

TITLE: ***"I'm Offended by Church"***

Ephesians 5:25*– Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.*

Ephesians 3:10-11 *– His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purposes that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

4 CAUSES OF FEELING OFFENDED AT CHURCH

Image Obsession

Matthew 23:25-28 *– "Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."*

Those who are obsessed with their image
never TELL PEOPLE THEIR PROBLEMS.

Idolatry Confrontation

Ezekiel 14:1-3a *– Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces."*

IDOL = Anyone or anything we love more than Jesus.

Ezekiel 14:3b-5 *– Should I let them inquire of me at all? Therefore speak to them and tell them, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.*

Invasion Resistance.

Colossians 3:1-3 *– Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Chris, who IS your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Hebrews 3:7-8 *– That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness."*

Imperfect People.

Romans 3:23 *– For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Ephesians 4:32– *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

A Definition of the Church:

A group of imperfect people gathered together by the Holy Spirit
for the purpose of growing, sharing and teaching
a world about the grace and love of our Savior.
