

Why I Left

The Institutional church of Christ

Introduction

John 8:32-33 And you shall **know the truth**, and the **truth shall make you free.**"

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion, that they should believe the lie**, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth **but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

1. **Before we can be made free, we must first know the truth.**
 - A. **The only way to know the truth is to develop a genuine love of the truth.**
 - B. **We develop faith and a love of the truth from hearing the truth. (Romans 10:17).**
2. **Three things are necessary to obedience to God.**
 - A. **Study**
 - B. **Learn the truth**
 - C. **Put it into practice**
 - 1) **All three of these points can give us difficulty if we let it. The third point is perhaps the most difficult for most people to include myself when I first learned of the differences in churches of Christ.**

Why I Left

1. **This is my personal story.**
 - A. **Relate the story of learning the difference in churches of Christ.**

Lessons Learned

1. **What we have been taught may not necessarily be right.**
 - A. **We must change when we know that we are wrong.**
 - 1) **We must, even at a tender age, do as the Bereans:**

Acts 17:11..... receive the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

There's Only One Difference

1. **When all was said and done I soon realized that there is only one difference between the institutional brethren and the conservative brethren.**
 - A. **Conservative brethren could provide book, chapter, and verse in context for all that is done in the name of the Lord, while the institutional brethren could not.**
2. **I have talked with many Christians in the institutional church that had no clue that things being done in the church where they were attending were unscriptural.**
 - A. **Like me, they had never really studied in such a way as to really wanting to know the truth.**
3. **Sadly, there are even those among our number that have not heard much teaching concerning the issues so as to understand the differences and to study these things for themselves.**
 - A. **So as to be convicted that what we are doing is right in God's sight!**

Understanding Why I Left

1. **Respect For Bible Authority**
2 Peter 1:20-21
2. **Knowing what “expediency” is**
 - A. **For a thing to be expedient it must be lawful to begin with.**
3. **Fellowship Halls and Entertainment is not a work of the church.**
4. **The Benevolent work of the church is restricted to the saints.**
5. **Knowing there is a scriptural plan for church cooperation.**

Conclusion

1. **We must consider the cost of being a disciple of Jesus.**

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

2. **That means that we must:**
 - A. **Study**
2 Timothy 2:15
 - B. **Learn the truth**
John 8:32
 - C. **Practice the truth**
Matthew 7:21
3. **I had to leave the unscriptural institutional church and the close relationship with my parents and sisters that I once had in order to be pleasing to God.**
Matthew 10:34-39
 - A. **Are you prepared to leave that which is unscriptural and sinful for the cause of Christ?**
 - 1) **What you choose to do will determine your eternity!**

