

How Then Should We Live? Living Faithfully in the Midst of Apostasy

We are right now living through one of the most monumental cultural shifts in the history of the western culture. The Christian church is very much part of these changes. We are seeing shocking apostasy among many Christian churches, at the same time as we are living in a culture that becomes more and more anti-Christian. In this situation, one question has become very acute for many Christians: How then should we live? Learning to live as a faithful remnant, when both many mainline European churches, and the culture at large, is leaving the faith, is absolutely crucial, if we are going to preserve the biblical faith for the next generation. In this talk we will explore what it means to serve the Lord faithfully in a time of apostasy. Our situation is not new. The people of God have been in a similar situation many times before, and the Bible has a lot to say on this subject.

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I. Living in the Midst of an increasingly anti-Christian society

A. Abandoning Christian values and morality and returning to pagan culture

1. View of truth – as subjective and relativistic
2. View of God – as created by man
3. View of man – as totally autonomous
4. View of family – as open
5. View of sexuality – as polyamorous
6. Devaluing of man at the beginning and end of life
7. Towards an increasingly intolerant and dictatorial state

II. Living in the midst of apostate churches

A. Abandoning biblical teaching and ethics

1. Scripture no longer as authority in practice
2. Liberal theological training
3. Apostate leadership
4. Increasing pressure on faithful believers
5. Believers establishing autonomous fellowships inside the state churches (Volkirche) or leaving to establish free-churches

III. How then should we live faithfully in the church?

A. Living under the authority of the Scriptures

1. Biblically faithful theological training
2. Biblically faithful teaching
3. Practicing church discipline
4. Maintaining autonomy (theologically, economically, practically) in Christian movements
5. Taking care you do not repeat the mistakes in the new churches that led you to leaving the churches you came out of

IV. How then should we live faithfully as Christians in society

A. Being flexible when you can and drawing lines when it is necessary

1. Make sure you have a Christian fellowship (church) where you get motivated and nurtured in your faith
2. Develop a clear Christian world and life –view

3. Develop strong Christian convictions
4. Don't make compromises (when you should not) because of money or position
5. Establish support groups with like-minded colleagues
6. Be ready to suffer for Christ

V. How then should we live faithfully in our personal lives?

- A. Walking in the light with the Lord. Always repent of your sins immediately
- B. Walk in fellowship with your brothers and sisters
- C. Study the word
- D. Be faithful in prayer
- E. Keep serving the Lord with your gifts and possessions
- F. Always trust His grace – He will keep you