

Church Killers

Ron Schrock, State Representative
California Association of Regular Baptist Churches
carbc.org ~ carbcrep@gmail.com

Sad statistics: 80% of the churches in America are in a state of decline, another 15% are said to be at "plateau status". Only 5% of churches in America are purported to be growing, and I have seen two figures on how many churches die each year in America, one says 3000 and the other 4000. Dwight LaPine shared yesterday that 1400 pastors or clergy leave the ministry in America every month.

There is a sense in which by direct application or principle, almost every problem believers encountered in the entire Bible could be on a list of Church Killers.

*Paper cut killers

- I. The House of God is Forsaken! Nehemiah 13
 - A. Unholy alliances. 4-9 (Problem and Response pattern)
 - B. Unholy or Lack of giving. 10-13
 - C. Unholy worship. 15-22
 - D. Unholy marriages. 23-31
 - E. Unholy workers. 36 to 1, note Vs 14, 22, & 30II.
- II. Wolves and Other Predators Acts 20:17-38, esp. 28-30
 - A. Six Problems and One Praise: Revelations 2-3
 1. A love Problem in Ephesus
The problem was not being a loveless church, but having an inappropriate order of love.
 2. A fear Problem in Smyrna (2:9-10)
Fear of the wrong things.
 3. A tolerance Problem in Pergamos (2:14-15)
 4. A compromising Church in Thyatira (2:20-24)
 5. Dead while the Doors are Still Open: Sardis (3:1-2)
 6. A Temperature problem in Laodicea (3:15-17)
 7. The Open Door Church of Philadelphia. (3:7-13)

B. Other Most Wanted Killers

1. Forgetting the real enemy (Ephesians 6:11c-12) "...the wiles of the Devil.
2. Going Into Battle Improperly dressed (Ephesians 6:10-20)
3. Books over The Book II Timothy 3:16-17
4. Stale Bread
II Timothy 4:2, 2:15 right doctrine and right delivery
5. Skimpy meals II Timothy 4:2
 - a. Dumbing Down
 - b. The Amount of Meals
6. Programs Over Prayer I Timothy 2:1

"It is as much decreed to be done by Prayer, as it is decreed to be done at all."
Lewis Sperry Chafer

7. Comfort Over Conformity! Romans 12:1-2
8. Friends Over Foreigners. (enjoying the regular attendees and ignoring visitors.)
9. The Grounds Steal the Glory Haggai 1:8
An annual walk through
10. Methods Over the Message (Tradition over Truth)
"You will have to change it by prying my dead, cold fingers off _____
(you fill in the blank)
11. Relationship Trumps Reverence! Job 28:28, Proverbs 1:7, Exodus 1:17 & 21,
Eccles. 12:13, I Peter 2:17, I Corinthians 7:1, Romans 3:18
12. The Hatfields and McCoys Philippians 4:2-5, Ephesians 4:26-27
13. The Mega Church Mentality
"Got to be" mindset

"Can't be" mentality

14. Maintenance Mode II Timothy 2:2

Like coasting, it only works for a short time and goes one direction!

15. Radical Rulers

a. Radical Pastoral Rule!

b. Radical Elder Rule!

c. Radical Deacon Rule!

d. Radical Pew Rule!

Radical Servant leadership is what Jesus, Paul and others modeled and taught.

16. Flesh Over Spirit. Zechariah 4:6b: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

17. Leftover Churches. Malachi 1:6-8 (items that church people no longer want and give to the church. Often they are offended if the church gives them away.

18. Lack of Loyalty. Hebrews 10:25

19. Friends Who Are Enemies!

The most important act of kindness is to tell them their greatest need. Acts 1:8

20. The Retirement Mentality! "I've served my time."

Churches seldom die from one shot or stab wound, but a series of small wounds (paper cuts) that get infected and drain the life slowly and painfully out of a pastor and congregation.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever more. Amen"

Jude 24-25