



WORLD OF DISTRACTIONS: The Distraction of the Church

*Lesson by Ray Reynolds (10/27/10) at the
ROBERTSDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST*

Text: Philippians 2:14-16

Introduction: There are a lot of things that distract us from our God-given mission in the kingdom (**Luke 19:10**). Instead of being part of the solution, sometimes we can be a part of the problem. What do people think about when we speak of the church of Christ? Do you see a pattern? What can we do about that image? Paul seems to show that there are four key issues/attitudes/isms that lead the church to be a distraction. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Criticism = "That's not the way you should do it!" Attitude

Do everything without complaining or arguing (v.14)

A. The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:9, II Corinthians 13:11

B. The Instruction Manual

II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21

C. The Prime Directive

Matthew 22:37-40, Luke 10:27

D. The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12, Matthew 7:1, Luke 6:36, Matthew 6:14-15

E. Live a Critic-Free Life

Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2

II. Elitism = "That's not the way perfect people do it!" Attitude

Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. (v.15)

A. The Perfect Plan

Matthew 5:48, James 1:17, 2:1-13

B. The Perfect Mistake

Hebrews 12:12-14, Matthew 21:31

C. The Perfect Model

Philippians 2:15, Matthew 19:21

D. The Perfect Solution

Matthew 19:21, Matthew 5:29-30

E. Live an Elite-Free Life

Romans 12:9-10, Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 10:24

III. Egotism = "That's not the way I want it!" Attitude

But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. (v.15)

A. Selfishness Rules The World

Philippians 2:3-4, I John 2:16

B. Selflessness Rules The Church

John 17:20-21, I Peter 2:9-10

C. The Impact of Servant-Driven Christianity

John 13:35, John 15:8

D. Shine The Light

John 9:5, Matthew 5:13-17

E. Live an Ego-Free Life

James 1:37, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:32-37

IV. Traditionalism = "That's not the way we've always done it!" Attitude

You offer the teaching that gives life. (v.16)

A. Jesus Died to Break Tradition

Matthew 27:51, Ephesians 2:14-16

B. The Holy Spirit Came to Break Tradition

John 14:15-31, Acts 2:38-39

C. Paul Was Called to Break Tradition

Acts 9, 22, Romans 14:19

D. The Word of Life Sets Us Free

John 8:32, Isaiah 2:2-4

E. Live a Tradition-Free Life

II Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 5:14-16

Conclusion: Paul shows us that we can be released for ministry. Then end of **Philippians 2:16** says, "So when Christ comes again, I can be happy because my work was not wasted. I ran the race and won." Paul hopes his words wouldn't fall on deaf ears and that we would move in the right direction. We need to turn our eyes upon Jesus. Look to His great example. Have you starting running the Christian race? Have you stumbled along the way? Are you causing distractions or causing others to stumble in their walk with God? Have you been distracted by others? Are you ready to find joy once again? Come to Jesus!