

# The Church is a Body of Rebels

Hey, how many of you guys have ever run across somebody whose elevator didn't quite go up to the top, or they were a few peas short of a casserole or their wheel was spinning, but the ol' hamster was dead? You know what I'm saying? Well hey, that's right! For those of you who haven't had the privilege, I'm here to help you out. I'm going to share with you some actual quotes from these kind of people, and I want you to tell me if their cheese hasn't done slid off their cracker!

1. Miss Alabama of the Miss USA contest was asked, "If you could live forever, would you and why?" Her answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."
2. Mariah Carey said, "Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff."
3. Matt Lauer on NBC's Today Show said, "Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but can't remember what they are."
4. Brooke Shields said as spokeswoman for a federal anti-smoking campaign, "Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."
5. Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington, DC said, "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

6. Hillary Clinton commented on the release of subpoenaed documents, "I'm not going to have some reporters pawing through our papers. We are the president."
7. Rita Mae Brown said, "The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they are okay, then it's you."
8. Richard Gere said, "I know who I am. No one else knows who I am. If I was a giraffe and somebody said I was a snake, I'd think 'No, actually I am a giraffe.'"
9. Kate Moss about her new book, "To say this book is about me which is the main reason I was uncomfortable, me, me, me, me, me, is ridiculous. This book is not about me." The name of her book? "*Kate: The Kate Moss Book*."
10. Donald Rumsfeld said, "Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns — the ones we don't know we don't know."

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say those people probably don't have all their cornflakes in one box? But folks, believe it or not, did you know they're not the only ones forgetting to engage their brains before speaking? Believe it or not, the American Church is doing the same thing! **How?** By walking around in life like we've got **practical amnesia!** Talk about brainless behavior!

Oh, we say we know who we are as the Church, but half the time, with our lips and with our lives, we act like we've forgotten who we are.

And it's not only detrimental in our walk with Christ. It keeps others from believing in Christ. Therefore, to avoid this **atrocious** of Christian's living like they got practical amnesia by not knowing who they are, we're going to continue our study from the Word of God on the people of God entitled, **"Will the REAL Church Please Stand Up?"**

And we've already seen the **first thing** we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop acting like we've got practical amnesia is that the Church is the **Body of Christ**. The **second thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Brides**. The **third thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of One**. The **fourth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Hope**. The **fifth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Joy**. The **sixth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Love**. The **seventh thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Peace**. The **eighth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Strangers**. The **ninth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Disciples**. And last time we saw the **tenth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Servants**. And there we saw that even though the Bible says we were supposed to be serving others just like Christ, the American Church is serving all right, they're serving themselves instead of Christ! **Why?** Because we think **servicing is done to us**, that

**servicing is up to us**, and we think **servicing is made for us**. And because of that, we're not only ceasing to be a Body of Servants, we're actually turning into a Body of **selfish self-centered servants of man**. And I don't think that's the kind of Church Jesus came to die for, how about you?

But people, believe it or not, did you know that's not the only thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop acting like we got practical amnesia? The **eleventh thing** we need to know is **The Church is a Body of Rebels**. But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

**Romans 12:1-2** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. If we really appreciate God's mercy in saving us from our sins by sacrificing His Son, what are we going to do? We're going to sacrifice our lives right back at Him, right? And the question is, "How do we know when we're doing that?" Well, what did the text say? We know we're sacrificing our lives back unto God when we're no longer conforming our lives unto to this world, right? And what do we usually call somebody who refuses to conform to something? We call them a what? A rebel, right? **Therefore**, God is giving us divine permission to be what? **Rebels for Jesus**, right? Exactly!

**And here's my point.** Surely, we all know this, right? I mean, surely every Christian who's ever lived knows that the Church is to be a **Body of Rebels**, where people look at us and say, "Wow! Look at those people! They've got to be followers of Christ! They absolutely refuse to have anything to do with this world's wickedness. In fact, they'll face any threat and take any persecution just to stand up for God's truth." **Surely we know that, right?** Well, you'd think so, but we've got some problems. **Why?** Because if you look at most Churches it doesn't look like we're **Christian rebels with a cause**. Are you kidding! We look like **worldly conformists without a cause!**

So why in the world do we do this? Why do we Christians no longer rebel against this world and instead conform to this world? Hey, great question. I'm glad you asked. It's pretty simple. The **first reason** why we're no longer rebels for Christ is because **We've Lost Our Saltiness.**

**Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. The reason why God doesn't take us to heaven the moment we get saved is why? Because He's got a **purpose for our lives before we get there**, right? And what was that purpose? Are we called to be the paprika of the earth, the pepper of the

earth, or even the pork-rub of the earth? No! What was it? We're called to be the **preservative** or the salt of the earth, right?

