

Is God involved?

I often pray about the times we live in and what part Church has to play in it all. It sometimes feels to me as though the two are disconnected, and yet I can't believe that they are supposed to be. It seems quite clear that the people of our nation are moving further away from God and, but for a few exceptions, the Church is having little impact on this trend. Should we be concerned or has God got a plan up His sleeve that will come into being if we simply carry on as we are and ride it out?

I do sometimes rather struggle with how we do Church and there are in particular two factors that bother me.

Separation of secular and religious life

When we choose to follow Jesus we are not simply adding religion to our lives. Being a Christian has to impact every dimension of who we are, affecting decisions that we make about work, leisure, relationships and numerous other areas.

Confusion between serving the Church and serving God

I often wonder how many of our efforts on behalf of the Church are in line with what God would really have us do. As Christians, have the things that we presume to be good caused us to take our eye off Jesus? Whilst praying a few days ago I saw a picture of Christians on a wide open plain. Jesus was at one end and the people some way in the distance. Jesus was calling to the people but they were moving away from Him and His voice was no longer carrying to them.

At one time the people had listened to Jesus. He'd sent them into the plain, but they became so pre-occupied with the things they'd taken on that they never went back to be with Jesus. In the end they thought they knew Him but in reality they barely knew him at all.

I believe that in these times our land urgently needs its people to return to a real and active Christian faith and for this the Church has to take responsibility. I can't claim to know exactly how we go about it but I do believe that we need to somehow seek out the real and living God and do so soon.



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