

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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CHURCH LOYALTY

By: C. D. Cole

Ephesians 5:22, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.”

Introduction: Among our many needs is that we need to be more church-conscious. But in being church-conscious we must be careful that it is the fruit of being Christ-conscious. It is quite possible for one to be church-conscious and yet have little or no thought and love for Christ. But one cannot be Christ-conscious and despise Christ’s church.

Dr. Lee: “Church members need to confer with themselves often concerning the warmth and strength of their church loyalty. The Christian who is loyal to his church above all other institutions is like the man who is loyal to his wife above all other women, and like the patriot who is loyal to his own flag above all other nations, and like the child who is loyal to his own father and mother above all other men and women.” And he further says, That the person who regards the obligations of any relationship lightly is a light weight.

One may love the church for its material benefits and have no love and appreciation for its spiritual ministry. We ought to love the

church for Christ’s sake and if we love it for His sake we will be loyal to its ministry of teaching and preaching the word. Our minds may trick us here. We may be loyal to the church in a program of eats and entertainment and have little sympathy with its spiritual ministry.

Why is the church to be so important to us? Why are we to be loyal to the church above every other institution? Because of its relation to Christ.

It is His body. Colossians 1:18, *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”* He is the head of the church. Ephesians 5:23b, *“Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”* Ephesians 5:24a,25b-27, *“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such*

thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” The church is subject to Him and as members we must be subject to Him.

No bride has ever been loved as Christ loves the church.

It is His bride. The church is the object of His undying love. No bride has ever been loved as Christ loves the church. No husband has ever given himself to his wife as Christ gave Himself for the church.

How are we to show our love to the church? Hebrews 10:25, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

By attendance upon its meetings. We need a sensitive conscience on church going. It is hard to convince many church members that it is a sin to neglect church attendance. One of the best ways to cripple the church is to ignore it and stay away from its meetings. And this is the best way to show contempt for the church.

Conclusion: Every member is important and is needed for the

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AN INEFFICIENT RELIGION

By C. D. Cole

Isaiah 28:20, *“For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.”*

Introduction: The Bible abounds in striking representations, beautiful maxims, telling sentences; sayings and proverbs which illustrate general or particular truths. Our text represents the futility of Israel’s efforts at help and comfort in a time of crisis, probably referring to their war with the Assyrians. They were represented in their difficulties to a man trying to rest on a bed too short to stretch himself on, and trying to keep warm with cover too narrow.

I. Any religion that fails to take into account the satisfaction of justice is an inefficient religion. The justice of God is inexorable and unbending in its demands.

Sin must be punished. Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Galatians 3:10, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”*

Sin is not punished in this life. There is a sort of natural retribution in which a man reaps what he sows in this life. But there is a day of judgment in which eternal punishment is fixed and entered upon. Hebrews 9:27, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but*

after this the judgment:” Matthew 10:15, *“Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”*

The believer’s sin was punished in his Surety and substitute, Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 5:21, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* I Peter 2:24, *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”* I Peter 3:18, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”*

II. Any religion that leaves the heart and life untouched is a vain religion.

The man who has no interest in Christ except to use Him as a fire escape from hell has a vain religion. Christ did suffer the fires of hell that we might escape it, but He is both Lord to be obeyed as well as Christ to be trusted.

The man who abuses grace by pleading grace as a license to sin has a vain religion. Saving religion is a religion of good works – works not as the cause but as an evidence of salvation. Works not as the root but as the fruit of salvation. Illustration: A chaplain was dealing with a condemned criminal; the man was already in the death row. The condemned man seemed much interested in religion and professed to

believe the gospel. But in the course of events the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. When the chaplain brought the good news to the criminal, he thanked the chaplain for his kind attention and then threw the Bible across the cell and said to the chaplain, “I have no further use for you or the Bible.” This appears to be the case with lots of Church members. They once professed much interest and claimed to have been saved, but they seem to have no more use for Christ and the Bible.

III. Any religion that substitutes anything for Christ in salvation is inefficient. There are many substitutes for Christ.

Self righteousness. Romans 10:1, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”*

Ceremonialism. Hebrews 10:11-12, *“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God:”*

Church membership. People who are added to the church should already be saved. Acts 2:46-47, *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*

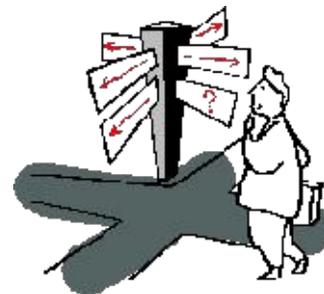
Self-deception. Profess they know God. Titus 1:15-16, "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Conclusion: Don't try to rest your tired soul on a short bed; stretch your soul full length on Christ and find rest and safety. Matthew 11:28-29, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Don't try to cover your nakedness of soul with a narrow quilt; pull the imputed robe of Christ's righteousness over you and be safe from the fatal cold of the guilt of sin.

GOD'S WILL AND HOW TO FIND IT

How do you find God's will in specific situations? Henry Drummond suggests taking these eight actions:

1. Pray.
2. Think.
3. Ask wise people for their counsel, but don't let them tell you exactly what you should do.
4. Beware of the bias of your own will, but don't be too afraid of it. God doesn't necessarily thwart a person's desire. God's will and what you would like to do may be one and the same.
5. Meanwhile, do the next logical thing that must be done. Doing God's will in small things is the best preparation for finding it in great things.
6. When the time of decision comes, act on the knowledge you have.
7. Never reconsider the decision, once you have acted on it.
8. Be patient. You may not discover until long afterward that



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CHURCH LOYALTY

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body to function properly. I Corinthians 12:14-27, "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole

were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable,

upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are a body of Christ,

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