

Lifting Up The

STANDARD



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

Why Good People Leave Good Churches

A Definition of Terms

I have been attempting to write this article for about two years and can honestly say I have had much difficulty putting it together. The reason it has been difficult is determining the definition of words; therefore, we will begin with some simple definitions of the terms as being used in this article.

Why People Leave

The dictionary definition of the word “why” is, “the reason, cause, or justification for something.” Justification refers to “the act of showing that something is right.” Therefore, when we consider why we would leave a church, we should be able to justify or show from Scripture that we are right in leaving.

Who Determines The Definition of Good?

When we consider the word “good” when used in reference to a good boy, a good girl, a good church member, a good teacher, or a good pastor, who determines the definition of the word good? The dictionary says good includes “having the qualities needed for a particular function.” The word “function” is “an activity or purpose natural to or intended for a person.”

What Does The Bible Intend For Us?

The word “good” occurs 720 times in the Bible. The Scriptures refer to a “good path,” a “good understanding,” “good doctrine,” and “good advice.” The phrase “good man” occurs several times in the Word of God; however, a close study of these verses will reveal that in many cases, the word “good” or the word “man” is in italics which means the word was not in the original. That fact must be considered when doing a study of these verses.

For example, Psalm 37:23 says “The steps of a *good* man are ordered of the Lord.” The word “good” is in italics. The truth is, the steps of all men are “ordered of the Lord.” Good men will follow those steps and the verse continues “and he delighteth in his ways.”



Daily Internet Broadcast



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“Now The Serpent”

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Good People - Good Churches

For the purpose of this article, we are going to confine our discussion to people in the context of a local church. God has given us three Books in the Bible that are written concerning our behaviour in the church. They include First and Second Timothy and Titus. We also have seven letters written to seven pastors in the Book of Revelation. We will use these portions of Scripture to attempt to answer the question why good people leave good churches.

The word *good* is found in First and Second Timothy and Titus thirty-five times. We will begin our discussion with God's definition of a good pastor.

"Good Behaviour"

First Timothy 3:2,

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour."

The word *behaviour* refers to the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others in response to a particular situation.

The Bible goes on to give the following examples:

Verse 2, *"Given to hospitality, apt to teach."*

Verse 3, *"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;"*

Verse 4, *"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"*

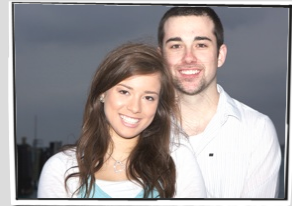
Verse 5, *"(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"*

Verse 6, *"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."*

Verse 7, *"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."*

It is safe to say that most pastors in our fundamental independent Baptist churches are in line with those verses; however, during the early part of my Christian life, I left different churches because of pastors who were not qualified according to those verses. One pastor was guilty of some very serious financial transactions concerning unsaved people he owed money to. He did not *"have a good report of them which are without."* I got my family out of that church as soon as I found that out. Another pastor got into a fist fight with three different people. There was no way I could advise my family to follow that man as he followed Christ. **(First Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.")**

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By Chynna Carpenter

Sixteen

I couldn't wait to be sixteen. I was so excited to have a car and a license. I'd be able to drive wherever I wanted. On the day of my sixteenth birthday, my dad took me to get my license. I got my beginner's license, and then we went and picked up the car my dad bought me! A 2000 neon; it was silver, 4 doors, perfect condition! I loved it. I was so excited to have my own car. After taking a driver's education course, I finally got my G2 License and I could drive on my own. I was so excited. I drove to school, to work, to church -- it was great!

One day, I went out to the mall by myself and then...

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Second Thessalonians 3:7,

"For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you."

The pastor must be of a good behaviour. Sometimes good Christians will need to leave a church because the pastor is not qualified to be their spiritual leader. **(Warning - Be right about this. By leaving you are publicly putting your stamp of disapproval on God's man and God's church This is a very serious thing with God!)**

"Good Warfare"

First Timothy 1:18,

*"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest **war a good warfare.**"*

The pastor is charged to "war a good warfare." The word "charge" here has been translated "commandment" in two other places. Some people are good living Christians in many areas of their lives; however, they look at the church as a place to relax. The last thing they want is to get involved in a warfare. They expect a gymnasium for their young people to play in. They reject verses such as...

