

Money Or The Soul ?

By: Rob Perez

Do we as Christians live in ivory towers? Spiritual ivory towers that is. I believe we do. Most of the time anyway, if we really get honest with each other and quit the screwing around with all of the churchy cliché sayings and responses around the meeting tables of church life we might actually find the wisdom to become truly effective.

Case in point...

We want to reach un-churched and lost people coming along side them with the love of Christ and show them that there is healing and restoration... correct?

I see everyone shaking their heads emphatically yes... ok that's cool...

Now that we have talked about it in all of our meeting spaces,, how are we going to do it? Who is going to do it? What do we say to people in our marketing pieces?

This is where the breakdown shows its ugly head and the reality of becoming spiritually anemic begins.

Why do people stay away from church or God in the first place?

In all of my research and endless internet debates with many devout atheists I have found the following to be true...

- 1) Un-churched people think that church is too stuffy and too big on traditions that they just don't get.
- 2) Un-churched people think that all a church wants is their money...(THIS IS A HUGE REASON)
- 3) Un-churched people feel that they will be judged if they come as they are.
- 4) Sermons are watered down and they do not deal with real life ground level matters of the heart and soul.

With this knowledge available to even the thickest of mentally brain dead ivory towered church leaders... why then are we so afraid to speak to the un-churched and lost on their level? Is it because we're not really interested in people who are on the rough side of humanity? Do we only want to "reach" those that can offer up some bucks into the offering plate and that come in neat and outwardly tidy middle class packages?

Do we not worship a God big enough to create financial provision to provide for the day to day business needs of the church? If our focus is on money and not the soul then both shall not be had... however if we approach spreading the gospel like the apostles did and Jesus himself did then we will get to witness first hand God's majesty at work in every aspect of the church and all of our needs will be met in Him and our effectiveness for growing the kingdom will soar.

If all we desire is a corporate modeled "win/win" approach to evangelism, then Laodicea is here people and we are all FUBAR.

Also,,, as an additional side note to all churches... quit calling your day care centers "Ministries". I can't recall any toddler coming to Christ and confessing Him as Lord, and I would bet a million dollars that you do not engage in any real outreach to the parents that drop off these little bundles of dollars!

It's ok to call your day care center or any other like endeavor a "business". There is no shame in that.