



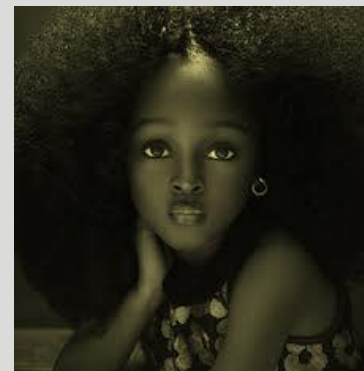
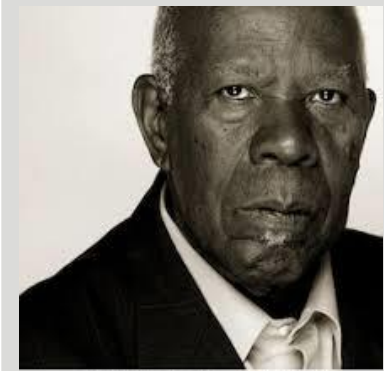
# LESSON 3



# I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

Thom. S. Rainer

Clabon Bogan    c.bogan2@gmail.com    609-230.5809



## I WILL NOT LET MY CHURCH BE ABOUT MY PREFERENCES & DESIRES

“Jesus would often say things that confounded His listeners. You see, even His disciples had a tendency to fight with one another. On one occasion the Twelve were arguing about who was the greatest. Can you imagine that? The closest followers of Jesus were having a **“me first” fight**. The Bible says that Jesus stopped and sat down and called these grown men together. “Sitting down, He called the Twelve and said to them, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all’” (Mark 9:35).”

I would have loved to have been a fly on a cloak and seen their expressions. **Yep, He got you this time, you self-serving disciples. And then it hits me. That text is for me as well.** As a church member, my motivation should not be to get my preferences to the top of the list. I am supposed to be last, not first. I am supposed to be a servant instead of seeking to be served. **Okay, let’s dig a little deeper into what it means to be a servant.**

[Rainer, Thom S.. I Am a Church Member (p. 34-35). B&H Publishing Group]

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The words servant and serve occur over 115 times in the NT thus clearly stressing the importance of the **servicing motif**

❑ Yet we must emphasize that **the word used is not always the same word**

Before we get into the word applications of the NT, please consider it is the **eternal purpose of God** for His children to **emulate the image** of His Son.

• I.e., the mind, nature, character, thoughts and will should be Like Jesus

❑ **Phil 2:4-5** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

❑ The admonition is against **(a) Selfishness** (v 4) and advocacy toward **(b) Similitude**

❑ And this can be accomplished through:

❖ V 1 **Encouragement** because of our relationship with Jesus (*consolation in Christ*)

❖ V 1 **Enjoyment** we receive from His love (*any comfort of love*)

❖ V 1 **Engagement** with the Holy Spirit (*if any bowels and mercies*)

❖ V 2 **Equality** in sentiment and spirit in fellowship with others (*be likeminded*)

❖ V 3 **Emptying** of harmful self-advancement, while promoting the things of others

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If all this can be accomplished, then there can be a mimicking (memesis = *an imitation of life*) of the Personage of Christ

And the consequence of mimicking Christ is found in V 7 as we:

- 1) Empty ourselves of fleshly desires and glorification (*made Himself of no reputation – **kenosis** – to make empty; neutralize*)
- 2) Reduce ourselves to the role of servant (*took on the form of a servant – **doulos***)
- 3) Humble ourselves, identifying with those He came to save (*likeness of men*)
- 4) Perfect the practice of dying to self yielding to the cross (***Luke 9:23– daily***)

This behavior is reminiscent of the Servant motif found in the “Servant Songs of Isaiah that described His **service, suffering and exaltation (Isa. 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12)**

All four songs show the Messiah to be God’s meek and gentle Servant; despite His ideal **Royalty, High Priestly office and Trusted envoy of God**

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Now we already mentioned in **Phil. 2:5-8** the reference is Christ as a **doulos** (although it could to an involuntary action, predominantly speaks more to **subserviently** than it does to) **compulsory servitude**

In other places we find the following Messianic applications:

