



Collusion or Collision
Message to the Worldly Church
From Sermon 8.8.21

Read *Romans 12:1-2*

Review from Sunday's sermon: along with addressing the divided and the marginal church, Jesus has words of warning for the worldly Church. This movement looks increasingly like the world and less and less like the biblical model. To justify their practice, they must dismiss the majority of Scripture and make up their own doctrines. The Roman church was faithful when Paul wrote their letter. But, this verse tells us the grave concern for slipping into worldliness as individuals and as a Church.

1. Where Paul's words (from God the Holy Spirit) aimed at the universal church, the Church in Rome, or the individual believers in Rome? Yes. All. There's a corporate application and individual one.

2. Read *Deuteronomy 4:2*. What habit of the worldly church is addressed here? Altering of the Scripture.

2a Why does it always begin here? Once you allow questions to God's Word, you've opened the door for eventual complete abandonment. The devil fully knows this. Example = Genesis 1: Did God really say...? Also, dismissing God's standard removes accountability to it.

2b. Inspiration means "God-breathed" = God spoken. Rank the following Bible books by level of inspiration: Matthew, Psalms, Galatians, Genesis, 1 John, & 1 Samuel. This is a trick question and futile exercise. Every word in every book is equally inspired. Paul's writing is just as inspired as the Gospels, or Prophets, or Law. See also 2 Peter 3:15-16 & Galatians 1:11-12

3. What's one way the "Seeker Church" alters the Scripture in practice, while claiming allegiance to inerrancy? They just don't cover those books or portions that might offend. They pick-and-choose passages that make a practical point. They just don't disclose or discuss deep doctrines that may divide. See Acts 20:27

4. Define and Discuss "*Ecumenicalism vs. Syncretism*" (what they get in the end): Ecumenicalism was the move and push to unite the "Christian" church by downplaying doctrine and distinctives. However, the only group really being asked to change and compromise were the conservative, fundamental Christians. Now, the move in the worldly church is syncretism = the move to unite the "Christian" church with other world religions...Eastern religions, Hinduism, Islam, ...This will all finally happen, has they wish, in the Tribulation.

5. Who are the Profiteers and how are they part of the worldly church? Those who seek fame and fortune in the name of the Gospel and church. They always claim to have special insight, power, and divine access. They will teach you or commission you for the right price...buy their books. Attend their conferences. If it doesn't work, it was your faith that was lacking. See also 2 Corinthians 2:17

6. How do we balance hospitality, love, welcoming, and patience with the clear biblical teaching that certain lifestyles are defined, by God, as sin? Don't expect people to act like believers until believers. All are welcome (if not disturbing). Remember that we were once lost. Be Patient. Minister. However, we do not tone down/avoid doctrine to accommodate feelings. Maintain a minimal standard for membership, ministry, and leadership...not defined by the culture, relativism, or personal preference.

7. What worldly responses and issues do you continue to deal with? Are there less of them now than there were earlier in your Christian life? How do you combat them? Re-read *Romans 12:1-2*.