

Least Common Denominator

What do most Christ-based churches teach today?

- God exists.
- Jesus Christ exists.
- God and Jesus love us.
- Christ died for us to save us.

These four statements are probably about the ONLY points Christ-based churches have in common. When we get any deeper into God's Word, the differences are stark and can become downright contentious.

During my years as a Christian, when I bring up deeper subject matters from God's Word, these are the most common responses I hear:

- Women are to be silent in the church and not take any leading roles as a man (I Corinthians 14:34, I Timothy 2:12).
 - We do not teach this. That's old-fashioned and cultural. It's not really a command we must obey today. Paul was a chauvinist.
- Christians are commanded to teach and evangelize the world (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - We do not teach this. Two subjects are off-limits—religion and politics. They can “come to church” if they want to hear. We do not want to offend anyone with our religion and we are not supposed to judge anyone.
- Baptism is required for salvation (Mark 16:16).
 - We do not teach this. It is really inconvenient and embarrassing to be submerged under water in front of everyone. We believe all you must do is believe and pray.
- The Holy Spirit speaks to us today ONLY through the Word of God. He is not literally dwelling inside of us.
 - We do not teach this. We feel like the Holy Spirit is physically inside the Christian and speaks personally to each of us and guides our lives.
- Divorce and remarriage is a sin except in the case of fornication (Matthew 19:9).
 - We do not teach this. Most of us have been married and divorced multiple times and we are not going to tell anyone they are wrong.
- Homosexuality is a sin (Romans 1:26ff).
 - We do not teach this. We are not to judge anyone. Homosexuality is widely accepted today by society. We do not want to get in trouble.
- Each congregation should have elders and deacons if there are qualified men (I Timothy 3 and Titus 1).
 - We do not teach this. We have all kinds of positions and we think the preacher is in charge of the church because he gets paid.
- There is no Biblical authority for using musical instruments in worship services.
 - We do not teach this. Since the Bible does not say we cannot do something, then we can do it. We also like the sound of it and it stirs up emotions.
- The church is to partake of the Lord's Supper EVERY first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
 - We do not teach this. We think every week is too often. It means more if we just do it monthly, quarterly, or yearly. Also, we like to have the Lord's Supper at weddings and other special occasions.
- Infant baptism is contradictory to the Word of God because they are sinless (Ezekiel 18:20).

- We do not teach this. Many of us believe Adam's sin passed to all men and babies are born sinners and need to be baptized.

These are just a few examples of deeper subject matters from God's Word that most Christ-based churches will not teach on. What does this mean? It means we have thousands of churches out there who do not teach even a fraction of God's Word to its members. They want to find the least common denominator between everyone so that no one is offended and everyone feels good and saved. We all believe in God, Christ, and love so that is all we will teach. That will bring a lot of people into the building and a lot of money for the preacher. That is why most members of most churches do not know the first thing about God or His Word. They blindly follow the preacher's extremely watered down sermons full of feel good stories and jokes and think they are saved because he does not teach any details of God's commandments and he tells everyone they are spiritually fine.

- Jesus said in John 12:48 that we will all be judged by what He taught.
- Paul said in Acts 20:27 that he had not shunned to declare to the church the whole counsel of God.
- Paul said II Corinthians 5:10 that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged on the life we lived.
- The wisest man that ever lived, Solomon, said in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 that the whole existence of man is to fear God and keep His commandments because we will be judged on how we lived our life.

When I stand before God on Judgment Day, I will not be able to blame anyone for my ignorance of God's commandments. I am responsible for my own soul, so I better make sure I study God's Word, become a Christian like He said, be a member of Christ's church (not a spiritual social club), and live the life He has told me to live.