

The Death Of A Local Church

Revelation 3:1-6

The Lord's Church Will Not Be Destroyed From The Face Of The Earth.

- God promised and cannot lie. Hebrews 6:18
- Prophecy. Daniel 2:44
- Fulfillment. Hebrews 12:28

Yet, a local church may die or lose their identity. Revelation 3:1-6

- Churches established by Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy.
- Churches here that are 80-100 years in existence.

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Loss Of "Old Heads."

"counsel with the old men ..." 1 Kings 12:6

- Death.
 - Joshua 23:14 "I am going the way of all the earth ..." cf. Judges 2:8, 10.*
 - 2 Peter. 1:15 "after my decease ..."*
- Moves.
 - Acts 20:29 "after my departing ..." (cf. verse 32)*

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Failure Of Leadership.

- Qualified elders, preachers and Bible class teachers.
- Elders are to watch. Hebrews 13:17
 - Vision. *Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." KJV*
- Preachers. 1 Timothy 4:16

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Loss Of Evangelism. 1 Timothy 3:15

- Gospel is for all. Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16
- Paul's concern for the Jews. Romans 9:1-3; 10:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9:16
- Gospel to be preached to every generation. 2 Timothy 2:2
- Other communities.
 - All Asia heard. Acts 19:10
 - Thessalonians had sounded forth the word (Macedonia, Achaia, every place) 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8

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Loss Of Those “Baptized.” Matthew 28:19-20

- Cares and pleasures of this life, ever present danger. Luke 8:13-14
- We are too busy!
 - School activities, recreation, etc.
 - Evidence: Lack of study, lack of preparation for Bible classes, children not prepared for classes.

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We Are To:

- Study & meditate on God’s word. 2 Timothy 2:15
 - Visit the fatherless and widows. James 1:27
 - Teach our neighbors and our children the gospel. “Go preach ...” Mark 16:15
 - Encourage the brethren. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
 - Be hospitable. Romans 12:13
 - Restore the fallen. Galatians 6:1
 - Care for our aged parents. 1 Timothy 5:4
- 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

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Poor Attendance.

- Progressive: *“drift” Hebrews 2:1*
- Promise of becoming partakers of Christ. Hebrews 3:14
- Exhortations to be diligent. Hebrews 4:11; 6:11-12
- Danger of *“divers and strange teachings.” Hebrews 13:7-17*
 - Promise of reward. Hebrews 10:35-36
 - Neglect. Hebrews 10:24-25

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Our Friends.

- Jesus and sinners. Matthew 9:10-12
- Friends were the disciples. Matthew 12:46-50; John 11:1-5; 15:14
- 1 Corinthians 15:33 The more we are separated from our brethren, the more likely our love for them will grow cold. cf. Matthew 24:12
- We are to exhort one another daily. Hebrews 3:13

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Lack Of Discipline.

Two things: instruction as well as correction, chastisement or punishment. (Webster)

- The church in Corinth. 1 Corinthians 5; cf. Ephesians 5:8ff
- *“A little leaven, leavens the whole lump.” (Verse 6)*
- Accept into fellowship those who are practicing sin.
- Imported leaven congregation will destroy a church just as fast as the home-grown variety.
- Social acceptance results in lack of militancy, watered-down preaching ... entertainment and humorous stories. cf. Jude 3; 2 Timothy 4:1-2, etc.

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Breakdown Of The Family.

- In America – one divorce every 13 seconds.
 - 6,646 divorces per day.
 - 46,523 divorce per week.
- (<http://www.mckinleyirvin.com/blog/divorce/32-shocking-divorce-statistics/>)

Matthew 19:3ff Why does the church have an issue with Marriage/ Divorce/ Remarriage?

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Breakdown Of The Family.

Break all the rules for a happy home. (Think like the world.)

1. Selfishness. cf. Ephesians 5:20-21; cf. Matthew 16:24
2. Disillusionment. Haven't prepared.
3. Communication ceases, love fades, bitterness invades, we give up to be miserable. Believing we have the right to be happy, we divorce and "move on."

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What Can I Do?

1. Look in the mirror. cf. James 1:23-24
2. Talk to someone who is not a Christian.
3. Talk to those who are weak.
4. Study your Bible every day.
5. Pray frequently and fervently every day.
6. Pay attention to the announcements.

What will be the future of the church here?