

Awful Attitudes In American Religion

1800s

2 Kings 21: Hezekiah's reforms

2 Kings 24-25: Josiah's reforms

What makes churches weak?

What leads to apostasy?

I. Awful Attitudes In Religion

Society influences churches

- Corinth: center of immorality
- “Corinthianize” – live in drunken immorality
 - 1 Co.5:1-2
 - 1 Co.6:9-11

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

1. Encourage informal, relaxed, casual
instead of reverence.

- Ec.5:1 (7)
- Hab.2:20
- Gn.41:14
- Mt.22:11
- Lk.15:22
- Ja.2:2-3

'Clothes make
the man'

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

2. Emphasis on numbers.

‘So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified’ – Acts 20:32.

- Encourages compromise.

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

3. Social gospel – attract with recreation.

- Ro.1:16
- 1 Co.1:18...
- 2 Tim.4:2

Today: feelings, not Bible study

¹Take a stand; ²truth always in season

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

4. Non-judgmental; resist discipline.

- 1 Co.5

'Lack of love'?
'Spirit of revenge'?

- Hb.12:6; Rv.3:19

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

5. Ignorance of Bible.

- Ep. 5:17

Gallup: Americans revere Bible but (mostly) don't read it; we have become a nation of biblical illiterates.

Denominational attitudes affect Lord's churches

6. Worldliness.

- 2 Tim.3:4-5

Many seek worldly ambitions . . .
Many seek worldly pleasures . . .
above spiritual things

I. Awful Attitudes In Religion

II. Weak Preaching

NT preachers used OT as we use NT

Applied appropriate passages
to needs of audience

- Paul: Ac.13:16-41
- Weak preaching avoids controversial issues

OT: false prophets

1. Preached error
2. Ignored truth

I. Awful Attitudes In Religion

II. Weak Preaching

III. Weak Listening

Apathy

- Mt.22:5

Neglect, disregard, be unconcerned,
pay no attention...

- Ezk.33:31-33

I. Awful Attitudes In Religion

II. Weak Preaching

III. Weak Listening

**IV. Compromise With
Sin And Error**

All preaching must be positive

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

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V. Worldliness

1 John 2:15-17

Question: What do worldly people do?

Answer: What **they want** to do.

John 8:44

When a Christian **does not care** what God says about his tongue, clothes, actions . . . he is worldly.

When a Christian **does not care as much** about what God says...

1 John 2:15-17

A man asked: 'Now that I am converted, have I got to give up the world?'

A man answered: 'No, you haven't got to give up the world; if you speak up for Christ, the world will give you up pretty quick; they won't want you around.'

A. W. Tozer

"Almost everything the church is doing these days has been suggested to her by the world."