

HOW TO KILL OUR CHURCH

Revelation 3:1

Revelation 3:1 The church at Sardis is described as being “a dead church.” This revelation reveals to us that church congregations can die, and as we know, they have and often do die. Lets examine some different ways that can jeopardize the life of a local assembly, a local church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 2:11 Many times the members of a local church forget that Satan hates Jesus Christ and everything Christ stands for. Satan uses everything in his power to destroy any church of Jesus Christ. Are there things in our church that Satan is using to tear the church apart and kill it?

PERSECUTION

Revelation 2:8-10 Against the church in Smyrna Satan used physical, mental and material persecution in order to try and destroy the church. Jesus encouraged the church to stand fast in faith. What a direct testimony against the false teaching of the gospel of health, wealth and prosperity!

I Peter 4:12-13; 5:8-9 Peter forewarned the early churches in the first century and God made sure that we understand today that the church will continue to be persecuted until Jesus' Kingdom.

John 12:42-43 Some individuals respond to the threat of persecution by keeping their faith silent.

Acts 5:41-42; Romans 5:1-3 Spirit filled believers will respond to persecution with praise for God.

Matthew 5:11-12; Revelation 2:13; 3:8 Any individual or church that suffers persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ will not go unrewarded as God takes notice of their standing for Him.

FALSE TEACHING

Revelation 2:14-15 Jesus spoke to the church in Pergamos about their allowing the false teachings of Balaam regarding using his ministry for financial gain and promoting sexual sins. This church also promoted the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which misused the grace of God to commit adultery.

Acts 20:29-30; II Peter 2:1-2 Both Paul and Peter spoke to the issue of false teachers that will enter the churches and will be teaching false doctrine while turning many believers away from the truth.

II Timothy 4:1-2 Paul taught Timothy, (and us today) to teach and preach “sound doctrine” (true to God's word). We are to teach and preach God's truth in good times and bad times. We are to endure both the negative preaching, (rebukes), and the positive preaching, (exhortation).

II Timothy 4:3-4 We must beware of those preachers that only want to preach 'good times for all' with no preaching against sin and churches that entertain rather than glorify God and His word.

WORLDLINESS

I John 2:15-16 Immorality and materialism are both sins of worldliness. When believers or churches as a whole think more of numbers, materialism, physical beauty, money in the bank, etc. it is worldly.

Luke 8:14; II Timothy 4:10 When believers are seduced by the world we are rendered fruitless.

Romans 12: 1-2 The only way to refuse to be worldly is to die to self and surrender all to Christ.

INDIFFERENCE

Matthew 12:30; Revelation 3:15-17 Many believers are just going through the motions in church with irregular attendance, lack of service, lack of prayer and bible study, not witnessing for Christ.

Galatians 6:9 We must guard against being indifferent and not ever get tired and too comfortable serving and worshiping God and serving others.