



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
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CHURCH**

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CREEPS IN THE CHURCH.

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"For there are certain men *crept in unawares...ungodly men...Woe unto them for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and are perished in the gainsaying of Korah."* Jude 4-11. We oft read warnings like this and treat them merely in an historical way without applying them to the present. God warns about people who get into the Church who are not saved; they are children of the devil. Satan always does his best work from inside. They "*creep in unawares!*" Sooner or later, they are found out but usually only after they have done a great deal of damage. First of all there is the Cain *believer* who is not a believer at all. However, he appears to be a child of God (even as the devil comes as "*an angel of light*"). Cain came to God with an offering; he had some interest in God and worship. He is religious and has a head knowledge of the Gospel, but he has never been born again. Then, there is the Balaam type. We are told that he served for reward. Reward is not always money. Some serve for the reward of popularity or self satisfaction. I have seen many who would do something to win the acclaim of others, but they would not do it for money. But the moment these people are slighted or not appreciated, lookout. Balaam was also an advocate of mixture for he advised the King of Moab to get Israel to intermingle with his people. Many claim to be saved but they equate Biblical separation with narrow-mindedness or legalism. The Korah type may be the most dangerous of all. He criticized God's servant. Now, no man, no Pastor, is perfect or right all the time. But that doesn't change the fact that he is God's appointed servant. God has set up a plan of leadership. Somebody has to do it. *That somebody has to be the one God has chosen.* No true Pastor takes his calling lightly. *The truth was, Korah wanted to run things!* Korah was not content to be a follower, his calling from God, and thus add to the benefit and blessing of the group. He was a leader of sorts, but he had to be in charge. Like most of this type he took others with him. The Korahs often affect new believers and weak Christians. When the Pastor goes "too far," as *Korah thinks*, he gets his back up and leaves (unless he can create enough trouble to get the Pastor to leave). *This type rarely goes alone;* they take some with them. Some "*creep in unawares*" who must dominate anything they are connected with. One Pastor spoke of a man who came into the church and after some time, one Sunday night following the service he was criticizing the Pastor to a new convert. The newly saved man quickly said, "Hold on a second! Around here, it's his way or the highway!" That may be a little strong and the sincere man of God certainly does not want to run off everyone who disagrees with him. But the point is this; God has given the church a leader, a Pastor and it is his job to lead and the others follow. God says, **"Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves..." Heb. 13:17.** The *Cains*, the *Balaams* and the *Korahs* have wreaked havoc on the churches of Christ. Their breed is still around and will no doubt be here until Jesus returns. What shall we do? Obey God! Stand upon the Word of God and behind the man of God. Work to build up the church and if necessary, you might give the self-willed crowd a stern answer like the one above.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

"Many a restless saint needs not a new pasture where the grass that he needs always looks greener, but he needs a new thing done in his heart while he lives in the same pasture."

-Vance Havner

YOUTH CORNER

MUSIC IS A MIGHTY FORCE!

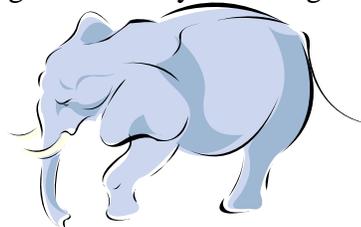
Yes, for good or evil! The following is from *The Rapid Decay In Sacred Music*, a book by long-time Gospel musician Gordon Sears - now with the Lord. "The influence of sensual rock music upon our society has assuredly played a leading role in bringing about this condition (gross immorality). The philosophy behind this revolting music is 'Let go of tradition!' - 'Rebel against authority' - 'Hate the good and love evil' - 'Be free to do your own thing.' The first thing that happens when CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) gets a firm hold on the church music is that the DRESS CODE will change accordingly. In a very short time people will begin to dress down rather than dress up. Casual attire becomes the 'in' thing. Why? Because downward, rather than upward, is the direction of the music; the music one follows greatly affects his manner of dress...This is true of Country and Western music, jazz, pop, and other forms of music as well. It is not uncommon in church services to see young people in shorts or blue jeans, t-shirts with slogans, ears and facial piercing, etc. Secondly, when the dress codes change, the behavior or conduct will also change. There is no getting around the fact that actions are greatly affected by the way people dress..." Ed. Dr. Sears went on to say this is followed by denial of truth and finally anarchy sets in. He stated: "To say that the condition of a majority of churches in America is pitiful is to put it mildly." He's talking about fundamental churches! From observation and letters I receive, I can tell you he did not exaggerate. It reminds one of the old story about the Arab who just let the camel's nose in the tent, but it wasn't long before the camel was in the tent and the Arab was outside? That's the way it is with sin and compromise! Yes, times change, but God and truth do not!

