

1 Timothy 3:15 -- ...I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

M. The Christian Church has a compromising spirit.

1. It will not defend its doctrine, has no regard for the authority of the Bible, bases its practice on the silence of the scriptures, and appeals to the traditions of the elders rather than to the unadulterated gospel of Christ.
2. With more and more churches moving to greater degrees of liberalism, it is more and more difficult to see even a remnant of the New Testament church. Churches are evolving into something completely foreign to the church found in God’s word.
3. Instead, the church is becoming an “out reach” societal structure cleaning highways, offering recreation, and being a food bank for the community, rather than “reaching out” with the gospel to save lost souls and bringing people into proper communion with their God.