

If You're Searching for God, You Won't Find Him in a Church!

Both Christians and non-Christians believe that if one wants to find God, the first place to look is in a church. It's a knee-jerk reaction. But that's not what the Bible tells us.

1. Churches have a hierarchy: But Jesus said, "The Unbelievers (Gentiles) Lord it over one another, but it shall not be that way among you (believers)." Luke 22:25,26

2. Churches believe they "have the truth" and the leaders of the church will interpret that truth for you. But Jesus said, "You need no man to teach you. ." "One is your Teacher, Christ." (1 John 2:27; Matt 23:8)

3. Churches discourage their members from reading or studying spiritual literature and information that is not approved by that particular church: But the Bible says,

"These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11

4. Churches teach that, "WE must 'make the right choice.'" Therefore, our salvation is of US – and only secondarily of the Lord. That means the omniscient, omnipotent God of the universe CANNOT save us - - - unless WE let Him! But Jesus said, "You Don't choose Me, but I choose you" (John 15:16) and your salvation "is NOT of you, so you could boast." (Eph 2:8,9)

5. Churches teach that we must "not forsake the assembly of believers," that means (according to the church) that we must be a member of an organized church.

'Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not **forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as some are in the manner of doing, but exhorting one another." Hebrews 10:25

Some Christians at that time were joining a sect called the Essenes, a community that isolated itself from society while the members spent all their time focused on their own "righteousness" – much like a Monastery or a nunnery. God doesn't

want us to be self-centered, self-absorbed and self-righteous. He wants us to be a part of society so we can exhibit His character as we go about our daily life.

6. Some churches teach that the members must confess their sins to the pastor or priest (Lutherans and Catholics, and maybe others). But the Bible says, “Only God can forgive sins.” Mark 2:7

7. Many churches use “sprinkling” as a form of baptism, even though the actual definition of the word “baptism” (*baptizo*) is “to immerse.” Furthermore, Jesus was our example, and He was baptized by immersion, and only when He was old enough, at the age of 30, to comprehend what He was doing. There is no biblical evidence for the practice of “sprinkling” as a form of baptism for either babies or adults.

The book of Acts contains multiple accounts of baptism, and in every instance, the candidate for baptism was immersed. (see Acts 10:48; Acts 16:31-33; Acts 22:16).

8. ALL churches believe that God has given human beings “Freewill” - that we have the right to do what we want, the right to run our own life the way WE want to run it. But the Bible says that God is “operating ALL things according to the counsel of HIS OWN WILL” – not ours. Eph 1:11

9. All churches believe that the word “church” is in the Bible. But the Bible NEVER contains the word “church.” It is the word *ecclesia* - - - a word that does **not** mean “church” in the way Christians define the word “church” today.

In Acts, Chapter 19, Paul was in Ephesus, preaching **against** the pagan goddess Diana, and **for** the gospel of Jesus Christ. The main employment for the Ephesians at that time was making statues of the Goddess Diana. Suddenly, a riotous mob encircled the Christians who had come to Ephesus with Paul, wanting to lynch them. This mob is referred to, in the Greek, as an *ecclesia*. Obviously, the translators could not translate this *ecclesia* – a lynch mob - as a “church.” Instead they called it an “assembly.” In that same chapter, a court of law is also described as an *ecclesia*, which the translators again called a legal “assembly.”

Therefore, the word *ecclesia* does NOT mean “church.” It just means a group of people who all have the same beliefs and goals – whether the beliefs are good or bad – and whether or not the people even know each other.

Again, the word “church” is NOT in the Bible!

10. All churches believe that the organized churches are “of God.” But the Bible shows us that the model for today’s organized churches was a blasphemous counterfeit religion – the synagogue – originated by the Pharisees – the enemies and Killers of Jesus Christ. God’s presence was in the temple – NOT in the synagogues.

11. All churches are tax-exempt 501c3 organizations, whose head is the state and not Jesus Christ. God said, “I just want to be your God and you be My people.” There is to be nothing in between us and Jesus Christ. Christianity is NOT a religion. It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – NOT a relationship with a “church.”

