

# Church the unchurched?

**A** new phrase has been bouncing around “Christian” circles. In the small town where I live, I have found it used in the announcement of two new churches that moved into the area in the past couple of months.

When I went online to check the first of these two, a search showed their particular sect uses, “*church the unchurched*” in their work.

The second new church used the same phrase. In the newspaper it read, “*the church seeks ‘unchurched’ people to join its community. We certainly are not trying to take anyone from another church.*”

If you have noticed this shift in terminology, did it cause any alarm bells to sound? Do you recognize what this shift is from?

## The Great Commission

Take a moment to look at what the Gospels tell us Christ charged his people with:

*19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*Mark 16:15*

*46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that*

*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47*

These passages show us the command Jesus issues to all those who become a part of the body of Christ. It is simple, clear and brief.

Notice the direction of the commandment to teach “*all nations*,” to “*preach the gospel to every creature*” and “*preached in his name among all nations.*” What part of “*all*” and “*every*” don’t they understand? To only reach out to the “*unchurched*” in a community, is treason to the commandment of Jesus in His Great Commission.

## The significance of the change

I realize some will argue the intent is to reach those not involved with some “*church*” under the reasoning that a person who is being “*churched*” is already a Christian under discipleship.

Such reasoning is simple in the extreme! Surely even those who would argue such a line do not believe that all the churches around are bonafide “*Christian*” groups.

Allow a simple example here. I know of one such mainline “*Christian*” church in the area whose woman preacher doesn’t even believe in the triune nature of God. She doesn’t believe in the virgin birth of Christ, nor the necessity of the blood atonement for our sins. I tell you, such a church is no “*Christian*” church at all. They don’t worship the true God and they aren’t saved the same way. Its members are seriously on their way to hell, while being mollified as to their serious condition in the sight of the true God.

The call of these new churches tells the community, and its membership, to just be concerned to reach the “*unchurched.*” How cold a heart such a group has if it intellectually holds to the heart of the living and true Gospel while telling everyone its mission is to “*church the unchurched!*”

## The offense of the Gospel

Allow me a minute to tell you what I see as the real reason behind this new, unscriptural phrase. It is the issue of eliminating the offense of the Gospel.

When a new church comes into an area, they want to be sure to look as attractive as possible. They certainly don’t want to appear as “*intolerant.*” If they say they want to reach everyone in the community with the Gospel call of repentance, faith in Christ with fellowship around the body of Christ, this won’t be taken without some offense. All those groups who say they are true Christian gatherings, such as the example I gave earlier, will respond, “*You’re trying to proselytize!*” Just in case you didn’t know, for a lot of people that’s like saying you’re a cult.

## Pleasing men

This phrase of, “*church the unchurched*” is definitely an attempt to be a man-pleaser. Please pay careful attention to the following from the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonian church:

*2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel*

*of God with much contention.  
3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: 4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. 5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:  
1 Thessalonians 2:2-5*

The Apostle Paul didn't let unpopularity stop him from preaching faithfully to ALL men.

Notice verse three. He did not use any form of deceit or guile. If a church comes telling people they are "churching the unchurched," they are practicing deceit if they would be happy if the assorted churches closed their doors, while everyone started gathering with them in their association, under their terms.

In verse four, we find the Apostle Paul was very conscious of not endeavoring to alter his message or

purpose in any way so that it would avoid displeasing men.

In verse five, Paul was very adamant he was not using flattering words of any kind. Don't you see? The phrase, "church the unchurched" is simply flattering words. The Apostle Paul would find such utterly nauseating!

## Which will you choose?

As you have seen, this isn't some minor alteration. It is a DIFFERENT calling. In fact, it is a different COMMAND. It is changing God's inspired Word, as found in the Great Commission, and should be rebuked!

So I ask you, in the way you see Yahowah guiding you to reach others with the Gospel, are you aiming to:

1. Call to repentance to the Father
2. Call to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Be a disciple of Jesus

or are you seeking to get others to join your special group?

If the person you are talking with says they are presently involved with some church, do you simply say,

"that's great" and move on?

I grant it, some sects may simply use the "church the unchurched" as a safety phrase, so they won't sound offensive. If this is the case, and they really are seeking to win one and all to following their teachings, I submit to you: they are liars when they tell reporters their goal is to "church the unchurched." If this is the case, they are deceivers from the get-go. Do not hang around deceivers!

Ultimately, if you have become a servant of God, obey his commandments. The Great Commission is a commandment. If you are one of those who has been led to "be churching," I now want to issue the call to you: Repent of your sins. Ask God to open your eyes to see how you really look in the sight of the holy and righteous God. Fall on your face before Him, asking Him to accept you in Christ Jesus. Get yourself right with God and be truly saved. Get yourself out of the midst of those who change the command of God for a lie and seek fellowship in the body of Christ alone. Amen.



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The English version used is from the King James Bible.

To find this article on-line go to [www.basedintheword.org](http://www.basedintheword.org) entitled "Gospel Basics - Part 4: Church the unchurched?"