

POISONING YOUR FUTURE WITH PRESENT CHOICES

We seem to live in a time where some people have little loyalty to a church and so the decision to leave a church is made like the decision to try out a new restaurant. Switching churches, however, might just be the one decision that could change your life forever. Where there is weak loyalty there will be strong repercussions. We can poison our future by making poor present choices.

I dare say that leaving one church for another would be as serious as leaving one family and joining another family. You must count the cost spiritually, emotionally, and in many other ways.

Paul said all things are permissible (lawful), but not all things are beneficial (expedient). There may arise certain spiritually justifiable reasons that one might have to change churches when those reasons are confirmed by pastoral counsel. The serious mistake of some, however, is to let their emotions and personal preferences lead the way rather than proper spiritual counsel. Most people who changed churches will say he or she was led to do so--but who or what did the leading? The "I prayed about it" self-justification fallacy that attempts to insinuate that God condones the decision--a decision that conveniently bypasses pastoral guidance--this is a road to disaster.

Some vital considerations in making potentially life-changing decisions:

- It is important to have a proper perspective of what and who a pastor is in your life.
- Following that is the fact that you must also have a good perspective of the roles that other people play in your life.
- Then you would do well to consider the effects the decisions will have on you and the people that surround you. Just as a separation or divorce affects all the involved parties, leaving one church wrongly for another has similar effects. For many children, unsettled lifestyles seen in their role models affect them very negatively, and parents must endeavor to be stable enough to breed emotionally and mentally healthy children.

- It is also important to know the truth. To override truth for social atmosphere, friendship, finances, or geography is always a deadly choice. Daniel 11:23 speaks of those that know their God will be strong. Having a strong relationship with Him and His Church and its leadership. Contrary wise, those who are weak in those relationships are likely to have insufficient “truth” of how to make important life choices.
- Last but not the least, the one other thing to consider is YOU. If you are not right with God, no amount of church changes will heal or correct your issues. People who change churches wrongly are always looking for something new or running from something old. If God does not deal with you and heal you, your past will always catch up with you and your future will always run away from you. If you don’t seek to be healed but just walk away from a good church, you will only carry your issues wherever you may happen to land. You will only poison your future by your present choices!

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