

Beulah Bible Church

Membership Course

Three Kinds of Church Membership

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Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
2. The Idle
3. The Faithful Consumers
4. The Faithful Disciples Of Jesus Christ

Introduction

□ According to Tenny-Brittian, there are three classes of church members:

- The Idle,
- The Faithful Consumers, and
- The Disciples Of Jesus Christ

1. The Idle

*Idlers “join” the church,
but all they do is suck
the life from the
congregation and give
nothing back.*

- Paul warns the church about the idle on several occasions. These are people who are parasitic.
- These are destructive members in the church. They are at the heart of complaining and gossip, since they are not contributing anything as they have time to fill. They are the enemy (the devil's) workshop.

What To Do About Idlers

*“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive,...be patient with everyone.”
1 Thes 5:14 (NIV)*

- Let them be warned.
- Should the idle/unruly (NKJV) be disruptive, they need to be avoided by the rest of the body.
- According to Tenny-Brittian, the church should not put them in position of leadership with a hope of curing their idleness.
- They will remain as they are within the teams they serve and will be as disruptive as they were in the general congregation.
- Warning: If you give them positions, you have given them power. An idle person with power is dangerous to the congregation. They scuttle/shoot down the good work the church is doing.
- If an idler is not creating an issue, leave them alone. With teachings, Bible Studies, prayer and discipleship modelling, they may take baby steps into faithfulness.
- If on the other hand they are disruptive, you may have to Matthew 18:15-17 them.

2. Faithful Consumers

- These are the majority in the church. They form 96% of the church according to Tenny-Brittian.
- They attend the church worship and few other activities.
- In most churches, some of them are willing to step up and serve in committees, ministry teams and volunteer in tasks to be done. Though more committed than idlers, their commitment is limited.
- The Big Question!!! Tenny-Brittian once attended a church bootcamp and one of the presenters asked the question three times: “What is the number one way you can tell if someone is committed to their church?”
- **Different answers were given in the first and the second instances and the presenter kept interrupting, giving them one answer.**
- **On the third time they gave him the same as in 1 & 2.**

Faithful Consumers

Regular sacrificial giving is the primary clue that indicates if someone is really committed to his/her church

- Faithful consumers' constitute the bigger percentage of the church, meaning therefore, that the number of really well-committed church members is a teeny-weeny number.
- The rest are in it primarily for what they get out of it and they support it with what they think the church's services are worth to them.

Faithful Consumers

The only way to turn consumers into profitable Christians is to disciple them in ways that transform their lives.

- To be fair, they have been preached to for years. They have been part of prayer meetings, Bible Studies to no avail.
- The church needs to step up and mentor them one on one.
- Note; it takes a long time to move a consumer into a self-sacrificing, cross-carrying member rather than him staying as a card-carrying Christian.

3. Faithful, Committed, Profitable Disciples of Jesus Christ

*Most churches have
very few cross-carrying
Christians*

- Billy Graham once asserted that he thought that only about 10% of all regularly attending church members were actually cross-carrying Christians.
- Many have lived to realise that Billy Graham's assertion was optimistic.
- In the true sense of things, most churches have fewer cross-carrying Christians. That is; faithful, committed disciples of Christ who are faithful to the faith, to the church and to the Great Commission.
- It is a rare church that has a good number of these. Such a church does not decline as the faithful, committed disciples are busy growing the church.

What To Do About Disciples

- Love them
- Support them
- Encourage them
- Protect them from the Faithful Consumers and the Idlers, who may run them off.
- Remember, the Faithful Disciples make the Consumers and Idlers look very, very unfaithful.

God Bless You!!!

