

# **THE CHURCH LIE**

The background of the cover is a photograph of a church interior. A large, multi-paned stained glass window with a gothic arch design is the central focus, letting in bright light. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of wooden pews are visible, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

## **And the Biblical Alternative**

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## Contents

Introduction.....	7
Chapter Theses.....	12
Chapter 1: The Church is Not the Body of Christ.....	13
Chapter 2: The Church is Not the Gospel.....	25
Chapter 3: The Church is Not the Assembly of Christ.....	35
Chapter 4: The Church is Not God's People.....	55
Chapter 5: The Church is Not the Elect of God.....	63
Chapter 6: The Church is Not the Kingdom of God.....	79
Chapter 7: The Church is Not a Light for God in This World ...	109
Chapter 8: The Church is Not the Bride of Christ.....	129
Chapter 9: The Church is Not Founded on the Word of God.....	141
Chapter 10: The Church is Not the Love of God.....	153
Chapter 11: The Biblical Alternative.....	167
Addendum: Some Clarification on the Word "Salvation".....	175
Addendum to Chapter 8: The Origin and Persistence of the Bride of Christ Doctrine.....	176
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***Unless people are willing to turn on their minds and challenge their deepest held beliefs, they don't matter. Nothing will change.***

## Introduction

In life, at times, we come to a conclusion about something or someone famous and our response can even be considered a cliché: "You mean it's all a lie?" This does not concern one particular lie, it concerns a motif built on a foundation of lies and supported by lies. Such is the church.

The problem with things traditionally famous found wanting is the culture's investment; rich in lazy thinking, and bankrupt concerning critical thinking flavored with naive trust. Still, it is an investment nevertheless. Parishioners heavily invest in the church lie to the point where they cannot bear the thought of leaving it. To do so leads to painful admissions. No one wants to believe he/she has been misled for so many years; people don't want to think they invested in a lie and wasted their time on a lie. People don't want to look foolish. Therefore, they make excuses for their unfortunate investment.

One excuse is the "true things" told by the perpetrators. Since the perpetrator spoke the truth every now and then, the lies can now be deemed as "unfortunate" or "subordinate truth" that "men have disagreed about for hundreds of years." We must, therefore, "Take from the shelf what is good and leave the bad on the shelf" and "All truth is God's truth."

Like most excuses, this is flawed reasoning because truth has a moral aspect to it. True facts can be, and often are used in the commission of an inequitable scheme. Therefore, the residual facts used, though true, don't add any virtue to the scheme. In the case of church, it can be argued that even facts are scarce in the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on mankind. This is in contrast to Christ's true assembly that "uses the law lawfully."

Then there is the diversity excuse. This excuse for not rethinking church can be likened to a tree. All the branches are different, and none of the fruit thereof shares exact shape and size, but overall, they are the product of a basic root system. Church is the same tree, but the diversity of its branches and fruits supply an excuse for its

evil; "Our church doesn't believe that." "That's what the Baptists believe; we are Presbyterian." "Gee, that sounds like a cult, and of course, our church isn't a cult because it's a church." "Oh my, that sounds like a 'high controlling church,' not us." "I understand your concern, but all of our elders wouldn't agree with that position."

Also, what is said about the horrible testimonies of the church fathers? Well, "They were men of their time." This is the historical norm excuse. This excuse, in particular, reminds us of the genius we expect from Deity; the growth history of a tree at any specific point doesn't redefine what evil is nor excuse it. If the fruit is rotten, the tree was bad from the beginning and will be to the end. As Christ said, "A tree is known by its fruit."

Next, on the list (which by no means is comprehensive), is the authority excuse. We do not look past the pastor's expertise. To do so would question the competence that we trust so dearly and relieves us of responsibility to think for ourselves. As coined by author John Immel, "Thinking is hard."

Sure, glaring problems are so evident that we stumble on them from time to time, but since the pastor is not concerned with it—it must not be significant. We do not look beyond the authority of church because this authority, as we have come to believe, is an authority over our eternal well-being. We do not see past church because it is the only way to heaven regardless of any and every fault. Supposedly.

Neither will we look past our inability, or "total depravity" (the premise for authority to begin with) because though there seems to be severe problems with church, it must be our over-concern based on failure to understand. This is the inability excuse posing as humbleness. These reasons for not pondering the church's unsettling testimony are a fallacy.

The indictment against the church includes a complaint about every element of its existence; it is an indictment against the entire body of church thought and the evidence is not complicated nor hidden to any degree. The only thing that hides its elementary error



is a failure to think. The lies are not strong deceptions. The lies are elementary; they bear no elevated level of evil genius. There is no real excuse; it is a lack of love for truth and intellectual sloth.

The secular world rightly assesses those of the church stripe as egregiously illogical and naive. Furthermore, church orthodoxy, when seen for what it is, befuddles one that it is even taken seriously as truth much less endowed with gargantuan infrastructure and holy folklore. Indeed, church orthodoxy is built upon utter nonsense that constantly contradicts the plain sense of Scripture and God-given common sense.

Nevertheless, apparently, something sounded good in the beginning while establishing a mental prism that people begin to see all reality through. We can read our Bibles through such a lens and think it agrees with the church while that isn't what the Bible is saying at all. Most Christians confess that the Bible is hard for them to understand or they do not understand it at all. This is because church presuppositions contradict what the Bible is saying overall. Most Christians carry their Bible as a token statement while relying entirely on the pastor or elders for truth.