And people, **the point is this**. Surely the American Church knows this, right? I mean, surely we know if our society is ever going to be preserved from absolute wickedness then the Church has got to stand for God's absolute righteousness, right? People are you kidding? Let's be honest! We don't look like we're salt shakers preserving this earth. We look like sin shakers partying with the earth! **Why?** Because we're no longer rebels for Christ. We're no longer standing up for **God's moral hierarchy of laws**. We've conformed to the moral relativism of man.

And for those of you who may not know, relativism is the belief where there is no right or wrong. Maybe you've heard the saying, "Whatever's true for you is true for you, and whatever's true for me is true for me." Have you heard that before? Of course, it's all over the place. And folks, what most people don't know is relativism is not just sinful, **it's dumb!** For instance, if there's no right and wrong then what's the difference between an Adolph Hitler and a Franklin Graham? Who are we to judge? Or what's the difference between a psychopath murderer and a soccer Mom? Well actually, those ladies can get pretty violent at the games, especially if their kids are losing, **but that's not my point!** My point is this. If there is no

right or wrong people, stop and think about it! Then all forms of behavior must be acceptable, be it murder, adultery, or abortion, rape, etc. etc., right? But that would be **dumb to think like that**, right? Slightly!

Oh, but that's not all! What's **really dumb** is that the moment you say there are no absolutes, you just made a what? An absolute statement! Hello! I'd say somebody's a few peas short of a casserole, how about you? In fact folks, even Abraham Lincoln pointed about the stupidity of relativism.

“Abraham Lincoln was trying to make a point in a debate but his opponent was unconvinced and stubborn. So Lincoln tried another tactic. He said to the man, ‘Well, let's see now. How many legs does a cow have?’

And the disgusted reply came back, ‘Well, four, of course.’

And Lincoln agreed and said, ‘That's right. Now, suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?’

And the opponent replied confidently, ‘Why, five, of course.’

And Lincoln came back, ‘Now that's where you're wrong. Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg!’”

Now I don't know about you guys, but if calling a cow's tail a leg could make it a leg, I personally would be excited. I mean, stop think about it. That's just that much more meat to eat off that baby, right? **But the point is this**. Even if I did that, it wouldn't change a thing, would it? Not at all! But for some goofy reason it doesn't keep us from trying! Jeffrey Baker

shares how people today are actually trying to call a cow's tail a leg, if you will, by **redefining** our morality. It's the same procedure.

“What our Founding Fathers referred to as drunkenness because of their Christian heritage, we now call it *alcoholism* and deem it a social disease, rather than a sin.

What the Law-Word called sodomy, we now call an *alternative life style*. Pornography is a perversion that brings death to a nation, and yet we call it *adult entertainment*.

What our Founding Fathers called immorality, we now call it the *new morality*; what the law called adultery or fornication, we now call *stepping out* or *fooling around*; and what the Law called abhorrent social behavior (like stealing or filthy language), we now call *abnormal social development* or *anti-social behavior*.”

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I don't think God's going to change His mind on sin just because we've changed the name of sin, hello! That's kind of dumb, isn't it? Oh, but that's not all! Relativism is not only dumb, **it's flat out dangerous!**

**Isaiah 5:20** “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say we're actually living in a time when people are doing just that. I mean, correct me if I'm wrong but are not people today calling evil good and substituting darkness for light? **And the point is this.** What did God say about that kind of behavior? Did He say you're headed for incredibly wild times? Or did He say you're



headed for **woeful times**? Woeful, right? And that right! For those of you down south, He's not talking about riding a horse. He's talking about some really bad times.

**So what do we do?** Is it too late? Is there any hope? Is it all over for us? No people! Praise God, He's faithful. He's given us the antidote! And this antidote has the ability to preserve our country just in the nick of time! And can anybody guess what that antidote is? Hey, that's right! It's you and I the Church! We're the salt, the preservative of the earth standing up for God's absolute righteousness in order to protect us from absolute wickedness, right?

