

## ***Who do you fellowship with?***

Do you go to Church, Which church do you go, Why not?

Why would one go to a church where the pastor or people teach, you can't do what Jesus said, or you can't be like Jesus or you can't keep the Law—a false Gospel. Or they teach false prophecy.

Note: what if teachers told students they can't learn, or parents told their children you can't do that, or you can't be that. No one would permit children to face this discouragement. Why are they allowing this from pastors. There isn't one word from Jesus saying you can't be like Him. When pressed they say Jesus does it, yet If He does then why say they you can't be? They *miss quote* with other scripture there's none righteous or all our righteousnesses are filthy rags—YET the Bible assures us that there were Righteous Luke 1:6; Matt. 10:41, 13:17,43—and if Jesus is our righteousness ITS not a filthy rag

But Notice where did John the Baptist go to church and that Jesus left the church. And where did those who lived in dens and caves go to church, mentioned by Paul in Hebrews 11:38\*

## ***They Taught You Could.***

John 2:3 And every man that hath this hope in him *purifieth himself, even as he is pure.* . 5 But whoso keepeth his word, *in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby* know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: *he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.* 8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil;* for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God *doth not commit sin;* for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.10 *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness* is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. *If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

1Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, *make you perfect,* stablish,

strengthen, settle you.

Paul 2Tim. 3:17 ***That the man of God may be perfect***, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:13.

2Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath ***righteousness*** with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Christ. Matt. 5: 48 ***Be ye therefore perfect***, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matt. 7:24

John. 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But ***he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.***

### ***Those who are members ends salvation?***

The class of ***professed Sabbathkeepers*** who try to form a union between Christ and Belial, who take hold of the truth with one hand and of the world with the other, have surrounded their children and clouded the church with an atmosphere ***entirely foreign*** to religion and the Spirit of Christ. They dared not openly oppose the claims of truth. They dared not take a bold stand and say they did not believe the testimonies; but, while nominally believing both, they have obeyed ***neither***. By their course of action they have denied both. They desire the Lord to fulfill to them His promises; but ***they refuse to comply*** with the conditions on which these promises are based. They will not ***relinquish*** every rival for Christ. Under the preaching of the word there is a partial suppression of worldliness, but no radical change of the affections. Worldly desires, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life ultimately gain the victory. This class are all professed Christians. Their names are on the church books. ***They live for a time a seemingly religious life and then yield their hearts, too often finally, to the predominating influence of the world.*** {5T 52.2}

“This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and [men and women] loved darkness rather than light.” ***They will not come to the light for fear that their deeds will be reprov'd.*** This is the position taken by many. Their names are in the church books. They observe a round of ceremonies, ***but they do not love the truth.*** They have been satisfied to stand at the door. They do not press their way into Christ's presence, to share with Him the glory of His royal life. Their ***characters*** are not brought into harmony with the ***truth***. They have not the faith

that works by love and purifies the soul. Evil-speaking, evil-surmising, dishonest actions, cast a dark shadow athwart their pathway. Their faith sinks into this shadow of shame, and they feel that they are separated from Christ. There is a sting in the conscience, a condemnation in the life. They feel a desire to hide away from God. Light has come into the world, but they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. . . . {CTr 52.3}

***Let church members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them.*** They must show themselves approved of God, workmen that need not be ashamed. Day by day they are to build their ***characters*** in accordance with Christ's directions. They are to abide in Him, constantly exercising faith in Him. Thus they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ—wholesome, cheerful, grateful Christians, led by God into clearer and still clearer light. If this is not their experience, they will be among those whose voices will one day be raised in the bitter lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved! Why did I not flee to the Stronghold for refuge? Why have I trifled with my soul's salvation, and done despite to the Spirit of grace?" 62 {CCh 67.5}

Let church-members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them. They must show themselves approved of God, workmen that need not to be ashamed. Day by day they are to build their characters in accordance with Christ's directions. They are to abide in him, constantly exercising faith in him. Thus they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ,—wholesome, cheerful, grateful Christians, led by God, step by step, into clearer and still clearer light. {RH, November 24, 1904 par. 15}

