

Attention!

Christian Corrosion

(Excerpts from article by Kevin Cauley)

Sometimes, like our car battery, our Christianity can become “corroded.” When we allow the world to influence us to watch its video propaganda, listen to its music, act and dress like it does, then we will become corroded with its influence.

We need to cut out the worldly activities and get more in touch with our brothers and sisters in Christ, attend more church events, and put spiritual talk into our family life. Jesus said, *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”* (John 10:10).

September Birthdays

11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales 16 Jim Burruss
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Following the Mainstream

By Jack Critchfield

When you ask someone what religion they are, or what religious organization they are affiliated with, many times the answer is, “I’m a Christian.” Today, you almost need clarification on what it means to be a Christian. The popular trend today is called, “mainstream Christianity.” But what does that mean? Is there a “lesser stream Christianity?”

The word “mainstream” is defined by Webster’s dictionary as, “a prevailing current or direction of activity or influence.” In other words, anything to do with the current thoughts and opinions of the majority. It’s whatever is popular in the culture or in mass media at the moment. It makes one wonder; would Jesus have called Himself a mainstream Christian.

If He were alive today, would He be more interested in a Christian rock band or singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Would He be interested in what the popular belief in the world is or would He take a stand for truth? Would He think it’s ok if you are a homosexual, living in sin, cussing, drinking, smoking, or going to places you shouldn’t be going, just as long as you love Christ?

The Jesus I read about in the New Testament would not have stood for any of these things 2000 years ago. And if He would not stand for anything like that then, what makes one think He would stand for them today? Yet too many churches and “Christians” are accepting these things today because society and mass media has deemed them ok. More and more people are becoming accepting of these things because they don’t want to hurt feelings, be called narrow minded or a bigot.

It is interesting that Jesus addressed this very issue during His ministry. *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* (Matthew 7:13-14). Sometimes there is the easy path because that’s what everyone else is doing, the mainstream way. But then there is God’s way, the path of life.

Try going against the current (mainstream) isn’t always the easiest way. But if Jesus stood for truth no matter what the consequences were, should we do less?

A Preacher Who Wouldn’t Do

(Reprint from bulletin, Seeking Things Above)

A church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in finding out just what kind of a preacher the church wanted. In order to do this, he composed a letter as though it had been received from a preacher and read it to the committee selecting a new preacher. This was what the letter said,

Gentlemen:

Understanding that you need a preacher, I would like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone.

Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way.

The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in different towns where I have preached, and I am sure they will not recommend me. In fact, some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support.

The elder read this letter to the committee and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that **he would never do** for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, trouble-making, contentious ex-convict; and were insulted that his application had ever been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher’s name, and the elder replied, “The Apostle Paul.”

Andy Rooney

Rooneyisms - Too good not to share!!

- I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.