WHAT YOU EAT MAY KILL YOU!

Some years ago, Atda, the largest elephant in the Antwerp Zoo died of intestinal trouble. An autopsy revealed her stomach contained 1,706 peanuts, 198 cheese, ham and other sandwiches, 1330 pieces of candy, 7 ice-cream cones, 811 biscuits, 17 apples, 198 pieces of orange, 891 lumps of bread, 13 wads of paper, three bags, one white glove, one shoestring, for a total undigested weight of 127 pounds. There's many a soul-sick Christian who is sorely suffering, perhaps ready to die, for a spiritual autopsy would show an incredible amount of junk: 2 or 3 hours every day on the TV, one hour or more browsing the internet, one hour looking at a worldly video, one hour listening to gossip and idle talk, 30 minutes or more on worldly magazines, etc. We urge you to give up the junk food while there is time and begin to feed on the "Bread of Life" and drink at the fountain of "Living Water"!

SIMPLE SAYINGS WITH A POTENT MESSAGE!

- ❖ Never wrestle with a pig; you will both get dirty and the pig loves it. (*See Proverbs 26:4*)
- ❖ Don't ask the question if you can't live with the answer.
- ❖ If you don't know where you are going any road will get you there.
- ❖ A bulldog can lick a skunk any day, but it simply isn't worth it.
- ❖ Some people think they are big shots just because they explode and make a lot of noise.
- ❖ Things are rarely as good or as bad as first reported.
- ❖ Looking back usually leads to going back!



STAY IN YOUR FIELD

"Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., is remembered for his one-sentence sermons and attention-getters, one of which is, '*Stay in your field.*' In Philippians 3:13, Paul says, '**This one thing I do...**' Andrew Carnegie, addressing a group of young men said, 'You have heard it said Do not put all your eggs in one basket. But I say unto you, DO put all of your eggs in one basket, and mind that basket.' Many a person fails in life because he takes on too many things. The secret of success is finding the God-appointed thing, and giving it your very best shot. "Stay in your field" simply means to find God's will for your life and don't be sidetracked into something else... A man once boasted he could whip anybody on his street. No one challenged him. Then he boasted he could whip anybody in the neighborhood. Again he was not challenged. He then said he could lick anybody in the state. A few days later a friend saw him with both eyes blackened and other bruises on his face. He said, 'What happened to you?' The battered man said, 'I took on too much territory.'" Sometimes God's people take on too much territory; they are not content with what God has given them to do. Many a sincere young man with good intentions has gone into the ministry, when in reality God has not called him; he would have been a better servant of God to keep to his employment and work for God in the local Church. It is good to be busy for God but "*stay in your field.*" Make sure you are doing that "**good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**" -Curtis Hutson

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MEDIOCRE CHRISTIANITY

A. W. Tozer said: "It is disheartening to those who care, and surely a grief to the Spirit, to see how many Christians are content to settle for less than the best. I have for years carried a burden of sorrow as I have moved among Evangelical (Fundamental) Christians who somewhere in the past have managed to strike a compromise with their heart's holier longings and have settled down to a lukewarm, mediocre kind of Christianity utterly unworthy of themselves and of the Lord they claim to serve. And such are found everywhere. Every man is as close to God as he wants to be; he is as holy and full of the Spirit as he wills to be... Yet we must distinguish wanting from wishing. By 'want' I mean wholehearted desire. There are many who wish they were holy or victorious or joyful but are not willing to meet God's conditions for obtaining it." The word *mediocre* means "half way to the top." I have often said one of the curses of Christians today is people who just want to be average, mediocre. There are many professing believers who will serve God as long as it doesn't cost anything. The truth is if you are going to serve Him it will cost you everything. God did not say we are to be half-filled, or three-quarters filled with the Spirit (an impossibility). He said: "**Be filled with the Spirit.**" That is a concept many of us will not comply with, it is God's will and plan for our accomplishing anything for eternity! If you want to go to the top of the mountain with God, you will have to surrender all and give the Spirit total control.