**And so here's the point.** Surely, that's what we're doing, right? I mean, surely we're standing up for God's absolute truth no matter what, right? I mean, after all, we're Christians! Well, first of all, stop calling me Shirley, but secondly, **no people we're not.** And for those of you who may not believe me, let's take a look what the average Christian is actually standing for these days. Let's check the salt content!

1. 55% of Christians say the Bible is has errors in it.
2. 50% of Christians say there is no absolute truth.
3. 47% don't have a commitment to the Christian faith as a top priority.
4. 58% don't have being active in a local church as one of their top goals in life.
5. 35% of Christians say that to get by in life these days, sometimes you have to bend the rules for your own benefit.
6. 47% says that satan does not exist.

7. 29% say that when Jesus lived on earth, He committed sins like everybody else.
8. 25% agreed that it doesn't matter what faith you follow because all paths lead to heaven.
9. 49% of Pastors no longer have a Biblical worldview.
10. 93% of Christians no longer have a Biblical worldview.

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say we're losing our saltiness, how about you? In fact, I'd say if something doesn't turn around quick, we're in a heap of trouble! And that's exactly what Charles Spurgeon said.

“We have come to a turning-point in the road. If we turn to the right, maybe our children and our children's children will go that way; but if we turn to the left, generations yet unborn will curse our names for having been unfaithful to God and to His Word.”

Whoa! Wait a second! Could our behavior today really affect the next generation? Uh, slightly! But hey, if you don't want to listen to Charles Spurgeon, maybe you should listen to modern historians. People of God, right now, we the Church are in what Historians are calling the **terminal generation**. In other words, unless this generation of Christians repents and turns around, our once Christian nation is going down! **Why?** Because what did Jesus say? If we lose our saltiness we've not only lost our usefulness, but what? We'll eventually end up where? In the garbage, right? Therefore, could this be the reason why our country is filled with garbage? Could it be that the problem isn't so much with the American people as it is the

American Church losing it's saltiness? Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Oh, but that's not all. The **second reason** why we're no longer rebels for Christ is because **We've Lost our Brightness**.

**Matthew 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. The **second** reason why we don't go to heaven the moment we get saved is why? It's because God's got **another purpose for our lives**, right? What did it say? We're not just the salt of the earth. We're the what? We're the light of the earth! And when we live bright and holy lives for God, what does it do? It **exposes and repels the darkness of the world**, right?

And **the point is this**. Surely the American Church knows this, right? I mean, surely we know if were ever going to beat back society's wicked behavior it's not just **believing** the truth, it's by **obeying** the truth, right? People are you kidding? Let's be honest! We don't look like we're shining for Jesus for all the world to see. We look like we're sinning with this world in hopes God that doesn't see! **Why?** Because people whether you realize it or not, **relativism not only affect your beliefs**, causing you to lose your

saltiness. **It affects your behavior**, causing you to lose your brightness! And for those of you who may not believe me, let's take a look at current Christian behavior and you tell me if relativism hasn't affected it just a little bit. Let's check out our current light show.

1. 42% of Christians believe that it is more important to achieve success or win acceptance from other people than to please God.
2. 49% of Christians don't have a problem with the distribution of pornography.
3. Darryl, 17 – “Kids at school are pressuring me and my girlfriend to have sex. I want to wait until marriage, but I worry about how this makes me look.”
4. Kendra, 14 – “I know the Bible says you can't have sex before marriage. But why can't you, if you're in love with the person? It doesn't feel wrong.”
5. 39% of Christians say its okay for couples to live together before marriage.
6. Christians are now more likely than non-Christians to get divorce (27% vs. 24%).
7. 33% of Christians say homosexuality is okay.
8. A United Methodist minister has written a book on Jesus that claims that Jesus not only condoned homosexual relationships, but that Jesus Himself was involved in one. The minister has not been reprimanded by his denomination.
9. 4% of Christians and 3% of non-Christians said they had consulted a medium or spiritual advisor, within the past month.
10. Nearly 64% thought that it was perfectly fine to be a Wiccan.  
(THAT'S A WITCH!)

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say we're losing our brightness, how about you? In fact, I'd say if something doesn't turn around quick, we're in a heap of trouble! And that's exactly what this man said.