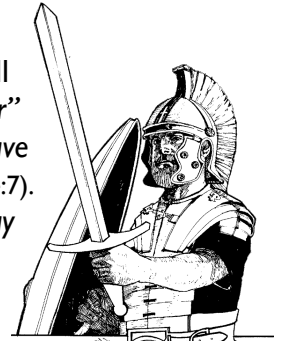
First Timothy 6:12,

"Fight the good fight of faith."

Second Timothy 2:3,

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Some good living Christians are not interested in supporting a pastor that will "fight the good fight of faith" or take his God-given responsibilities as "a soldier" and these nice people will leave for a more comfortable pew. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (Second Timothy 4:7). He also said, "no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge" (Second Timothy 4:16).



"That Thou Mightest Charge Some"

First Timothy 2:3,

"That thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."

Some Christians who are good living Christians in most areas of their lives will not take rebuke when a faithful pastor confronts them about their wrong ways. In First Timothy chapter three, we have several examples of things that pastors need to deal with.

1. Teaching "other doctrine." (v.3)
2. "Giving heed to fables and endless genealogies." (v.4)
3. "Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm." (v.7)
4. Exposing men like "Hymenaeus and Alexander" whom Paul "delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

Many people are not going to put up with a pastor like Paul. The Bible plainly commands the pastor to "reprove" and "rebuke" (Second Timothy 4:2) when it is necessary. Some Christians, in fact most Christians in this day of apostasy will not remain in a church if the pastor is faithful to this God-given responsibility. **It is simply a case of "speak unto us smooth things" (Isaiah 30:10) or we will find someone who will.** Unfortunately, in this age of apostasy they will not need to look far for a "smooth things" Baptist church.

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And so, some people will leave a church because they don't like how the pastor is handling things. Paul said some people will need to be "delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme" (First Timothy 1:20). He said the pastor needs to deal with the subject of modesty. The pastor is to teach "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel" (First Timothy 2:9). He said women need to be taught to be in "subjection" (First Timothy 2:11). He also gave the qualifications for deacons and their wives.

The Bible says "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (First Timothy 5:20). The pastor is also to charge them that are "highminded" (First Timothy 6:17). The pastor is to deal with those who are guilty of "vain babblings" (Second Timothy 2:16). He is to be "instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (Second Timothy 2:25). The pastor is to deal with those who are "traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (Second Timothy 3:4,5).

The pastor is charged to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (Second Timothy 4:2). The pastor is to "set in order the things that are wanting" (Titus 1:5). He must deal with the "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers...Whose mouths must be stopped" (Titus 1:10,11). He is to "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13).

The pastor is to "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4,5). The pastor is commanded to teach that Christians must be "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts" (Titus 2:12). The pastor is commanded to deal with those who promote wrong doctrine. The Word of God says, "A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject" (Titus 3:10).

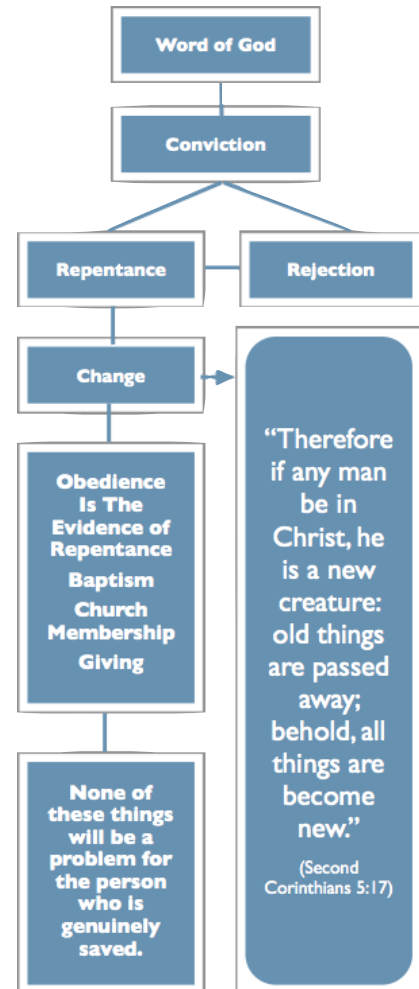
"Some Shall Depart"

First Timothy 4:1,

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith."

There is a very small remnant that will put up with a pastor who will follow the guidelines given by God in His Word. Jesus asked the question "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Repentance Plain & Simple



NEXT ARTICLE

More Reason Why Good People Leave Good Churches