

True Church/False Church

A Comparison

The TRUE CHURCH:

- is persecuted
- is reviled by the world
- rejoices in suffering
- is taught by the Holy Spirit
- focuses on unifying factors (essence of the gospel)
- is participatory (1 Cor. 14)
- works like a functional body
- loves its enemies
- is scorned by men
- enjoys true fellowship
- operates in and by the power of the Holy Spirit
- is spiritually powerful (miracles, sign gifts)
- functions in the gifts
- receives fresh/specific revelation/insight/wisdom
- elevates Christ
- emphasizes holiness, perseverance and obedience
- requires repentance
- walks in the light (confession, transparency)
- has a merciful, humble spirit
- strives to enter His rest
- knows God personally and intimately
- reads the Word with the heart
- engages in spontaneous, Spirit-led worship
- gives to God's work (the poor, missions)
- loves and supports the brethren
- fosters horizontal intimacy and transparency
- teaching is spontaneous, spirit-directed and uses many members
- exalts the lowly and those of humble means, permitting all to contribute as God leads
- sometimes appears undignified, foolish
- worships the living Word
- confronts and deals with open sin in its members
- is like being in a symphony
- is a team sport
- is deed oriented (with power)
- is covenant-relationship driven
- is sanctification oriented
- is not of this world
- values godliness (love, truth, sacrifice, obedience, repentance, perseverance)
- eschews rituals and "sacraments"
- strives to forgive its debtors
- works out its own salvation w/fear and trembling
- has a heart faith
- strives for unity in the Body of Christ
- welcomes the Spirit/seeks to be filled
- leaves you in awe of God
- values (and seeks) experience(s) with God
- says salvation costs you everything

The FALSE CHURCH:

- persecutes "unbelievers" or "heretics"
- is revered in the world
- shuns suffering, pampers itself
- is taught by seminary-trained men
- focuses on dividing factors (peripheral differences)
- is hierarchical
- works like a quadriplegic body
- has no enemies
- is praised by men
- suffers under pseudo-relationships and isolation
- operates by programs, strategic planning, paid staff
- is spiritual impotent (no works of power)
- denies the gifts (says they have ceased)
- does not expect God to speak outside His Word
- elevates men with charisma/talent (personality-cults)
- emphasizes eternal security and freedom in Christ
- hardly mentions repentance (or denies it's needed)
- hides its sin, walks in hypocrisy
- has a judgmental, critical and/or prideful spirit
- works to achieve sainthood, reputation or fame
- knows *about* God
- parses the Word from the head
- worship is entirely preprogrammed
- gives to mortgages/salaries, building programs
- hardly knows or engages the brethren
- fosters facades, secrecy, hypocrisy
- teaching is rehearsed (even jokes) and usually limited to one (seminary-educated) man
- exalts the talented, good-looking, rich, savvy, charismatic, educated, worldly-wise
- puts on a good show for public consumption
- worships the Bible
- tolerates sin in its midst
- is like *going* to the symphony
- is a spectator sport
- is word oriented (doctrines and creeds)
- is membership driven
- is entertainment oriented
- imitates the world
- values worldly success (appearance, wealth, marketing/numbers, popularity, size, fun)
- emphasizes rituals and sacraments
- thinks forgiveness is optional
- thinks sanctification is automatic (or optional)
- has a head faith (or "said-faith")
- strives for preeminence in the Body of Christ
- quenches the Spirit
- leaves you in awe of men (and/or women)
- demeans, shuns or devalues experience(s) with God
- says salvation costs you nothing