



WALKING DEAD CHURCHES

I grieve over the death of 7,000 to 10,000 churches in America that close their doors every year. 90% of these that close their doors are in growing communities, so the fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers won't work.

So, it is with both sorrow and great love for local churches that I share the common pattern I observed over decades now, in hopes God opens the eyes and hearts of those who claim His name.

1. **FALSE gods in Church.** People are drawn to God's presence, always. The church is not the building or the pastor, but it is the people that sit in the pews. When pew sitters have no burden for others and focus on their personal interests, God leaves. Members in the pews come to be entertained on Sunday mornings, but take no action to obey God's clearly written commands to act to serve others outside the Church walls. That Church fails their community because pew sitters just don't care enough to make an impact, but choose instead their personal interests and pursuits above God's commands... SELF is the false gods that run God off...so when God is gone, people are not drawn to Church, pure and simple.
2. **DENIAL.** "I like it the way we do it", "this is the way we've always done it", followed soon with "we've got to do something because nobody is coming!" is selfish denial running God out of Church. Of course it is always "the Pastor's fault...he's just not doing his job". Sunday morning church pew sitters come to be entertained personally, complain and point the finger at the pastor, never accept personal responsibility for the dying Church, but it is their DENIAL at fault in every case.
3. **BLAME GAME.** Church leaders and Sunday morning pew sitters realize the magic bullet of a Pastor change or Music Minister change did not reverse the negative trends, so they deflect the blame instead of living in obedience to reflect the SON outside the Church walls. It's the denomination's fault. It's those disrespectful young people who don't like our traditions, the sinners not coming to Church, even fellow pew sitters that go elsewhere instead of being "loyal" to tradition of selfish Church killers.

Churches CAN EASILY stop this pattern that kills Churches by the thousands each year, but rarely do.

The longer the church waits to repent, reform, obey so God can return and make His presence the main attraction, the more difficult it becomes to reverse the path. Like cancer it is far more likely to cure it at Stage One than it is to cure it at State Two or Stage Three. From Stage 3 to closing of the doors, is one last chance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louie Johnston Jr.", written in a cursive style.

*Louie Johnston Jr. Founder/Director
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