

The Toilet Church
(I Thes. 4:3-8; Rom. 8:6-9; Acts 7: 51,52, 54-60)

Introduction

We have taken a look at our churches and its status and compared it to the Jewish church in the Bible. We analyzed how much Christ detested that church because they narrowed their gate of who can come into the church, worried about their outside appearances to others instead of working on their hearts, and followed their own man-made laws, precepts, or traditions instead of God's commandments for the church. We comically compared uncles to Pharisees because those are the leaders of the respective churches.

Now I want to look further into the status of the church. I want to look more at this idea of following our own man-made laws, precepts and traditions instead of God's commandments for the church.

The title of the message is "The Toilet Church" but what on earth do I mean toilet church? (Listen to the full story through the audio) Many times we slap the name "church" on many things like programs at church or maybe a building but they have nothing to do with God.

I Thes. 4:3-8

Verse 7: Impurity or uncleanness

ajkaqarsiva *Akatharsia* (ak-ath-ar-see'-ah)

1. uncleanness
 - a. physical
 - b. in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living
 1. of impure motives

Sanctification or holiness

aJgiasmovß *Hagiasmos* (hag-ee-as-mos')

1. consecration, purification
2. the effect of consecration
 - a. sanctification of heart and life

God wants us to have a sanctified heart and life not just empty actions: a separateness of mind and realness for Christ. Must make sure we are sanctified and clean in making decision and not through "impure motives."

Verse 8: “His” **αυτουβ** *Autos* (ow-tos')

1. himself, herself, themselves, itself
2. he, she, it
3. the same

So, by rejecting sanctification and purity and following your own “impure motives” or flesh, you are rejecting God and His Holy Spirit. “His” means one and the same so that means the Holy Spirit and God are one and the same.

Making decision in the church..

In order to fully understand the concepts of decision making in the church, we must refer back to the first 4 messages. Remember, we are now looking at practical applications. There are two main things we need to look at.

- 1) We must maintain a sober spirit. (Refer to Message 1 “Be Humber and of a Sober Spirit”)

Mainly, you are level-headed and not driven by passions or emotions. No “impure motives” like stated above.

- 2) Being sober through the Holy Spirit by listening, adhering, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Refer to Messages 2-4)

We must rely solely on the Holy Spirit for decisions. Romans 8:6-9 outlines how the flesh is hostile towards God and those in the flesh cannot please God. It is impossible without His Spirit. We need to understand and allow the Holy Spirit to take over our decisions by opening our hearts and ears and then allowing the Holy Spirit to fill your entire self.

We easily fall into the trap of doing things that feel right and good but are from the flesh. Some examples are the way Praise and Worship has lost its meaning because we do it to please ourselves for show or the way we follow certain formulas for meetings and programs instead of what God and the Holy Spirit wants us to do.

So what are we to do?

We must pray and let the realness of God and the Holy Spirit take over us. That comes through getting together and praying. It is a difficult thing to do. We all get that feeling when we think about getting together and praying just like when my dad calls us for family prayer, I get that feeling of “Dang, don’t I got something better to do?” But for our

churches, we must do it. That is where we let go of our flesh and let the Holy Spirit take over. We come to a point where we only care about what the Spirit say and not people or our flesh just like Stephen in Acts 7: 51,52, 54-60.

Conclusion

Think about what made you come to a real faith in Christ. It wasn't through empty actions and programs, was it? That's what religion is. We do not want to build on a religion but on a real faith and that comes from breaking away from what we feel is right and analyzing and doing what God and the Holy Spirit feels is right.

We must understand that there must be a break from the flesh in order to find our purpose or place in the church. We cannot be led by our own man-made laws, precepts, and commandments in the church anymore. It must be led by the Holy Spirit. That takes an effort on our part to part ways with our flesh and let the Holy Spirit take over our lives just like Zack and Kelly from Saved by the Bell. That is how we can propel the church forward.