

The Church

What is the purpose of the local church ?

Church (dictionary)

1. A building for public, especially Christian worship,
2. Also denominational buildings
3. Also refers to body of believers in Jesus Christ

Matthew 18:20 For where **two or three** are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Church is a place you go to, to be a blessing, be blessed, receive instruction or correction. Not a place to be soothed and entertained. You should come away with a feeling of peace, joy, excitement or at least Food for Thought as to your own commitment to Christ. (It's called challenged).

Key word is worship

Worship (dictionary)

a./ The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, **b./** The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall **worship** the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to **worship** him. God is a Spirit: and they that **worship** him must **worship** him in spirit and in truth.

We should also be instructed and taught

Proverbs 4:13 Take fast hold of **instruction**; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Proverbs 8:33 Hear **instruction**, and be wise, and refuse it not

Instruct or instruction (dictionary)

a - Imparted knowledge. **b** - a lesson or teach

You learn more by what you see, then what you here

Teach or Taught (dictionary)

1. To impart knowledge or skill to.
2. To provide knowledge of; instruct in.
3. To cause to learn by example or experience.

God's gift to the church

1Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some **in the church**, first **1**/apostles, secondarily **2**/prophets, thirdly **3**/teachers, after that **4**/miracles, then **5**/gifts of healings, **6**/helps, **7**/governments, **8**/diversities of tongues.

Where is the full body ministry today ? All you here is the “pastor” or a neighbouring Pastor, who may or may not have one of the above gifts. If you get a steady diet of the same thing continually it is no wonder the church is sick and more dead than alive. (People don't want to go)

Challenged (dictionary)

1. - A call to engage in a contest, fight, or competition. ; a call to confrontation.
To summon to action, or stimulate, or motivate

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall **go forth, and grow** up as calves of the stall.

Conviction (dictionary)

1. To make aware of one's sinfulness or guilt.

conviction is an act of the Holy Spirit, we are to preach the word uncut.

2 Timothy 4:2 **Preach the word;** be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort **with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

Conviction Usually Brings Repentance

John 8:9 And they which heard it, **being convicted** by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst

***Modern day assemblies have compromised their standards to where they just do three things -
Entertain, Soothe and Comfort***

There was a time when a person (one) led the song or worship part of the service. The significance of this is that if the person was led by the Holy Spirit you were not bound by ritual but as the Holy Ghost seen the need.

Today you have a group and everything is rehearsed in advance. They would not allow anyone or anything to deviate or distract them. Especially the time schedule.

Some, go as far as singing each choro over 4-8 times in hopes the Holy Spirit will bless and move in their midst. These modernists remind me of the prophets of Baal on mount Carmel 1 Kings 18:27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; **either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.**

Entertain, entertained, or entertaining. (dictionary)

1. To hold the attention of with something **amusing or diverting.**

You can not tell the Holy Spirit what to do or when to do it. If you try, all you're doing is diverting Gods authority to yourself.

Soothed (dictionary)

1. To calm or placate.

2. To bring comfort,

You see you can't take a chance of upsetting people, they may be financial supporters and if they quit who will pay our salary? **DON'T ROCK THE BOAT**

they say. Well it's time Gods children got out of the boat, **like Peter he got out and walked on water until** -(paraphrase) **he seen the others looking at him, then said Hey fellows - "look at me"- I'm walking on water or they said Peter you can't do that , who do you think you are God. Either way he started to sink.**

Comfort (dictionary)

1. A condition or feeling of pleasurable ease, well-being, and contentment.

2. **To counteract conviction**

They make sure their message is in story book form so as not to bring self judgement of ones own actions rather then allow conviction to work in their lives.

Pastor (dictionary)

1. A person having spiritual charge over a person or group. (**layman or clergy**)

2. A shepherd.

1Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

A pastor is to make sure the flock is fed not feed them himself. He can do some and that should depend on which gift or gifts he has. Allow the rest of the gifts to minister to the flock. If all are not in their local church, then he should bring someone in to cover those missing gifts. God's gift to the church 1Corinthians 12:28

There are multitudes of Pastors that are behind a pulpit that aren't even born again. Sure they believe in Christ but so does the devil.

There are also many that are born again, but Pastoring is only a job, **DON'T ROCK THE BOAT, I'm comfortable.**

All Christians will have to stand before the judgement seat of Christ

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever **much is given**, of him shall **be much required**: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Why bother going to church Because God's word says to

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking **the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching

What day approaching ? - The Rapture or the prize -

1Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run**, that ye may obtain.

1Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; **but we an incorruptible.**

1Corinthians 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

IN OUR RACE, ALL MAY WIN

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark **for the prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Bro Ken