The young want just what they have not; namely, religion. Nothing can take the place of this. ***Profession alone is nothing. Names are registered upon the church-books upon earth, but not in the book of life.*** I saw that there is not one in twenty of the youth who knows what experimental religion is. They serve themselves, and yet profess to be servants of Christ; but unless the spell which is upon them be broken, they will soon realize that the portion of the transgressor is theirs. **As for self-denial or sacrifice for the truth's sake, they have found an easier way above it all.** As for the earnest pleading with tears and strong cries to God for His pardoning grace, and for strength from Him to resist the temptations of Satan, they have found it unnecessary to be so earnest and zealous; they can get along well without it. Christ, the King of glory, went often alone to the mountains and desert places to pour out His soul's request to His Father; but sinful man, in whom is no strength, thinks he can live without so much prayer.--"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. I, pages 503-505. {1T 504.2}

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***The names of those who sin and refuse to repent should not be retained on the church books,*** lest the saints be held accountable for their evil deeds. Those who pursue a course of transgression should be visited and labored with, and if they then refuse to repent, they should be separated from church fellowship, in accordance with the rules laid down in the Word of God. . . . {5BC 1096.5}

Those who refuse to hear the admonitions and warnings given by God's faithful messengers are not to be retained in the church. They are to be disfellowshipped; for they will be as Achan in the camp of Israel--deceived and deceiving. {5BC 1096.6}

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Jesus and his loyal subjects ascend to the top of the city. The wicked host behold the splendor of the city, and the happy redeemed company upon its walls, and are amazed at the scene. They behold Jesus in his kingly majesty, his countenance surpassing the brightness of the sun, surrounded by the angelic throng. As the wicked look upon the redeemed, and see their faces radiant with glory, and glittering crowns upon their heads, their courage fails, and they wail in anguish as they realize that they chose a life of rebellion against God, and Jesus Christ their Saviour, and for their disloyalty have lost eternal life, and an imperishable treasure. Then ***many who had professed*** to be Christ's followers, but who had not honored God in their lives, enumerate their good deeds performed when they lived upon the earth, and entreat to be admitted into the city. ***They plead that their names were upon the church books,*** and they had prophesied in the name of Christ, and in his name cast out devils, and done many wonderful works. ***Christ answers, Your cases have been decided. Your names are not found enrolled in the book of life.*** You professed to believe in my name, but you trampled upon the law of God. I know you not, depart from me ye workers of iniquity. Satan and his angels try to encourage the wicked multitude to action; but fire descends from Heaven, and unites with the fire in the earth, and aids in the general conflagration. {3SG 86.1}

Some who have been channels of light, whose hearts have been made glad by the precious light of truth, **have denied that truth by assimilating to the world.** They have thus lost the spirit of self-sacrifice and **the power of the truth,** and have depended for happiness upon unstable things of earth. They are in great peril. Having once rejoiced in the light, they will be left in total darkness unless they speedily gather up the rays that are still shining upon them and return to the Lord with repentance and confession. We are in a day of peril, when error and deception are captivating the people. Who will warn the world, who will show them the better way, **unless those who have had the light of truth are sanctified through it** and shall let their light so shine that others may see their good works and glorify

God? I wish I could impress upon all the danger they are in of losing heaven. Joining the church is one thing, and connecting with Christ is quite another. ***Not all the names registered in the church books are registered in the Lamb's book of life.*** Many, though apparently sincere believers, do not keep up a living connection with Christ. They have enlisted, they have entered their names on the register; but the inner work of grace is not wrought in the heart. As the result they are not happy, and they make hard work of serving God. {5T 278.2}

***It is the character, not the placing of our names on the church books, that makes us Christians.*** What manifestations will appear when Christ, abiding in the heart, is shining in the faces of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The man is transformed into Christ's image. A worldly man may pass by and not mark the change, but those who have had communion with Christ discern the expression of Christ in word, in spirit. The influence upon the heart is seen in a habitual gentleness, a more than human love. The sweet peace of heaven will be in the soul, and will be revealed in the countenances.--Letter 6, Jan. 14, 1899, to "Brethren and Sisters in Camp Meeting at Ballarat." {UL 28.5}

Jesus adds to the lesson these words: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." This assurance, that after the rules of Christ have been followed to the letter, the decisions of the church will be ratified in heaven, gives a solemn significance to the action of the church. **No hasty steps should be taken to cut off names from the church books, or to place a member under censure until the case has been investigated, and the Bible rule fully obeyed.** The word of Christ shows how necessary it is for church officers to be free from prejudice and selfish motives. Human minds and hearts, unless wholly sanctified, purified, and refined from partiality and prejudice, are liable to commit grave errors, to misjudge and deal unkindly and unjustly with souls that are the purchase of the blood of Christ. *But the decision of an unjust judge will be of no account in the court of heaven. It will not make an innocent man guilty, nor change his character in the least before God.* As surely as men in responsible positions become lifted up in their own esteem, and act as though they were to lord it over their brethren, they will render many decisions which heaven cannot ratify. {HM, February 1, 1892 par. 13}

