

Church Members - cont.

Sixth, hypocritical church members who are not living right are told to repent, not quit the church (Revelation 2:5,16; 3:3; etc.). In the churches of Asia in the book Revelation, there were hypocritical members, but there were also a faithful few who remained true to the Lord. This will always be the cause in local churches from time to time.

Yes, some church members are hypocritical and ungodly, but other Christians live right despite the actions of these ungodly brethren (1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2 Timothy 1:15-16; 2:18-19; 3 John 9-12; Revelation 2:24; 3:4).

Yes, hypocritical, ungodly church members who fall away will not be going to heaven (Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22). But neither will you go to heaven if you do not even become a member of the saved body (John 14:6). The Lord wants **YOU** to follow him regardless if others do or not (John 21:22). Friend, follow Jesus today!

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- Death is not a period, but a comma in the sentence of life.
- Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.
- Looking ahead is a good way for you to keep from falling behind.
- Buy the truth and sell it not.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Church Members Not Going to Heaven

Often when you ask people why they are not attending a church somewhere they will mention several excuses. Some will say that they are too busy. Others will say that church is not necessary. And, some will say that they do not attend a church because of the church members themselves.

Some say...

“I don’t go to church because there are a lot of people going to church who won’t be going to heaven.”

“Just because a person goes to church, doesn’t mean he’s going to heaven.”

“I don’t go to church because of the hypocrites there.”

While these are common statements, these are also misunderstandings, or excuses, or both. It is true that some church members are not going to heaven, but Jesus still built his church and the righteous church members are indeed going

to heaven. Jesus built his church for a reason and we need to be a part of it regardless of how others live (Matthew 16:18). Jesus is the savior of the body and we need to be a part of that body regardless of how others live (Ephesians 5:23, 27). Righteous church members have their names enrolled in heaven and we need to have our name on that role regardless of how others live (Hebrews 12:23).

There are some things we need to understand about religious hypocrites. First, hypocrites can change. Jesus called out the religious hypocrites of his day in hopes of getting them to change (Matthew 7:5; 23:23-26). Hypocrites today, if they have any conscience left in them, can change if they want to.

Second, hypocrites in the church will be exposed and judged, but righteous Christians will continue to live faithfully (Matthew 6:2,5,16; 23:14; 24:51; Lk. 13:15-16).

Third, those who are wrong do not invalidate and cancel out the good of those who are right. The fact that Judas

became a “devil” for his betrayal of Jesus did not invalidate the good of the rest of the apostles (John 6:70-71; 17:12). Peter, for example, acted hypocritically and Paul called him out for it, but that did not take away from the good that Paul was doing (Galatians 2:11-14). Paul did not allow the hypocrisy of Peter to keep him (Paul) from continuing to live right. We can do the same today.

Fourth, church members that are acting hypocritically and are not living right are to be disciplined by those church members who are living right (1 Corinthians 5:4-5). Paul told the Corinthians to discipline the unfaithful member. He did not tell them to quit going to church because there was a hypocrite among them.

Fifth, some hypocritical church members will indeed leave the truth, but the rest can, and should, remain faithful to the Lord. Some will leave the church, but not all (1 John 2:18-19).

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