

## **Has Your Church Left You Behind?**

Has your church left you behind? The question speaks to the frustrations many people have regarding once esteemed institutions which no longer represent them or their beliefs; no longer affirm respected, time-tested and honored standards of behavior, or frameworks for family, citizenship, and community. The hopeless, baseless irrationality of “feeling” over “reason” has propelled a number of once trusted institutions into a chasm void of standards, responsibility, accountability, and morality - no behavior being wrong, no act sinful, no standard sacred. The “sixties” mantra of “if it feels good, do it” has found acceptance in society and in religion. Is this how we really want to start the new century?

Some churches no longer accept the Bible as “God breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16), the virgin birth, deity and resurrection of Jesus Christ are denied, the shedding of His blood is dishonored by removing reference to it from literature, much of the Old Covenant is viewed as myth, and much of the New Covenant as fancy, Biblical definitions of marriage, home and family are dismissed as “too narrow” and deliberately distorted to be inclusive of “alternate lifestyles,” some have given up on the gospel (John 12:32) and have turned to entertainment to pack the pews. It becomes no surprise that some professing Christians no longer regard the Bible as intended to change the world (Romans 12:1-2), but view their mission as that of changing the Bible to suit the world. In contrast, faithful Christians make no apology for upholding the Bible as the inspired, inerrant word of God, or for promoting its wholesome, happy, healthy lifestyle (Colossians 3:1-25), while boldly condemning worldly “alternatives” (Romans 1:16-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11) as defiling, degrading and destructive. Honestly compare a world influenced by the lofty, noble ideals of Biblical Christianity with one bereft of its influence. Where would you rather live and raise your children? If you have been left behind by your church, visit a congregation of the churches of Christ where the beautiful, unencumbered simplicity of New Testament Christianity is appreciated and taught. Let us be thankful that such congregations remain, although it seems that they are getting harder to find, and let us do all that we can to encourage them to remain faithful and true to the everlasting, living Word.

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