



THE BIBLE WARNS US ABOUT

- ...False Prophets..... Matthew 7:15
- ...False Christs..... Mark 13:22
- ...False Apostles..... 2 Corinthians 11:13
- ...False Brethren..... Galatians 2:4
- ...False Teachers..... 2 Peter 2:1

Steer clear from those that preach a different gospel. Paul warned - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (Gal 1:8) **These groups deny fundamental Christian doctrine by mixing truth with lies = poison!**

- ⊗ Jehovah's witnesses – founder Charles Taze Russell was a false prophet, they use an unorthodox bible
- ⊗ Mormonism – Founder Joseph Smith = false Prophet, works
- ⊗ Islam – Founder Mohammed = false prophet, teachers worship to Allah = false moon god
- ⊗ Word Faith Prosperity Preachers – falsely teach that God wants everyone to be rich and healthy (Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyers, Joel Osteen)
- ⊗ Oneness Pentecostals (UPC) – denies the trinity and preach a an unbiblical Gospel, must be baptized in Jesus name only (i.e. T.D. Jakes)
- ⊗ Church of God – preach a different gospel
- ⊗ Roman Catholics – salvation by works and only through the Roman Catholic Church is NOT true.

* Hating unbiblical doctrine doesn't mean we don't love the people who hold that doctrine. They are created in the image of God (Gen 2), and need the Gospel. See www.carm.com and www.gotquestions.org and World Religions in a Nutshell by Ray Comfort for more detail on the dangers of these groups and cults.

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Thank you for being concerned about going to a biblical church. The person who gave you this most likely shared the biblical Gospel with you. This is crucial because walking into a church doesn't make someone a Christian, any more than going to McDonald's makes someone a Big Mac! There is nothing more important than your eternal salvation.

GOD IS HOLY AND JUST

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before your face" (Psalm 89:14).

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH "sin is transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4)

THE LAW OF GOD

The Ten Commandments, is God's mirror to show us our sin in its true light. Many say they are good, but are they according to the Commandments? A rich man once asked Jesus how he could obtain everlasting life, Jesus asked him if he had kept the Ten Commandments. Have you kept them? If you have told one lie, you are a liar. If you have stolen anything (irrespective of value), you are a thief. If you have looked with lust, you have committed adultery in your heart. If you hate someone, you've committed murder in your heart. Your sin has angered God. The Bible teaches that you are His enemy. On Judgment Day, you will end up in Hell.

THE GOSPEL

But there's good news: "God commended His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Jesus Christ took your punishment, then He rose from the dead and defeated the grave. If you repent and put your trust in Him alone for your eternal salvation, God will grant you everlasting life. Read your Bible daily and obey it. God will never let you down.



www.SoulfishingMinistries.org

HOW TO FIND

A BIBLICAL CHURCH



NAVIGATING THROUGH THE MAZE OF CHURCHES OUT THERE

What should I look for?

What should I stay away from?

Does a popular church equal a biblical church?





No local church is perfect!
However here are some Questions to SAVE YOU a lot of Sundays

- BIBLE** – Does the Church study from the Bible, and is the Bible the final authority on issues? Answer must be YES. Does it contain errors or contradictions? Answer must be NO. (2 Tim 3:16)
- PRAYER** – Does the church regularly pray together and for each other, and are those prayers biblical? (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- WORSHIP** – Is God worshipped biblically & theologically sound? Do the worshippers worship God in spirit and truth? Are the prayers, preaching, & music Gospel centered (Rom. 12:1; John 4:24)
- SIN** – What is humanity's biggest problem, sin or self – esteem? (1 John 3:15)
- SENSITIVE** – Is the focus on living a life of comfort, or an obedient God glorifying life?
- GOSPEL CENTERED** – What must humanity do to inherit everlasting life? Repent and trust in Christ ALONE is the only biblical answer! If anything is added to this (i.e. water baptism, works, etc...) run!
- SALVATION** – How are people specifically called to salvation? It must be repentance and faith in Christ ALONE and not simply praying a repeat after me “sinner’s

prayer” asking Christ into one’s heart (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19).

- CHRIST** – Was Christ virgin born? Did he live a sinless life, pay the penalty for sin on the cross in crucifixion, and gloriously rose from the dead? Is He fully God and fully man and the second person of the trinity?
- PREACHING** – What kind of preaching do you do (exegetical / expository, topical, etc...)? Exegetical preaching should be the MAIN type. *Topical preaching is fine, but if a pastor never or rarely preaches expository (verse by verse), to learn from God’s Word and not the pastor’s thoughts’* (2 Tim 2:15).
- EVANGELISM** – Describe your evangelism process. How does the church go out into your community to reach the lost with the Gospel? (Mark 16:15)
- FELLOWSHIP** – Does the church love and help each other and inclusive of all ethnicities? (Acts 17; Heb. 10:24-25)
- DISCIPLESHIP** – Describe your discipleship process (one-to-one/ small group discipleship)? (Matthew 28:19)
- DISCIPLINE** – Do you exercise Church discipline for disobedient members? (1 Cor. 5; Matt 18:15-20)
- CREATION** – Do you believe God is the author of life, and that man has not evolved? Do you hold to a 6 day literal creation? (Gen 1-2)
- ETERNAL PUNISHMENT** – Do you believe in a literal Hell and eternal punishment?

COMMUNION – Is self-examination empathized when distributing the Lord’s Supper? (1 Cor. 2:27-28)

HOLINESS – Can a person who is living in a persistent lifestyle of sin inherit eternal life? Are believers to grow in holiness?

FAMILY – How are parents (*especially fathers*) equipped to shepherd their families? Do children stay in service for song and preaching? Is catechism (*not to be equated with Catholicism*) promoted? How does the church minister to the widow and fatherless in the church?

FAMILY SAFETY – Are there background screenings for youth workers? Describe your youth programs (if any)?

DENOMINATION – Ask the church what denomination it is affiliated with. Various denominations have different styles of how they corporately worship God, including different music styles (hymns, contemporary, etc..).

Ask the Right Way 

Politely ask for a copy of an audio sermon which can provide a “sample” to evaluate biblical teaching

**Ask wisely.* Talk to the pastor, if at all possible. If not, then ask another staff member of the church.

**Ask personally.* Visit or call him. Do not e-mail and ask for a written reply.

**Ask courteously.* Do not "grill" the pastor or ask aggressively. Ask humbly, honestly, and inquisitively.

**Ask selectively.* Do not ask all questions at one time. The more serious you are about membership, the more appropriate it becomes to ask additional questions later.

Healthy CHURCH LOCATOR Websites

www.sermonaudio.com/sermonsource.asp?zipsearch=true
www.9marks.org/church-search/
www.farese.com