- **Mark 10:45** The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve (**diakoneō**)  
[Similarly in Luke 22:24-27 Jesus says the greatest is the one who **diakoneo**]
- **John 13: 12-17** -- The servant (**doulos**) is not greater than the master  
[The role performed by Jesus in John 13:4-8 is a slaves' assignment]

This last night in the upper room was a profound revelation of an ideal servant

- **BIBLICAL REVEAL** Jesus was not figuratively the leader of this group of twelve men, He defined it.
- **PRACTICAL REVEAL** The practical reveal of this act of Jesus is the priority of **servant leadership**.
- **PHILOSOPHICAL REVEAL** Jesus did not rest on miracle working power to be the standard of servanthood

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“We will never find joy in church membership when we are constantly seeking things our way. But paradoxically, we will find the greatest joy when we choose to be last. That’s what Jesus meant when He said the last will be first. True joy means giving up our rights and preferences and serving everyone else. And that’s what church membership means as well.”

My research team recently conducted a survey of churches that were inwardly focused. For the most part, they were not serving past their own walls and their own members. In other words, these churches were largely self-serving. In our survey we found ten dominant behavior patterns of members in these churches. See if you recognize any:

[Rainer, Thom S.. I Am a Church Member (p. 36). B&H Publishing Group]

**1. Worship wars.** One or more factions in the church want the music just the way they like it. Any deviation is met with anger and demands for change; and the order of service must remain constant.

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2. **Prolonged minutia meetings.** The church spends an inordinate amount of time in different meetings. Most of the meetings deal with the most inconsequential items, while the Great Commission and Great Commandment are rarely the topics of discussion.
3. **Facility focus.** The church facilities develop iconic status. One of the highest priorities in the church is the protection and preservation of rooms, furniture, and other visible parts of the church's buildings and grounds.
4. **Program driven.** Every church has programs even if they don't admit it. When we start doing a ministry a certain way, it takes on programmatic status. The problem is not with programs. The problem develops when the program becomes an end instead of a means to greater ministry.
5. **Inwardly focused budget.** A disproportionate share of the budget is used to meet the needs and comforts of the members instead of reaching beyond the walls of the church.

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6. **Inordinate demands for pastoral care.** All church members deserve care and concern, especially in times of need and crisis. Problems develop, however, when church members have unreasonable expectations for even minor matters.
7. **Attitudes of entitlement.** This issue could be a catchall for many of the points named here. The overarching attitude is one of demanding and having a sense of deserving special treatment.
8. **Greater concern about change than the gospel.** Almost any noticeable changes in the church evoke the ire of many; but those same passions are not evident about participating in the work of the gospel to change lives.
9. **Anger and hostility.** Members are consistently angry. They regularly express hostility toward the church staff and other members.
10. **Evangelistic apathy.** Very few members share their faith on a regular basis. More are concerned about their own needs rather than the greatest eternal needs of the world and community in which they live.

[Rainer, Thom S.. I Am a Church Member (pp. 37-38). B&H Publishing Group]



# Church?



Nah

# I WILL NOT LET MY CHURCH BE ABOUT MY PREFERENCES & DESIRES DISCUSSION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ **Young dudes on the street say I don't go to church anymore, but I still love the Lord**
  - ❖ **John 14:15** If you love me show it by doing what I have told you
  - ❖ **Heb. 10:23-25** Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. God always keeps his word. Let's see if we can encourage, love and help others, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.
- ❑ **The church keep it in the four walls – it's just the building and all that. But every time I leave the church, I know I am going to have dope fellowship with whomever I meet**
  - ❖ **Acts 2:42** They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together (**koinonia; fellowship**), the common meal, and the prayers.
  - ❖ **Acts 2:46** They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals from **house to house**, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God with a singleness of heart (**one accord**)

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## DISCUSSION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ A lot of young Christians don't find people who want to help them do life outside of church.
  - ❖ You want to preach to me, tell me what I can't do and how to dress, but on the every day application level, they are not involved (school)
  - ❖ I Tim. 2:9-10 And I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it.
  - ❖ I Tim . 4:12 And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.
  - ❖ II Tim. 3:16-17 There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed (**inspired**) and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

