

Beyond a Shadow of a Doubt

In what situation is it time for a Christian to change Church? This is probably one of the most controversial topics of today.

Hundreds of papers and books have been written on the subject, each offering their own personal advice to help people make a positive choice in the matter.

The reason for this flood of literature on the market is because more and more Christians are becoming increasingly dissatisfied and even appalled with what they are experiencing in their Local Community.

If you do a google search on the topic, you will discover the nature of these complaints. Some of them are simply a question of personal preference, and often petty. Others, however, are of a much more serious nature. Below are some of the most recurring you will find:

No biblical discipline, or exercised in the wrong way

Imposed obligations for membership

Irrelevant messages

Leaders and members getting away with deliberate and blatant lies, and covering those of others

Pastors and their members tolerating and practicing gossip, slander, breach of privacy, and defamation against each other

Not preaching the essentials of the Faith

Too focused on the social gospel

Watering down the True Gospel to be seeker sensitive

Pastors and members overly concerned with image

Controlling and manipulative leadership

Opinions concerning which of these is the strongest warning sign you have to flee from your Local Church varies from person to person. Some consider them all as strong indicators.

But interestingly, many who have written books on the subject consider the greatest warning sign, the one that tells you beyond a shadow of a doubt you need to act quickly, is actually that of manipulative leadership.

They say this sort of behaviour springs from insecurity, and is a sure sign that a person is not called by God. After all, if he was, he would not have to prove his worth by asserting authority over others and demanding submission.

They also believe it is probably the most toxic, harmful, and destructive force to come into contact with.

Perhaps the following testimony a Christian woman shared with me a few years back shows these conclusions to be correct. We will call her Alice for confidentiality reasons.

One day Alice contacted another Christian woman, asking if she would come to her house and pray with her that she might receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The other believer agreed, went along, and Alice got what she desired, with signs to prove it!

Before we continue, some background information would be necessary. Both these women attended the same Church, only in different locations, so their Pastors knew each other and were closely connected.

Back to the story. News of this meeting greatly disturbed Alice's Pastor, as he was convinced both women should have had his authorization first.

To back up his opinion in the matter, he strongly advised Alice to say she had received the Gift of Tongues in HIS prayer line, and forbid her to have any further contact with the other Christian lady again!!

Alice also told me this same Pastor was in the habit of refusing to answer anyone who addressed him by his Christian name, and not Pastor!