

Friday, December 1, 2017 - That's Not What I'm Looking For...

My comment was not designed to anger anyone but it was pointed at a few parents in the audience: "You need to decide whether you are choosing a congregation of the Lord's people, to worship with, for your and your children's spiritual edification or for secular reasons. It is the case all too often that 'church' choices are superficial. For many, spiritual considerations are not the prime factor in a church selection."

One of the families, fence sitters, were trying to choose between our congregation and another congregation. The other congregation had more "programs" for the kids, a larger youth group and nicer facilities.

Unfortunately, focus tends to gravitate toward a congregation that can be the 'church parent' or 'church baby sitter' and provide superficial instruction from teachers in their church Bible classes all so the parents don't have to give substantial spiritual training at home.

Is there any wonder why we are losing 7-8 out of every 10 children in the church by the time they leave home? One of the causes of this growing defection among our young adults is the fact that for years they were operating on a borrowed faith.

Christian parents have the responsibility to shape a developing little child into a morally sensitive individual. Moms and dads have the duty to mold a servant's heart in their offspring. They have the responsibility to teach the supreme importance of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and heaven.

It is time that we awaken to the reality that if we wish to preserve our children we must take more seriously our responsibility to educate them in the most important issues of life - starting with what does this church stand for? Does it hold the conviction that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired word of God? Does the leadership believe in the uniqueness of the New Testament church pattern and strive to lead the congregation in the direction of faithfulness, as opposed to a loose philosophy which alleges that most all "Christian" churches are okay, and doctrine really doesn't matter? Does sound doctrine emanate from the pulpit—teaching that enriches the soul and inoculates against worldliness and false doctrine? Or are people looking for speakers who are jokesters, stand-up comics, with a repertoire of jokes that ridicule the church and biblical preaching?

The adage "Garbage In, Garbage Out" applies in your choice of churches too.

Amen and amen.