The advancement of the church is retarded by the wrong course of its members. Uniting with the church, although an important and necessary act, does not make one a Christian or insure salvation. ***We cannot secure a title to heaven by having our names enrolled upon the church books, while our hearts are alienated from Christ.*** We should be his faithful representatives on earth, working in unison with him. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God." We should keep in mind this holy

relationship, and do nothing to bring dishonor upon our Father's cause. {RH, June 16, 1885 par. 2}

But those who have failed to preserve their consecration to God, which they made when under the influence of his Spirit, have dishonored their Redeemer, and scattered from Christ. They have grieved the Holy Spirit. They have brought reproach upon the cause of God, and Satan has exulted in his power. The church of God is to hold high her holy ensign, proclaiming the fact to the world that she has been chosen of God out of the world, ***that through grace and truth*** she may be in the world, but not of it. ***A mere profession of godliness, a name registered on the church-books, does not constitute one a child of God.*** To be a true Christian, it is necessary to be renewed in knowledge and true holiness, to come out from the world, and be separate and distinct from its customs and spirit. {RH, February 13, 1894 par. 6}

The Lord requires all who profess to be Christians ***to be filled with the Holy Spirit***, and then to consecrate their means and powers to his work. They will then have a lofty estimate of what is due to the world's Redeemer. They are to realize that they are to use every jot and tittle of their influence to help one another to appreciate the heavenly endowment. ***The absence of the means or influence of one whose name is registered in the church-books means robbery to God.*** All are to wear the yoke of Christ, and lift his burdens, by watching for souls as they that must give account. To every man is given his work; no one is excused. {RH, March 22, 1898 par. 9}

Thus Christ presents the false union with himself in contrast with the true. Those who have not a living connection with Christ may to outward appearance be in fellowship with him. ***Their names may be enrolled on the church books, but they are not members of his body.*** They do not bear fruit to the glory of God. "Ye shall know them by their fruits," Christ said. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree can not bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." {RH, September 18, 1900 par. 13}

***The fact that our names are on the church books will not secure for us an entrance into the kingdom of heaven.*** God asks, Have you used your opportunities for service and for the development of Christian ***character***? Have you traded faithfully with your Lord's goods? Knowing the will of God concerning you, how have you obeyed that will? Have you sought to benefit and bless those who needed help and encouragement? There are many souls who would be brought to a higher

standard of *character* if they could be *taught to appreciate the work of purifying and refining and sanctification* that should go forward daily in their lives. If they could be brought to sense the worth of souls for whom Christ has died, they would realize how perilous is the condition of him who does nothing to help in the work of salvation. {RH, April 22, 1909 par. 11}

*The fact that our names are registered in the church books will never make us Christians;* it is in doing the Word that we become sons and daughters of God. Judas was chosen as one of Christ's disciples. Christ did not reject him because he was not perfect. He had power to heal the sick. But, notwithstanding the lessons of Christ, he failed to be converted daily, and to be an instrument sanctified and polished for the Master's use. He was subject to temptation. Satan found that the hereditary and natural tendencies of Judas could be used to dishonor the Master and imperil his own soul. {ST, March 10, 1898 par. 7}

The doctrine of grace and salvation through Jesus Christ is a mystery to a large share of those whose names are upon the church books. If Christ were upon the earth speaking to His people, *He would reproach them for their slowness of comprehension*. He would say to the slow and uncomprehending, "I have left in your possession truths which concern your salvation, of which you do not suspect the value." {8MR 275.4}

Religion is a personal matter. *We are not saved by companies; we are not saved by having our names on the church books; we are not saved by numbers. The matter is, How is it with my soul? Have I made the surrender to God?* Luke 10. Read the test made to Christ, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Christ responds to the lawyer, "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" (Read the whole on this point.) Am I converted to God? Has His transforming power made me a new man? Am I kind? Have I the attributes of Christ, or the attributes of Satan? Am I polite to God whose property in souls I am responsible for? Am I kind? Am I patient? Am I tender? Do I have the love of Christ for the souls for whom He has died? {1SAT 178.2}

