When the Church Turns a Blind Eye to Dishonest Gain

If you have lived in this sin for years, justifying cash-in-hand work off the books or dodging taxes, and the **church** you belong to has not only failed to rebuke you but has tolerated the practice or even turned a blind eye to it, that is a serious sign that it, too, has gone astray and is in a state of spiritual death.

A church like that does not reflect the righteousness that marks the Kingdom of God. It has lowered the standard of holiness to the level of human convention.

The church was not given to rubber-stamp sin. It was given to form righteous character, shaped by God's truth. Its purpose is to bring people up to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, the Righteous One, not to make them comfortable in their wrongdoing.

The true church does not lower the standard. It raises it, calling every soul to transformation, purity and accountability. It is not content with a religious appearance. It pursues maturity in Christ, the supreme model of righteousness. Scripture says that God's servants are duty-bound to watch over the souls entrusted to them (**Hebrews 13:17**), and that watching means refusing to tolerate sin.

When the church stops rebuking sin and starts tolerating it, it betrays its divine mandate and becomes an accomplice in leading souls astray. When a community of believers quietly accepts obvious sins, such as cheating on taxes, it becomes a partaker in them. Saying nothing is not neutrality. It is silent approval.

A church like that, without the courage to speak the truth, without rebuking sin or calling people to repentance, is a church without life. It may have religious activities, the singing may ring out and the sermons may go on, but if the Holy Spirit is not working holiness and transformation, that church is dead. And those who belong to such a congregation are dead members: present in body, but cut off from the life that comes from Christ.

This condition is like that of the people of Israel in Joshua chapter 7, when God withdrew His presence from among them because of the hidden sin of **Achan**. Although they had been called to conquer the promised land, they were defeated by a weak enemy, and God said: "neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you" (**Joshua 7:12**).

This was not merely discipline. It was a clear withdrawal of the divine presence. God was no longer there. He no longer fought for them and no longer blessed their work, until the sin was uncovered, confessed and put away. This verse makes plain that God's presence cannot coexist with sin that is tolerated or hidden. He does not simply withdraw. He warns that He will no longer be with His people until the sin has been completely removed.

The true church of Christ is alive and pure, and it watches over sin with holy discernment, however socially acceptable that sin may be. It does not conform to the world. It conforms to the Word. If the church you belong to does not do this, if it tolerates sin and does not live in the light, do not put off the decision. God is calling you today to come out, to separate yourself, to choose purity and to bring your life into line with the standard of His righteousness. Listen to His voice and step onto the path of holiness. He promises that He will receive you.

Scripture is clear on this. The apostle Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 6:17-18**: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

This is not a call to isolation. It is a call to holy separation. It is not an invitation to judge others. It is an invitation to purity and loyalty to God. When a community refuses to repent and keeps on tolerating sin, the one who hungers for righteousness is called to separate, not out of pride but out of obedience.

Scripture warns us not to join ourselves to those who live in these sins: "What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him…" (**Psalm 50:16-18**). To remain in such a setting, with no witness and no struggle, is to become part of a body that has neither life nor the presence of God.

Separating yourself from unrighteousness is sometimes painful, but it is the only way to true fellowship with God. He promises to receive those who choose holiness, even at the cost of breaking away from what is familiar. The true church is made up of those who choose to live in the light, even when darkness is in the majority.

When Christ calls us to live in righteousness, the one who lets the Holy Spirit search his heart will feel a deep longing for change. This longing is not shallow. It shows itself as a hunger and thirst for righteousness, the mark of an awakened heart that yearns for a pure life pleasing to God.

This sincere thirst opens the way to the new birth, the moment when a person is restored to a right relationship with God and receives a new identity: a **disciple** of the Lord Jesus Christ. But discipleship is not just a starting point. It is an ongoing journey of spiritual formation, in which the believer is called to grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (**Ephesians 4:13**).

This transformation is not merely a change of behaviour. It is a radical break with everything that separates us from God, including the fruit of the sin of Judas and of Achan: the hidden things that many stubbornly hold on to, even though they ought to be given back.

As His disciples, we are called to live as He lived: no hidden treasures, no compromises, no dishonest gain. Living in the light means being transparent, upright and clean before people and before God. The Kingdom of God is not built on hidden things but on truth, justice and holiness.

This transformed life shows itself in real discipleship, where the Kingdom of God becomes your highest priority and His righteousness the pattern for your life, just as Scripture teaches: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness…" (**Matthew 6:33**).

It is a life lived as Christ lived it, in truth, with integrity, and in submission to the demands of God's righteousness. It is a call to give up every compromise and to walk daily on the narrow way of righteousness (**Matthew 7:14**).

Living by the values of the Kingdom of God is not easy, but it is full of meaning and beauty. It is a hard road, but a blessed one.

A personal word of encouragement: God is calling you to enrol in His school of discipleship. Do not put off this step. Answer His call with faith and determination. Pray that the Lord will give you a **living church** that does not tolerate sin, a place where you can be fed spiritually, corrected and encouraged to grow in righteousness, as Scripture commands: "follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (**2 Timothy 2:22**). Only there will you be able to grow "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (**Ephesians 4:13**).

If there is no living church near you and you need support or guidance, **we are here to help**. You can contact us to receive the help you need to begin a truly new life in Christ.

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