



The Trouble With Church

“The problem we experience, whenever we think about the church, concerns the tension between the ideal and the reality. The ideal is beautiful...but in reality we who claim to be the church are often a motley rabble of rather scruffy individuals, half-educated and half-saved, uninspired in our worship, constantly bickering with each other, concerned more for our maintenance than our mission, struggling and stumbling along the road...”

John Stott, *The Contemporary Christian*



ALIEN

Living in a Chaotic World

1 PETER

Umbrella Verses

“Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

1 Peter 2:11-12



Alien Living in a Chaotic World

Ambassadors for Jesus represent Him in this chaotic world by:

1. Living with integrity within ourselves.
2. Living with integrity within the world.



Difficult Social Spheres

1. Submitting to governing authorities
2. Working for mean masters.
3. Loving spouses in difficult marriages.
4. Getting along with others



Love One Another: Jesus' Command

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35





“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”
John 13:14



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Love One Another

- Be like-minded
 - Be sympathetic
 - Love one another
 - Be compassionate
- Be humble

THINK

FEEL

MAIN POINT

FEEL

THINK



Love One Another

- Be like-minded THINK
- Be sympathetic FEEL
 - Love one another MAIN POINT
- Be compassionate FEEL
- Be humble THINK

If we're going to love one another well,
we need unity of purpose, not
necessarily uniformity of opinion.

DIFFERENTIATING ESSENTIALS

YELLOW=ESSENTIALS



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In order to love one another well, we need to walk in one another's shoes.



Be Sympathetic

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

Romans 12:15

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

1 Corinthians 12:26



15 Reasons Committed Christians Don't Attend Church

(malphursgroup.com)

1. I can get better preaching from a podcast.
2. I can worship on my own.
3. I can study the Bible on my own.
4. I have Christian friends that are my "church."
5. I feel like church is boring
6. I have to work on Sundays.
7. I have family obligations on the weekends.
8. I don't feel like there is a place for my child or teenager.
9. I don't feel like going to church makes a difference in my life.
10. I don't know of any "good" churches near me.
11. I'm not sure I believe the same things anymore.
12. I'm offended by the church's position on sexuality.
13. I don't feel like there is a place for me to lead.
14. I've been hurt by church members.
15. I don't trust church leadership.

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Organism vs. Organization

“The church is not a human organization that has contracted by common consent to keep alive the memory of a great historical figure. On the contrary, the church is a living organism mystically fused to the living and reigning Christ, who continues to reveal himself in his people.”

Greg Ogden, Discipleship Essentials





Al Bjorklund

Harmony

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

Romans 12:16



Let Your Love Flow

1. Internal integrity: love one another. *Thank God for His family in a hostile world!* (v.8)



Blessing is Promised

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.”

Hebrews 12:3 (The Message)



Repay Evil With Good

1. Keep tongue from evil/lies – speak well of them
2. Turn from evil – don't take revenge
3. Do good – not just avoiding evil
4. Seek peace – try to make it right
5. Pursue it – don't give up easily



Pray for Enemies

“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Acts 7:59-60



Let Your Love Flow

1. Internal integrity: love one another. *Thank God for His family in a hostile world!* (v.8)
2. External integrity: love your enemies. *Thank God for who He is and His ultimate justice!* (vv.9-12)