We are not saved as a sect; no denominational name has any virtue to bring us into favor with God. *We are saved individually as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.* And "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." We may have our names recorded on the books of the most spiritual of the churches, and yet we may not belong to Christ, and our names may not be written on the Lamb's book of life. Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If we could reach heaven through our own merits and efforts, then Christ need not have come to the world, to endure suffering, reproach, and shame, to be subjected to humiliation, mockery,

insult, and death. He made an infinite sacrifice, because it was the only way whereby man could be saved. **Those who believe in Christ will reveal it in their life and character. By beholding Christ they will be changed into his image, and Christ will be represented to the world by his followers. If we are branches of the True Vine, precious clusters of rich fruit will appear in the life as the natural result. Practical faith in Christ will result in the doing of his words; the believer in Jesus will work the works of God. "We are laborers together with God." "Without me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." In and through the grace of Christ we can do all things.** RH February 10, 1891, par. 6

Again: it is written, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12, 13). Jesus declared, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Verse 5). It is not a low standard that is placed before us, for we are to become the children of God. ***We are to be saved as individuals***, and in the day of test and trial ***we shall be able to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not***. We are saved as individual believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. FW 101.2

Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved in masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit.—*Mount of Blessing*, p. 59. (1896). Ev 460.2 MB 36.1

Testing times come to all. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The five wise virgins could not impart their character to the five foolish virgins. **Character must be formed by us as individuals. It cannot be transferred to another, even if the possessor were willing to make the sacrifice.** There is much we can do for each other while mercy still lingers. **We can represent the character of Christ.** We can give faithful warnings to the erring. We can reprove, rebuke, with all long-suffering and doctrine, bringing the doctrines of Holy Writ home to the heart. We can give heartfelt sympathy. We can pray with and for one another. By living a circumspect life, by maintaining a holy conversation, we may give an example of what a Christian should be; ***but no person can give to another his own mold of character. Let us duly consider the fact that we are to be saved, not as companies, but as individuals. We shall be judged according to the***

***character we have formed.*** It is perilous to neglect to prepare the soul for eternity, and to put off making our peace with God until upon a dying bed. It is by the daily transactions of life, by the spirit we manifest, that we determine our eternal destiny. He who is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much. If we have made Christ our pattern, if we have walked and worked as he has given us an example in his own life, we shall be able to meet the solemn surprises that will come upon us in our experience, and say from our heart, "Not my will, but thine, be done." RH September 17, 1895, par. 10

Religion is a personal matter. ***We are not to be saved as churches, but as individuals*** who have appropriated the merits of Christ. The question each one should ask is: "Is it well with my soul? Has the transforming grace of Christ renewed my heart? Have I a kind, tender, compassionate spirit? Am I like Him who, though he was rich, yet for my sake became poor, that I through His poverty might be made rich? What sacrifice have I made for Him who died for me?" ST July 25, 1892, par. 12

***We are to be doers of Christ's words,*** and not hearers only. ***Having our names registered in the church books will not save us. We are to be saved as individual members of Christ's body. We are to be individual workers with Christ*** in the great plan of salvation, and partakers at last with him in his glory. We are not to follow the customs and traditions of men; for they are far from the ways of God. We are ever to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. YI June 28, 1894, par. 10

Individually you carry with you a personal value of more worth than worlds can buy. "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" [Mark 8:36, 37.] Nothing upon earth is of sufficient value to compute with the value of the human soul. Sin is a mortal disease. The wages of sin is death, the gift of God in the saving of the human soul is eternal life. ***We have as individuals a soul to save or a soul to lose.*** If the soul perishes through unbelief, it were better had that soul never have been born. Will you have Jesus Christ as your Saviour? He has given His life and made every provision that you shall not perish if you believe in Him. 8LtMs, Lt 2, 1893, par. 10

***Those who live doing the works of the enemy, yet bearing the name of the Lord, are lying; they profess to believe the Bible, yet they are working right away from it in their lives and character.*** In the place of representing Jesus in the character that they shall give to the world, they represent the works of Satan, the works of darkness. ***Now any such names that may be on your church books, although they may give of their means to help to sustain the church,***

notwithstanding all that, they are stumbling blocks to the church every day they are in it. {1888 121.5}