

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*A righteous man who falters before the wicked
Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.*
~Proverbs 25:26 NKJV

WHAT'S UP WITH THE EVANGELICALS?

1 Peter 4:17-18 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

Evangelical Church is in a very precarious situation.

- Once – respected place in eyes of Christian community
- Now –questionable place in terms of integrity & representing Christ and the Gospel.

Goal Today:

- Give insight into what is happening in the evangelical church.
- Encourage us to pray.

Reason:

- Where the church is headed is very serious as it relates to the integrity of the representation Christ in the World.

*“Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong.
And Right is right, even if no one is right!”*
~Bishop Fulton Sheen

*“Nobody is more dangerous to the work of God
than a leader who is outside the Will of God!”*
~Warren Wiersbe

WHAT IS EVANGELICALISM AND WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH?

A. EVANGELICALISM

- † “Evangelical” (Greek: *euangelion*) - means “the good news” or the “gospel.”
- † Thus, the evangelical faith focuses on the “good news” of salvation brought to sinners by Jesus Christ.

B. WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH?

An “evangelical” church – can mean different things to different people.

- Narrow application – refers to the denomination called the Evangelical Church.
- Most common – refers to theologically conservative individuals or churches that affirm biblical inspiration and salvation as a personal faith experience in Jesus Christ.

The National Association of Evangelicals – large network of American evangelical churches. They define the evangelical movement as one that holds to the following beliefs:

- **Conversionism** – the belief that lives need to be transformed through a “born-again” experience and a lifelong process of following Jesus.
- **Activism** – the expression and demonstration of the gospel in missionary and social reform efforts.
- **Biblicism** – a high regard for and obedience to the Bible as the ultimate authority.
- **Cruci-centrism** – a stress on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as making possible the redemption of humanity.

Legitimate Evangelicals unequivocally believe the Truth of Gospel as stated in the Word of God!

We believe...

In other words, a legitimate evangelical puts a preeminent premium on the Truth, because Jesus is the Truth — John 14:6

C. SO, WHAT’S HAPPENING IN WITH THE CHURCH TODAY?

Recent Barna survey:

- 9% of all American adults have a biblical worldview.
- 60 subgroups of respondents — Those who said they have a personal commitment to Jesus Christ — Labeled as “born again Christians.”
- Among born again Christians, less than one out of every five (19%) had such an outlook on life.
- 79% of those identifying as “born again Christians” firmly believe the Bible is accurate in all its teachings.
- 46% of these “born agains” believe in absolute moral truth.
- 40% percent believe Satan is real.
- 47% percent strongly reject the idea that you can earn your way to heaven.
- 62% of the born-again Christians surveyed strongly believe Jesus was sinless.

Barna survey demonstrates over the last generation:

- NOT ONLY HAS AMERICA BECOME LESS CHRISTIAN,
- BUT PROFESSING CHRISTIANS HAVE BECOME LESS CHRISTIAN!!!
- This is the direct result of evangelicalism’s relentless prioritization of what seems USEFUL over what is TRUE.

That's why they can support a President who has a love affair with Lying, almost every time he opens his mouth he lies.

John 8:39-44 NKJV, Jesus said to the Pharisees...

Because of their willingness to overlook his lying, they have fallen under the influence of the *other spirits* that influence Donald Trump, such as:

- The Spirit of Racism
- The Spirit of Division
- The Spirit of Revenge
- The Spirit of Narcissism
- The Spirit of Immorality

The No. 1 question that younger evangelicals asking,

“How do they relate to their parents and mentors who want to talk about the culture-war, politics and internet conspiracy theories, instead of prayer or the Bible?”

These young people are committed to their Christian faith, but feel despair and cynicism about the Church's future.

D. EIGHT COMMON PROBLEMS FACING THE CHURCH TODAY

- Vision and strategy that are not aligned (Matt 28 & Mk 16)
- A culture that works against the vision (Proverbs 29:18)
- A structure that restricts growth instead of releasing it (Matthew 23:15)
 - Lack of a clear outreach focus (Luke 14:23)
 - Failure to authentically disciple people (Matthew 28:19)
 - Uncertainty around digital ministry, including our internal and external communications (Romans 12:17)
 - Imbalanced church leadership teams (1 Timothy 3:6)
 - Ineffective training & releasing of new leaders (2 Timothy 2:2)

CONCLUSION

What are the best things to do?

- 1) Stop Criticizing (James 4:11-12 NLT)
- 2) Start petitioning the Throne (James 5:16 NKJV)
- 3) Start Individually Obeying the Word (Joshua 1:8-9 NKJV)