

A DISTURBING TREND, Part 1

The world I understand, but the modern day church movement today is a contradiction in terms. I am of the opinion, that to a large degree, the trends that come and go in the modern church today have caused many a family's demise.

There was a time when the family functioned as a unit. Every member went to church together and sat in the same pew every Sunday. But as the church became program-oriented, and number-oriented, the family suffered! And our churches and country are reaping the harvest of this tactic of Satan to destroy the family.

One author said, when speaking concerning the church, "Groups were formed to counteract the loss of identity in our rapidly growing technological society. Older people became known as "senior citizens". Children identified with youth groups that, in many cases, set the pace for the rest of the church. Soon the church began to leave the parents behind."

Note who the author said was left behind – the parents. Who are the parents? The parents are the ones who weathered the storms, and brought doctrinal fortitude and integrity to the church. They faced many things, and through these things they matured as God would have them to mature – to create a safe haven for their children. They only desire that their children have a foundation as they have. And they know that unless that foundation is built upon the Word of God their children will not be able to stand the pressure of the world and its system.

Yet, the church has pushed them aside. Oh, I know the church would not admit it, but that is exactly what the modern church movement is doing, and in some cases done. They have opened the door for immature believers, and in some cases, their actions would even question as to whether they were believers at all!

The church is in serious trouble. And if the church is in serious trouble, so is the family. No matter who they are, or what the circumstances may be, family member, or friend, if they do not stand firm and contend for the faith, they have compromised the biblical standard for truth – and there is no justification in Scripture for such actions.

In 1934, the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reviewed the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1833 on the church, and what follows is a brief review of that finding:

"A gospel church is a company of people called out from the world by Christ – They are a people saved by him, baptized in his name, and walking in fellowship

with him. Having gathered about his person, they become disciples and servants. They learn of him. It is their business to learn his will as completely as possible.

Not only do they learn what he teaches, but they obey him in what he has commanded. The company that gathers about Christ as their Lord is a company governed by the Law of Christ. This relates to conduct in many relations. It relates to conduct towards God. It relates to conduct toward men. It relates to conduct as members of the church, as members of families, as members of the community. It includes practices of worship and observances of ordinances.”

The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of 1934, the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1833, the London Baptist Confession of 1644, and the Baptist Confession of 1689 all agree with the Word of God concerning the church – the church is to be an orderly assembly of worshipers, whose one purpose is to reverently honor God in all His holiness and righteousness.

God founded the church so that the family may function as a unit to carry out His will (Acts 16:31). God does not segregate the church, man does this.

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