

CHURCH HURT

When I think about this phrase, I do so by how it pertains to me and the experiences that I went through. For some, and I'm not belittling it, "Church hurt" is a matter of a disagreement, particular altercation, or misuse of scriptures. To me, "Church hurt" goes quite a bit deeper than that. Not to say that I am aware of the many levels of this particular pain, but for me, it goes many tiers deep.

This site is dealing with a variety of issues that sadly go on in churches that call themselves "Christians," but are no more than a bunch of money hungry hypocrites in disguise. Maybe I just happened to be on the extreme side of church hurt, and have way too much to relate to. Nonetheless, this is never a simple topic to discuss because it deals with "Hurting" people on a variety of levels.

I want to say this; what happened to you does matter and God cares. Whatever the level of browbeating, hatred and confusion you had to go through to qualify as someone being "Hurt" in a church, I'm sure you felt the same way I did when it happened to me. Words like betrayal, lies, and cover-up come to mind when after we leave/got kicked out of the church. No matter what in particular happened, it was bad enough for you to stop attending service there altogether. And it was hurtful enough for you to either vent on the topic, seek others in a similar situation, or get mad at God for it.

It's a hard pill to swallow when you firmly believe that you have been misrepresented as a Christian by your very own pastor, the man who was "Supposed to be" watching over your soul. The fact of the matter that we all have to come to grips with is; that every pastor has their own agenda.

I believe that a large percentage start out by incorporating you into their "Positive" agenda, with hopes that you can help them to achieve their goals. But somewhere along the way, their eyes grew dim and their vision for godliness grew faint. When this happens to a pastor; what God wants becomes foggy and the members become "Expandable." And all of the sudden, we became a person that they could do without.

Whether you couldn't give enough money, participate in enough church functions, or asked way too many questions, whatever the reason, "It was time for you to go." With the plan in motion to arrange for your untimely dismissal from the church, I want to assure you that God had other plans for you.

Yes, God knew that we would be "Hurt" by the whole thing, but he also knew of the benefits that you would receive from the whole experience. I for one know that none of this would exist if I hadn't been kicked out of the church. Not to say that God

orchestrates these series of horrible events for you to leave, but I do believe that he makes it so that you realize you're now FREE!

This is the part that many struggle with and blame God for, but what we need to do is thank him for getting us out of there and saving our souls from hypocrisy and hell. In my case, I firmly believe that God allowed this to happen because he knew that I wouldn't leave without this kind of pressure and serious events to take place. I was complacent, damned, and content to believe and live a lie for the rest of my life. Yes, I know, it doesn't speak well of me, but I have to share that with you because that's just the truth about the whole scenario.

Knowing that my wife was hurting and even ailing because of the church, but yet I still continued trying to belong. So I believe that God made it so for me to leave for good, and it was done in a way that even I wouldn't look back and return to the vomit. Personally, for me it had to be something very severe to get my attention, and as I said before, when I felt that evil spirit come into that church that day (my deliverance day), I knew something really bad was about to happen.

Thing is, something had to be done....we can't keep acting like everything is "Okay" and that it will just pass over like a rain cloud. No, it will continue to rain and when it stops, the cold will freeze the water into ice, with you frozen stiff in it. See, in this type of a situation, you can't win! I say this because when the pastor or whoever it was that caused you the grief, performs their gimmick towards you, there WILL be others who join their side, especially if they already have a strong hold over the people.

I'm not the running type, but the only way this ends is if you actually do leave the church. Trying to convince the other members that you are RIGHT! and "Their" pastor is WRONG! For what he did against you... plain and simple, it won't work. I attempted that approach several times, even towards the ones who I felt knew something was amiss. And yet, it was the same thing every time; they told the pastor and he told everyone not to talk to me. Now there are some who might get in touch with you and even listen you what you have to say, those are the ones who may leave. Generally speaking, unless they planned on leaving at the same time you did, don't count on them being on your side. It is sad to say this but, maybe they haven't been "Hurt" enough to realize the error in which they dwell. But we must keep praying for them to make sense of everything that is going on.

In actuality, I fully expect a newer member to be more apt to stay due to the fact that they barely even understand Christianity, let alone hypocrisy and false brethren. But you never know, it definitely depends on who they are connected to outside of the church. Or perhaps they grew up in church and are prompted to reminisce how it was growing up, and in doing so, they realize the smoke screen that was over their eyes.

In my case, the pastor had the people against me because he already had me targeted and was making an occasion to rid himself of me. For those of you who just up and left without explanation, you will more than likely have them chasing after you rather than just letting you go (I saw this at my previous church, results may vary). But this is where you can't be ashamed to tell it like it is to the other members who are mesmerized by their pastors charming and hypnotic ways.

You have to be the spell breaker that counteract the twisted scriptures with "Fact and truth." No sense going toe to toe with someone who doesn't even understand what's going on in their own church, but just let them know the turn of events that have caused you to depart from the church. Use the scriptures to point out the obvious, while not putting the pastor or the church on blast, because most just won't receive it.

Now, in saying all of this, my situation was quite unique because the pastors would actually go around telling all the members bad and untrue things about me (and this was when we were in the church so imagine what was said after we left). So what that did was make the members keep this scrutinizing eye on me constantly. "Hook, lied and sinner," the people had become fishers of "Sin" rather than fishers of "Men," and their technique of "Casting out," had nothing to do with nets or deeper waters.

In writing this part here, I was reminded of a particular program that one of the pastors had in years past. He coined the phrase, "Mending the nets," which was in reference to all of the people (contacts, souls) who failed to get converted and attend the church faithfully. It was a massive list of all the people who had attended service there during the past year or so. What made this so shameful was that he didn't care about them when they first attended, and he still didn't care a year later.

When going down that list of people, I was reminded of the many conversations that I had with some of them...then I remembered exactly why they ceased to dwell at our church. I'm sure you know the story by now; it was the same "Nothing new under the sun" reasons as always. They felt forced, unfed, uncomfortable, didn't like the pastor, we visited them way too much; yes, that about sums it up for another round. But you know what? These pastors may have people fooled, but "Never" God.

The thing about all of this is that it "Hurts" to talk about it, it "Hurts" to think about it and it "Hurts" knowing that others are still suffering under the dictatorship hands of these pastors. And for this reason, some refuse to even talk about their past experiences in a church. Yes, it does bring bad some memories that we'd rather part with, but the fact of the matter is, we can't change what has already happened in the past. And this is why I believe that what we do "Now" will help others in the future. Now that's a wonderful thought, and a great feeling especially when someone calls you or sends an e-mail expressing their appreciation for your sharing such a personal experiences with them.

Also, I believe that sharing our story to a certain extent will actually bring personal relief and healing once we realize that we're not the only ones who faced such dilemmas.

Some people may not agree that they are indeed free because of the losses they suffered, but life "Does" go on and it "Does" get better with time (providing we continue to serve Him). It may be difficult while sharing your story sometimes, but just remember that you have moved on with your life and your particular inspiration just might save someone from having to go through what you did. We must do ourselves a favor and look for the "Good" in "Bad" situations. And this is why I continually share my story, because it does matter, and it does help (someone). Thanks for reading, God bless.