

“Being As God Would Have Us”

Matt. 16:17-19

Introduction

- I. There is a great need from time to time to make sure that we are living in accordance with God's divine instructions.
- II. In order to come to the proper conclusion, the church must compare itself with what the Scriptures teach.
- III. Is the congregation of which I am a member being as God would have us to be?

Discussion

- I. The church of Christ must be separate and distinct from denominational bodies.
 - A. The church of Christ is the body, not a part of the body (Matt. 16:17-19; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).
 - B. Man made denominations are not accepted of God (Matt. 15:13; Psm. 127:1).
 - C. Efforts to be what Christ did not build is a losing endeavor (Matt. 15:9).
- II. The church of Christ must be united.
 - A. Causing division in the church is unacceptable to God (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1:10-13).
 - B. Jesus prayed for His church to one (John 17:20-21).
 - C. The church must be willing to behave in ways that promote unity (Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:1-3; John 13:34-35).
- III. The church of Christ must have sound doctrine.
 - A. Preaching needs to be Scriptures filled (2 Tim. 4:2; 1:13; Titus 1:9; 2:1; 1 Tim. 6:3).
 - B. Too many “preachers” are nothing but motivational speakers, good story tellers, and/or comedians.
 - C. Instead of being students of the book, too often “preachers” are more focused on being a professional office manager.
 - D. The church needs men who will sound the alarm on sin and it's results (Isa. 58:1; Rom. 6:23).
- IV. The church of Christ must have faithful shepherds, deacons, and members.
 - A. I found this quotation: *“300 total membership, 20 too old to work, 280 left to work, but 30 too young to assume much responsibility, 250 left to work, but 20 work out of town or are away in school, 230 left to work, but 40 work long hours six or seven days a week, 190 left to work, but 20 are tied down with small children, 170 left to work, but 34 handicapped by poor health, aches and pains, 136 left to work, but 32 hindered by unbelieving companions, 104 left to work, but 58 are unfaithful and do not attend regularly, 46 left to work, but 30 attend but refuse to work, 16 left to do the work, but 14 are tired and ask to be relieved, 2 left to do the work, YOU and I, but I'm too busy with other things, so YOU do the work.”*
 - B. The church needs each member to put first things first (Matt. 6:33).
 - C. The church needs members who truly understand and practice deny self (Luke 9:23).

Conclusion

- I. This is only a part of what God expects from the church of Christ.
- II. We should strive hard to make sure that we meet those expectations.