Regarding its propaganda, it points to its Western pedigree that is supposedly immune from mass deception. This is an arrogant mindset in the face of documented history. We need to look no further than Germany and its Nazi terror. Germany has always been the epicenter of Western intellect, but in no wise lacking in a history given to absurd mysticism and superstition. Yet, a major branch of the church, Protestantism, points to this pedigree as a credential beyond reproach.

A second notable bit of propaganda is the idea that church is the product of literal Bible interpretation. We often hear that "The Bible is our authority for truth." That assumption will be addressed thoroughly in this work. For now, suffice to say, it is much more accurate that church academia's interpretation of the Bible is the real authority.

The last bit of propaganda we will discuss is the church's many straw man enemies that also serve as red herrings. Church scholars are rarely honest about the issues that separate them from "heretics." The favorite target is the dreaded "legalist" Pharisees, but as we will see, the church is an exact reflection of the religious institutions that Christ fustigated during His ministry on earth. Church likewise travels land and sea to make people twice the child of hell that it already is.

Church has always picked its own detractors and has been able to get away with it throughout history. This is because free information, efficient information, and the ability to distribute information has always been limited to people with means. Hence, the church institution has always been able to pick low hanging fruit as its competitors in order to sell itself as God's bastion of truth. In other words, weak arguments, usually as erroneous or more so, are the ones that got the press as if the most formidable available. This served as a red herring to distract from the church's embarrassingly elementary errors.

Consequently, the authors of this book assume that many have seen and understood the arguments in this book in times past, but were laymen that had no ability to broadcast their understandings. By the time technology changed that, church propaganda gained a strong grip on our culture. However, with information technology and the advent of social media and alternative media, the rotten fruit of church's poisonous tree has incited questions and personal investigation. So, the time for questioning our assumptions about church has come. The problem is the church's false gospel; the problem with church is church.

Church is a lie. Christians must come to grips with this reality for their good and the good of God's kingdom. If we want to make the most of the opportunity God has given us presently, if we're going to leave personal legacies before God that we will not regret, church must be dissected from our contribution to this life. Like a song with a sweet melody and evil lyrics, we must not endorse the evil ideology by humming the tune.

With all of this said, the real New Testament body of Christ will be articulated from the plain sense of Scripture along with its intended mode of operation. The church is NOT the body of Christ; the genuine article will be observed.

Moreover, the bankruptcy of the church is no excuse to coast with our lives in neutral until Christ returns. We must know the real New Testament body is meant to do things on earth beyond what we could ever imagine.

This work is for those who have always known something is wrong with church and want to do something about it. This work is for those who wish to redeem the time because the days are evil regardless of their former investment.

In the classic movie, *Ocean's 11*, the ringleader of professional jewel thieves is in a testy conversation with his former wife. She called him a "thief and a liar." His defense follows according to the script: "I only lied about being a thief." In other words, this supposedly did not make his whole life a lie because he only told one lie while pretending to be something other than a thief.

Unfortunately, the church cannot even claim that level of virtue. It may say that it only lied about being God's authority on earth, but that also includes lying about representing the word of God, the truth of God, the family of God, the body of Christ, the kingdom of God, the light of God, a mediator for God, the elect of God, the gospel of God, the love of God, and God's history.

It is all a lie. When we come to grips with that, we can employ the biblical alternative and once again experience true revival.

Because only truth sanctifies (John 17:17).

Paul M. Dohse and Andrew D. Young

## Chapter Theses

1. Church redefines the true Christian identity.
2. Church, like all false religions, propagates a progressive salvation as opposed to a one-time finished transformation.
3. The church has no real history or doctrine that connects it to the Gospels or the book of Acts. It changed the word “ekklesia” to “church” in order to erase 300 years of history between Christ’s assembly and the institutionalization of the Christian faith.
4. The church is temple worship and salvation by church, not a family operating as a living body. It restricts worship to a time and place, and redefines worship as the obtaining of progressive salvation rather than the practice of love.
5. Church redefines biblical election, and makes salvation a matter of choosing a preferable authority for submission. It replaces the only head, Christ, with many mediators who claim to have authority over salvation.
6. God’s kingdom is not presently on earth as the church claims. God’s kingdom is future. The church is not the overseer of God’s kingdom.
7. The church presents itself as society’s moral compass as a deliberate ploy to draw people into the church where they will be indoctrinated into a strictly “confessional” religion.
8. The Bride of Christ doctrine connects the church to its Gnostic origins.
9. The foundation of church is built upon world philosophy, not Scripture. “Sola Scriptura” is a lie.
10. Church orthodoxy necessarily excludes the ability of the individual believer to love.
11. The ekklesia family functioning as the true body of Christ is the only way to revival. It is a focus on individual gifts cooperating together for a common cause, not a top-down salvific hierarchy.

Everything you thought church is—it isn't. The belief that church is the body of Christ, the true gospel, the assembly of Christ, God's people, the elect of God, the kingdom of God, a light for God in a dark world, the bride of Christ, the love of God, and guided by the Bible are given assumptions that go without saying...until now.

In fact, church hijacked Christianity long ago. In "The Church Lie," Paul Dohse and Andrew Young deconstruct ten major presuppositions that define church.

Today's church has no real doctrinal or historical connection to the New Testament assembly of Christ. Church doesn't appear in history for more than 300 years after the birth of Christ's assembly at Pentecost.

So, what does the real assembly look like? And how do we return to its true gospel and family mode of operation? And what should we expect if we do?

