

# National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Lecture Series 2010

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Effectively Teaching a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church How to Have Solidarity With  
the Savior

# **SANCTIFIED NONSENSE**

**PART I**

**JUNE 22, 2010**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14: 6-12

- Corinth was a busy place with many different peoples and languages.
- Speaking in tongues was the ability to speak in different languages.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14: 6-12

- Many of us are engaging in religious tradition that does not speak to the communities we operate in.

# 3 Dynamics of the Community of Today

## 1. Post Literate Generation

- The oral tradition was the primary way that things were communicated.
- The printing press revolutionized the way that we communicate things in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Bible was produced in mass quantities.

# Post Literate Generation

- The 1980's ushered in the electronic movement.  
This makes it so there are no longer any secrets.
- “We are trying to minister to a MP3 generation  
with an 8-track ministry”

# Post Literate Generation

- Patience has been worn down, so if we want to have our congregations solidify with the Savior we must speak in a language they will understand.

# 3 Dynamics of the Community of Today

## 2. Post Desegregation Generation

- Relevance is key when speaking to the new generation of church folk.
- The worst question you do not want to hear after you teach a lesson from church goers is the question, “So what?”
  - What they are asking in essence is, “How does this apply to my life?”

# Post Desegregation Generation

- We must remember we are teaching for behavioral transformation.

# Sanctified Nonsense

## Part II

June 23, 2010

# 3 Dynamics of the Community of Today

## 3. Post Soul Generation

- Back in the day, people spent most of their Sunday at church because it was the cultural womb of African America.
  - When African Americans were not allowed to fully participate in society they had to be together so they stayed in church. This is not true in a 21<sup>st</sup> century American society.

# Post Soul Generation

- In the beginning of Exodus Ramses knew not Joseph. This generation knows not church.
  - They do not feel the need to always physically be in church on Sundays
  - They did not always grow up in the church the way that we did
  - They may be unfamiliar with traditional “church customs”

# Post Soul Generation

- This is an Ecclesiastically illiterate generation, meaning that they are not familiar with all the aspects of the worship service or with church etiquette.
- How do you reach them? Teach. (Romans 10: 1-4)
- They are denominationally non-committed. Relevance is what they are after.

# 7 Doctrinal Issues to be taught to the Post-Soul Generation

## 1. Authority of the Scripture

- How the Bible came to be

## 2. The Stewardship of Life

- Whatever you have is not yours, you are rather a manager of what God has given you.

# 7 Doctrinal Issues to be taught to the Post-Soul Generation

## 3. The Disciplines of Discipleship

## 4. The Necessity of Fellowship

- “If we have a vertical relationship with God without a horizontal connection with other we are left bereft.”

# 7 Doctrinal Issues to be taught to the Post-Soul Generation

## 5. Baptist Polity & History

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15 (An exhortation to be ready to defend that which we hope in)

## 6. How to be saved

- We must answer the questions:

What is sin?

Once I am saved am I always saved?

# 7 Doctrinal Issues to be taught to the Post-Soul Generation

## 7. Primacy of Jesus Christ

- As educators looking to solidify ourselves with the Savior we cannot be politically correct and simply recognize God.

# Sanctified Nonsense

## Part III

“Fixing What’s Wrong With the Church”

June 24, 2010

# Fixing What's Wrong With the Church

- Biblical References: 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles Chapter 29: 1-5, 27-34 & Chapter 30: 1-5, 15-20
- God is serious about decency and order in the church.
- Exodus, Chronicles

# Fixing What's Wrong With the Church

- Worship was an attempt to be lifted to a level before God.
  - Worship is us going to God (Temple was an elevator Up button)
  - We can be sure of the significance and importance of the temple because of Mark's version of Jesus in the temple.

# Fixing What's Wrong With the Church

- Judges: the story of a back and forth between a people and God.
  - The way to tell where they were was to see where the temple was physically.

# Fixing What's Wrong With the Church

- First thing Hezekiah did when he was raised as King was to put God's house in order.
- Hezekiah was Ahaz's son. Ahaz was a bad king, one of the worst.
- During Hezekiah's first month he said that he must fix God's house.

# Fixing What's Wrong With the Church

- How does Hezekiah fix the church?

## **1. He fixes the doors of the Temple**

- Ahaz destroyed the doors that the people of the community could go through so only the high priests were the ones who had access to the temple.
- Hezekiah says I can't come to Church with people who have perceived holiness.

# How does Hezekiah fix the church?

- Verse 18 declares that there were those who had not sanctified themselves but Hezekiah knew that they had a heart for God. He was not in the business of turning people away from God's house.

# How does Hezekiah fix the church?

## 2. He takes the trash out of the temple

- It is hard to worship in a messy church
- One question that arises when we talk about a messy church, “How did the trash get in there?”

# How does Hezekiah fix the church?

## 3. The offering was large but the priests were not right, so Hezekiah turned to the Levites

- This generation has put the pastor on a pedestal so if they fall their faith is affected.
- The priests are human
- But, there were some Levites, men of God, who stayed pure.
- “I don’t care what others do, I’m going to do my job.”

# How does Hezekiah fix the church?

4. The people wanted to worship but they have not celebrated the Passover in a long time.

- “Anybody with a mirror and a memory should be able to praise God.”
- Set up Passover so that people know that God brought you through.
- Don't let a fallen priest affect your worship.

We transition to a discussion of some of the common things people do not like about church. We offer suggestions for some, but offer them rather as conversation starters so that ministries are cognizant of the very real concerns of church goers and educators.

## **THINGS PEOPLE DON'T LIKE ABOUT CHURCH**

# Things People Don't Like About Church

1. Pastors not Biblically Sound
2. Services can be too Long (People leave before the Benediction)
3. Offering happens too frequently (Begging)

# Things People Don't Like About Church

4. Church Culture is Cliquish

5. Some preachers ask congregation to interact with their “neighbors” all too often.

6. Poor Leadership

# Things People Don't Like About Church

## 7. Breakdown in Communication

- *One way to ameliorate this is through the implementation and maintaining of a church website.*

# Ways to use Church Website

- Announcements: Weekly Calendar
- Online Registration for Church Events
- Online Giving
- Devotional Material

# Ways to use Church Website

- Audio Downloads of services and sermons
- Time, directions, services, General pages will be for non-members etc.
- Members section: login & password, giving track, etc.
- Stream services live as well as Video on Demand for previous services.

# Things People Don't Like About Church

## 8. Leaders that don't attend Bible Study, Sunday

School or Tithe

- *“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.”*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

## 9. Cell Phones that ring during Church

- *Post signage or display messages that kindly remind people to silence phones*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

## 10. Lengthy Devotional Periods

- *Intergenerational services are a tough reality*
- *A lot of shouting and no substance is what to avoid*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

11. Change

12. An Over-programmed Church

➤ *Aim for quality over quantity*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

13. Youth: “Nothing to do but sit during service”

➤ *Reinvigorate your young people with a youth service or allow them to be more active participants in the worship experience.*

*(Ex. Alfred Street's Come As You Are Service, CAYA ministry; Youth Sundays)*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

14. Hypocrisy

15. Too Religious

16. Lack of Commitment from Members

- *Try implementing a new member's orientation. It will not only expose the new members to what the church has to offer but allow you to see what talents they bring to the table.*

# Things People Don't Like About Church

## 17. Pastors that are dictators

- Pastors have Three Primary Responsibilities:

- I. Preach & Teach the word

- II. Cast Vision

- III. Train Leaders to implement the Vision

- “Every question is not a challenge, every challenge is not a threat.”

Thank You For Your Participation  
and Attendance

May God Bless you and Your Ministry