12. All churches teach that unbelievers will burn in hell. Churches LOVE their doctrine of burning Hellfire! Of course, Hellfire will not touch them – because they are members of the church. Hellfire is only for those “did not make the right choice” - as they did! But God said that the thought of burning ANY human being ALIVE has “NEVER entered His mind.”

“They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, **which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind.**” Jer 19:5

Jesus said, “LOVE your enemies. Do Good to those who hate you.” Matt 5:44
And Jesus is the ‘visible image of the invisible God.’ Col 1:15 So God also Loves His enemies, and will do GOOD to those who hate Him.

13. ALL churches, with only a few exceptions, have chosen to worship on Sunday, the day of worship of the pagan sun god, either for convenience, or because they believe Jesus was resurrected on Sunday, or because they believe God doesn’t really care on which day we worship Him.” But the Bible says, “The Seventh day (Saturday) is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. . .” Exodus 20:10

14. ALL churches and church members, with very few exceptions, believe that they are special in the sight of God:

Evangelical Churches believe the Jews are the Chosen people. Gal 3:16, 29

Seventh-day Adventists believe they are the “remnant.”

Catholics believe they have the one and only true church, and they have the right to kill those who don’t believe as they do.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe they are the only true church, and that ALL the biblical, “literal” 144,000 are Jehovah’s Witnesses.

The Christian Identity groups believe that those of the white race are the literal descendants of Israel, and the white race is “God’s chosen people.”

But God says, “You are all one in Jesus Christ.” Gal 3:28

“God is no respecter of persons.” Romans 2:11

15. All churches believe that God dwells spiritually in their church. But the Bible says,

“The Most High does NOT dwell in temples made with hands.” Acts 7:48

“Your Body is the Temple of God’s spirit.” 1 Cor 6:19

16. Almost ALL churches teach that Jesus died for our sins “so we don’t have to die,” and that Christians somehow will escape persecution for their beliefs. But Jesus said,

“A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you.” John 15:20

17. Almost ALL churches believe that when a person dies, his “spirit” wafts off to heaven – fully conscious. But the Bible says,

“The living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything.” Eccl 9:5

18. ALL churches love their rituals: Order of service, communion, priestly robes for the pastor, the altar, Christian symbols, such as the cross, even though the cross is a pagan symbol, and Jesus was crucified on a “pole.”

19. All churches believe that God ordained organized churches, and that by having an organized church, they are fulfilling the will of God. But when Jesus was on earth, He never set up an “organized church.”

20. All churches believe that the “church” will “go through to the end” and that remaining in the church will ultimately lead to your salvation. But history has shown us that in the past century, in almost all wars, the Christian churches have been destroyed.

21. All the churches believe that “God heals through doctors” but doctors are Agents of Death – Agents of Satan – NOT agents of God. When Jesus was on earth, when someone came for healing, Jesus did not send them to a doctor.

Jesus healed them Himself, by natural methods: water, clay, etc. Doctors give out drug medications that God calls “Sorceries and Witchcraft.” Rev 18:23

Satan is the Great Deceiver!

Satan is “the father of lies” (John 8:44) and has deceived ALL the churches.

Satan wants to kill Christ all over again, and is doing so by destroying Christians and Christianity.

Satan wants a church hierarchy – with Satan at the top

Unfortunately, Satan has put his character on the face of Christ and the whole Christian world has embraced that lie. The churches worship Satan, a Killer-God, thinking they are worshiping Jesus Christ.

God is not found in a church

God is not found in a church. God is found on your knees, in your own room, alone with Christ, when you no longer demand your own “freewill,” when finally you are ready to submit your “will” to Christ’s Will, when you understand completely that you need Christ – not you - to run everything in your life.

When we are followers of Jesus Christ, we will live as He lived. Jesus said:

“For I came down from heaven NOT to do My OWN will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 6:38

This should be our prayer.