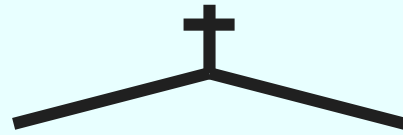


Mastering The Master's Church



**What is Happening
to the Church?**

- Most statistics tell us that nearly 50% of Americans have no church home or affiliated with any church.

- In the 80's membership in the church dropped almost 10%
- In the 90's membership dropped another 12% with some denominations reporting a 40% drop in membership.

- Now into the 21st century, we are seeing the figures drop even more for example:

- Statistics revealed that two-thirds of young people are leaving the church in America by the time they reach college age, and few are returning. If this trend continues, we'll end up like England, where only about 4-5% of the total population are attending church.

- When Millennials who attend church were asked “do you consider yourself born again” 40% said no. When asked “do you believe if you’re a good person you will get to heaven?” 65% of these church-going Millennials said yes. This means the 40% figure for those who say they are not “born again” is too low. The problem is we have so many today in the church that do not have a real understanding of what being born again really means.

- Every year more than 4000 churches closes their doors.
- Every year 2.7 million church members fall into inactivity.

- The United States now ranks third following China and India in the number of people who are not professing Christians; in other words, the U.S. is becoming an ever increasing “un-reached people group.”

- Half of all churches in the U.S. did not add any new members to their ranks in the last two years.

- If these trends continue statistics tell us that by the year 2050 church attendance could be as low as 12% of Americans. And like Europe the church could have little or no significance in the future at all.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

1) We Have Become More Focused On Gaining Members When We Are Called To Reach The Lost.

2) We Have Lost Our View of the Importance Of Making Disciples of Those Who Are Saved.

Matthew 28:19-20; *“Go therefore and make disciple of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

3) We Have Replaced Fellowship
with Filler-ship.

Acts 2:41-47; “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possession and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

4) We Put Too Much Emphasis On
Coming to Church Instead Of
Being The Church.

- Who is the church?
- The church is a group of called out believers who are saved through the blood of Christ who go out into the world and through the power of the Holy Spirit make a spiritual impact on the lost world.

5) We Have Become Complacent
With Who And What We Have:

John 4:35; “Do you not say, there are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

HOW DO WE FIX
THE PROBLEM?

John 12:24-26; “Most assuredly, I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

v.30; “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.”

How does the church become
healthy and fruitful?
We must be willing:

1) To Die:

Luke 9:23; “Then He said to them all, “if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

1 Cor. 15:31; “I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

a) To die to our own self-will:

b) To our self-desires:

2) We Must Abide In Christ:

John 15:4-5; “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

To abide: to maintain an unbroken fellowship and communion with Christ.

3) We Must Surrender To The Filling of The Holy Spirit:

4) We Must Refuse To Quit:

Read Philippians 3:7-14

5) We Can't Afford to Remain
Complacent:

Read Revelation 3:14-22

6) We Must Refuse To
Compromise: