

# What Kind of Church?

## Part 1

**We have been talking about... Being Soul-y Owned by God...** Living His will over ours knowing He has better plans for us than we do! Knowing He sees the destination clearer than we do! Knowing He can, does, and will walk us right thru the valleys-with-shadows-of- death... and we will not be afraid!

**Being *Outliers*, willing to make the outlays...** To get in the way of our enemy... To remove our family and friends from the pathway of his strategies... To go the distance to provide platforms for our loved ones to succeed! *There's a cost involved for every person we don't help... and benefits for every one we do! We don't know what's inside the next person we help... We don't know the plans God has for them!* All we need to know is that our Father, Savior and Owner wants us to do good for others like He has for us!

**We always want to be a church that gets in the way of evil!**

**A Church In The Way... For generations of kids...** We are not a "kid-centric" church... We have a kid-focus because we are a Bible Centered and *Christ-based* church... Jesus has a profound interest in kids... Told us the benefits for serving and the penalties for not. **Mt10.42 18.6,10,14 Mk 9.42, 10.13, Lk 17.2, 18.15** God has "child protective" directives! And we have been fairly successful as "outliers"/helping kids get the right start...

**A Church In The Way... But we get in the way for adults too! *We do not step back from confrontation!*** "Speaking the truth in love... *so that we can grow up into Him in all things!*" **Eph 4.15** "Meekly instructing those *who oppose themselves...*" **2Tim2.25** "Turning the sinner from the error of their ways *to save a soul from death!*" **Jam5.20** Some we save by love, others we save pulling them out of the fire! **Jude 22,23**

***We do not shrink back from truth!*** "Speaking the truth in love... *so that we can grow up into Him in all things!*" Eph 4.15 "Meekly instructing those *who oppose themselves...*" 2Tim2.25 "Holding fast the form of sound words... committed to faithful men to teach others..." 2Tim 1.13, 2.2 "Speaking w/grace, wits intact, knowing how to answer every man!" Col 4.6

**We are oracles of God, ambassadors of another country, here to tell the story of God's great love and deliverance! And our stories should get in the way of every person we meet to keep them from entering into dark territory!**

**We have absolutely *nothing better* to do with our lives than follow Jesus into the battle for men's souls!**

**What kind of Church? *A soul-winning Church without being one-dimensional!*** Maybe no greater enemy to salvation than unimaginative evangelism! "I use all means to save some. And I do it for the sake of the gospel... and don't you know that runners run to receive a prize so run to obtain it (them)! Every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things... I run with certainty... I keep my flesh in check so that when I have preached to others, I don't get cast aside!" **1Cor 9.22-27 framework of evangelism!**

**Use your story... parts of your story... or someone else's... to capture their attention for the gospel's sake!**

**What kind of Church? *A Church that stands thru everything and falls for nothing!*** We are living in tough times! Politically: war torn/terrorized world! Economically: precarious times! Socially: wheels off the morality bus! Spiritually: enemy of our souls is sensing the closeness of his time and is releasing great wrath! But we have nothing to fear! *We stand* because we are armored up able to withstand the evil day! **E6.13** Because no weapon formed against us will prosper in its agenda! **Is 54.17** "Thru God we will do valiantly." **Ps 60.12** "I will not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord – the Lord may chasten me but I am not given over to death!" **Ps118.17,18**

**A Church that stands thru *everything and falls for nothing!*** We are living in tough times! **Times of Christian persecution:** bullying to beheading! **Christian dissipation:** given over to personal indulgences, sensual pleasures,

intemperance, amusements... **Dissolution:** broken up into fragments, only accepting bits and pieces of truth...  
**Diluted and deluded!**

For persecution: "we will not be careful to answer... God is able to deliver us and if He doesn't we still won't bow..." **Dan 3.16ff** "the steps of a good man are ordered by God... and though he falls down, he will not be cast away for He is in the Lords hand." **Ps 37.23,24 (Psalm 23)** "we do not fear what men can do... we will confess Him..." **Mt10.28ff**

For dissipation/dilution/delusion: "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield to them that put their trust in Him. Don't add to His words, unless you want to be reprov'd and found to be a liar." **Pr 30.5,6** "Your word is very pure and your servants love it! Though small and despised we will not forget your precepts!" **Ps 119.140,141** "Hold fast the form of sound words, which you heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. And keep that good thing which was committed to you by the Holy Ghost who dwells in us." **2Tim 1.13,14** "Hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end... hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering..." **Heb 3.6, 10.23** "Take heed that you aren't deceived: for many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ... don't follow them." **Lk 21.8** "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." **1John 4.1**

**Jude 2-24** I write to you about the life of salvation we share. It's necessary for me to beg you to fight with everything you have in you for this faith originally entrusted to us. There are some who slipped into our ranks (we were warned this would happen), godless men turning the sheer grace of God into personal license, denying the sovereign leadership of Jesus Christ... these dreamers defile us with sins, neutralize our mastery, and blaspheme glory. They vilify things they don't understand and speak only what they know naturally as brute beasts, defiling themselves... You just build up your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit. You keep yourselves in the love of God. You save as many as you can... and God will keep you from falling!

"We have great and precious promises whereby we become partakers of the divine nature... make speed to build faith... adding what is necessary to make you abundant and not unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus... and make your calling and election sure – because if you do you will not tip over, not be left behind, you will never fall!" **2Peter 1.4-10**

**Asides... Can we commit to being a church that is discerning without being condemning?** Caveat: I am against all *heretical* teaching in the body of Christ... I am even pretty aggressive against *questionable* teaching... But I am not against all heretics and all questionable teachers... because some of them is "ME!" (Members of the Body!)

**Victoria Osteen has a viral video...** It's possible she was trying to say something good in a very bad way! It's possible that she (they) are caught up in a heresy of selfishness doctrine. **Can we discern this?** She shot herself in the foot... She is leading many who like bad feet... She is not threatening our belief/any way... She is our sister in Christ... NOT A PASS but a *family problem!*

**Mark Driscoll is trying to get off the front page...** Can't even tell what's going on right now! I don't agree with him on virtually anything... ("Church Emergent") But I do believe in his salvation... and that makes him my brother... And no matter what the failures... we cannot "condemn" him to the void! That is not God's heart on the matter!

There are so many things wrong in the Body of Christ... And it makes me mad every time! But if we *condemn* a "part of it," we shoot ourselves in the foot too! Which makes us just as heretical! Christians must be discerning... Judging behavior and actions... **1Cor 5/6** and *beginning with self!* But we cannot be *condemning people!*

**What kind of Church? A discerning Church that's not condemning!** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus!" **Rom 8.1** How can we utilize something that doesn't exist for us? Tool of the enemy/slanderer/accuser? Doubter of the saving grace of God? *Highly doubt either of them are going to give up their eternal salvation! Can we NOT fall into that trap?* "Who are you that *judges* another man's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. God is able to make him stand." **R14.4** "Whoever *trys and condemns* others condemns himself; for he that judges does the same things. We know God judges according to truth so what are you thinking when you judge others and are just as guilty, that you will escape God's judgment? Don't despise His goodness that leads to a turnaround!" **Rom 2.1-4**

**There's more... but let's be the church that gets in the way... of evil!**