“In the 1830s, a Frenchman named Alexis deTocqueville came to America in order to find out what made this country so great. Here's what he said.

‘I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and boundless prairies, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there.’

He said, ‘Not until I went to the Churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.’

He said, ‘America is great because America is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.’”

What? Could our behavior today really affect the outcome of our country? Uh, slightly! And that’s why I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again!

We don’t need revival in America. We need revival in the American Church!!! **Why?** Because what did Jesus say? If we lose our brightness we’re not only losing our purpose, but what? We’ll eventually end up in a godless world. Therefore, could this be the reason why our country is looking so ungodly? Could it be that the problem isn’t so much with American people as it is the American Church losing its brightness? Kind of makes you wonder, doesn’t it?

But you might be thinking, “Hey wait a minute. You’re being a little too harsh here. I mean, yeah okay, so maybe I’ve lost a little bit of my saltiness and I don’t stand for God’s truth. And yeah, maybe my behavior has started to lose its brightness as well, but come on! You’re being an alarmist! You’re blowing this way out of proportion pal!” Oh really? Well, I

tell you what. I want you to imagine that kind of thinking in this kind of scenario and then tell me if I'm really overreacting!

“Can you imagine if you we're at a Church prayer meeting (That would be hard to imagine, wouldn't it?) when somebody runs in from the parking lot yelling, ‘Turn on a radio, turn on a radio!’ And while you listen you discover that a mystery flu is sweeping across the country killing millions of people. And doctors are working around the clock trying to find an antidote but nothing is working!

And just when all hope seemed lost, the news comes out. The code has been broken. A vaccine can be made. But it's going to take the blood of somebody who hasn't been infected yet.

So everyone is asked to do one simple thing. Go to your local hospital and have your blood taken. So sure enough, you and your family go down with thousands of others to get your blood taken.

Then all of a sudden, a doctor comes running out of the hospital screaming, waving a clipboard and yelling a name and you can't believe your ears. Your son tugs on your jacket and says, ‘Daddy, that's me.’

And before you know it, they've grabbed your boy while saying, ‘It's okay. Your son's blood is perfect. We can make the vaccine.’ And as the word begins to spread across the parking, thousands of people erupt with joy!

But that's when a doctor comes over, no longer smiling like the rest and says, ‘We had no idea it would be little child. We weren't prepared. I'm sorry sir, we're going to need all of his blood.’ ‘You stammer and hesitate as the doctor continues, ‘We're talking about the whole world, sir. Please sign this consent form. We need it all!’

In numb silence, you do. Then they say, ‘Would you like to have a moment with him before we begin?’ Now can you imagine walking back to that room with your son on a table saying, ‘Daddy? Mommy? What's going on?’ But before you can answer, the doctor comes back in and says, ‘I'm sorry, we've got to get started! People all over the world are dying.’

Now can you imagine having to leave? Can you imagine walking out while he your son is saying, ‘Daddy? Mommy? Why are you leaving me?’ And then can you imagine the very next week after it’s all over when they are having the ceremony to honor your son’s life that some people actually sleep through it? Some don’t even come because they want to go to the lake? And some folks do come but they have a phony smile, just ‘pretending’ to care.

Can you imagine that? I mean, wouldn’t you want to jump up and scream, ‘MY SON DIED FOR YOU! DON’T YOU EVEN CARE?’ Can you imagine that?”

Now folks, I don’t know about you, but can you imagine people really acting like that? I mean, can you imagine people really being that callous to the sacrifice of their only son? Can you imagine how horrible that would be? Then how much more horrible is it when we do the very same thing? Didn’t God give us the life of His Son? Didn’t Jesus shed His blood to save the world from sin? **Therefore**, if we don’t care enough to stand up for God’s truth let alone live it, how are we being any different than those people? Aren’t we being just as callous? Aren’t we being just as ungrateful? **How horrible is that?**

And people, that’s why if we can’t stop **playing Church** instead of being the Church then maybe it’s time to **get out of the Church? Why?** Because being a Christian is not a game. What we say and do literally affects the eternal destiny of people around us. Therefore, it’s high time we get rid of our **practical amnesia**. We’ve got to remember who we are! We’re not a

bunch of saltless dark conformists of man. Are you kidding! We're a bunch of righteous revolutionaries on fire for Christ! We're His Body. A **Body of Rebels!**

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To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”

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