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## DISCUSSION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ Young people are not able to teach or minister to themselves and there is no one giving them the little nuggets they need to improve.
  - ❖ Titus 2:3-5 Guide older women into lives of reverence so they end up as neither gossips nor drunks, but models of goodness. **By looking at them**, the younger women will know how to love their husbands and children, be virtuous and pure, keep a good house, be good wives.
  - ❖ I John 2:13-14 And a second reminder, **Fathers** : You know the Father from personal experience. **You young men** know the One who started it all; and you **little children**—such vitality and strength! God's word is so steady in you. Your fellowship with God enables you to gain a victory over the Evil One.
- ❑ Young people fall by the wayside, they just kind of get lost in it and remove themselves from the church because they know they are not accepted there
  - ❖ Luke 15:4-7 Suppose one of you had 100 sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the 99 and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would be rejoicing wanting others to celebrate with you.

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## DISCUSSION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ Transparency is so huge and as a vocal liberally expressive generation, and the Boomers did not have their own voice and were not taught to be free thinkers (??).
- ❑ Many time authority comes from Pastors and Parents and not from the word of God.
  - ❖ **Prov. 22:6** Point your kids in the right direction— when they're old they won't be lost. (Deut. 4:1,5,10, 14 – teach, taught, learn, teach– Dt. 5:1, 31)
    - **Train up = khawnak – to narrow; to initiate discipline**
  - ❖ **Eph. 6:4** Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.
- ❑ There is such much sexual immorality within cultures dealing with our children and the language nor environment to discuss this is void in the church.
- ❑ When Millennials see people in church are genuine and they struggle through things and have to deal with problems, it opens the door for them to share what they are going through without being judged or put out of the church.

# I WILL NOT LET MY CHURCH BE ABOUT MY PREFERENCES & DESIRES

## DISCUSSION FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ The church see that the people of the church are not doing life together, rather they hold to cultural standards that divide.

## DO YOU FEEL AS A BLACK MILLENNIAL THAT YOU HAVE A PLACE IN CHURCH AS FAR AS BEING COMFORTABLE

### IDEAS CONCERNING ENGAGING MILLENNIALS INTO THE CHURCH

- I. Felt needs must be addressed, no matter the age group. One key factor in reaching the Millennial community is addressing their felt needs and giving them specific ways to apply solutions. Felt needs are changes deemed necessary by people to correct the deficiencies they perceive in their community.
- II. Young adults want to connect. The twenty-something, single crowd has the same deep need to connect, but it's lacking the various opportunities. It might be their biggest felt need to leverage. This may be one of the biggest challenges and it cannot be designed by adults.

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- III. **Don't underestimate the power of convenience.** All things cannot happen with the “campus of church.” However, it is practical to take the church to where the young people are (i.e., college campus, spoken word locations). This permits small group gatherings ripe for evangelism.
- IV. **Engage in their community.** If our community doesn't have a strong millennial population, then our church will struggle to reach this group. Reaching millennials requires a presence in their community. If our current community doesn't have a younger population, then consideration should be given to planting a meeting opportunity in the broader community
- V. **Expect more insiders than outsiders.** Many Christian Youth who grow up into Christian young adults have a felt need for the church from their childhood. It could be a healthy need for continued spiritual growth, or an unhealthy guilt need. Either way, this means the younger the adult in church, the more likely they are to be from a church background

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**VI. Give them real responsibility.** When millennials see a church managed by their parents, they will not stay. To attract and keep young adults, they need to be trusted with leadership and provide responsibilities in keeping with our trust. This means those leading worship, preaching, and leading ministry environments must have an element of youth engagement.

**VII. Allow them to make a difference beyond the church.** Millennials are more socially concerned than their Buster (1961-1983) and Bridger (1978-1984) parents. Don't examine them through the prism of experience wrought by our mistakes. They will be normal twenty-somethings and early thirty somethings. However, if Adults carry out the discipling assignment as propagated in Scripture, we'll see them again when life gets more complicated. At the very least, adults must create a church experience that meets their specific needs and engages them in their communities.

Gavin Adams -- Lead Pastor of Watermarke Church, (a campus of North Point Ministries)

<https://churchplants.com/growth/10270-7-simple-ways-to-engage-millennials-at-your-church-2.html>

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