

# When does a church cross the line between serving God and serving self?

A church that praises God, truly praises God. There are many churches that truly praise God and many who only play act like they are praising God. Some sing praise, some are vociferous and add a level vocal arraignment to their worship, and some are just plain loud mouthed. The difference is, in each of the groups, some are real, and some are not.

The real church truly worships God deep in their heart, repents, has much fellowship, and is in place to deliver the message of the Gospel.

The artificial church worships God from their heart, not from deeply in their heart, and not fully in truth. Shortly after the service, usually a very short time after, the artificial church returns to its business as usual lifestyle. The artificial church is set up to look just like a real church. If one did not look closely, one would think it is a church that is really filled with worship. Some artificial churches put on a public promotion of loudly praising God in every service, and it has a group of members yelling hal-la-lew-ya, or praise the Lord, or some other holy saying, throughout the service. One would think the sound effects is phony in the beginning, but after a few services, begins to become accustomed to it and it seems real. The preacher will also pick certain members of his assembly to call out when they are in er. He does this to keep them on the straight and narrow path, in love.

This artificial church provides, what appears to be, a strong looking service to the community. The preacher carries a strong hard hitting message of the Gospel and talks about Jesus where ever he goes. He seems to be quite a Godly person. But he has an ugly ungodly 'church' secret. He dares not let anyone know.

God is faithful. He always works through people and He always sends a few messengers. One very gentle messenger is sent before the artificial church is going too strong. One a little more direct is sent later down the timeline, and the final messenger, a very direct one, is sent when the artificial church thinks it have gotten over on everyone. The result: The artificial church always becomes exposed for exactly what it is. That is the consequence for trying to use God to fool people. God makes the 'fooler' become the bigger fool. When God's first couple of messengers tell the church they are not in line with what God wants for them, and the messenger tells the artificial church what they need to change, the artificial church usually denies the context of the messenger and persecutes the messenger. The artificial church claims God's messenger is wrong for telling them how to do God's work. They refuse to change. They will take a part of the message that they can benefit and put it into their policy, and disregard the rest. The artificial church continues in their downward spiral until the last messenger comes. Then they hit the bottom of the pit they are falling into because they have not done right with what God has given them.

If your church is not doing, without excuse, what God expects of your church in every category of the church, you are on a spiral just like the illustration. The only way to stop you spiral is to obey God with the blessing He has given you.

If you or anyone in your ministry are using the ministry God has made you the steward of for your own purposes, you are in direct conflict with the will of God for your ministry, and you need to repent. I am that last messenger above.

