

## Chapter 13: Don't be Fooled There Is a Church Industry

### Guard Yourself Against the Counterfeit

**W**hen I say there's a "church industry," I mean just that! There's a full-fledged church industry where there are those who conduct their ministries/churches just like the ways of the world. I wrote this chapter as a heads up so all the up and coming ministers and those currently in ministry would know and not be fooled. So, I'll say it again for emphasis: There is a church industry!

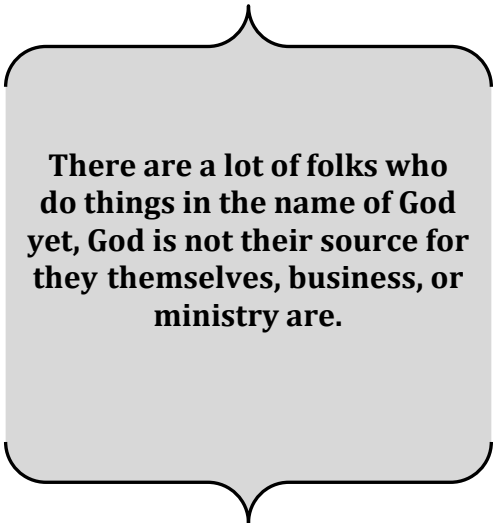
This industry is set up to get, get, get, at whatever cost necessary, even if it is at the cost of souls. They'll lie, steal, talk you under the ground behind your back, and then as I have once heard someone say pump you up just like a basketball in your face to flatter even the truth out of you, if you let them.

I like the way Psalm 12:2 says what I am expressing. The Amplified version reads: *"To his neighbor each one speaks words without use or worth or truth; with flattering lips and double heart [deceitfully] they speak."*

Seriously, there are a lot of folks who do things in the name of God, yet God is not their Source. They depend on themselves, their businesses or ministries as their Source. Part of this is essentially due to the fact that some feel as though their ministry, church or company is all they have. This is the reason they run it with the attitude that they, themselves, must make things happen opposed to allowing Jesus to be their all in all and make things happen for them.

Another thing for you to be aware of is this; when you have the Spirit of God resting upon your life, people will undoubtedly try to get you to be a part of their "stuff" all because they know if you do, their ministry, business, or vision will grow. Beware! With some people, it's for **their glory** and not for God's. This is how I quickly realized I needed to keep myself protected from the world's industry, but I also needed to keep myself protected from the church industry as well. I mean seriously, I had to declare to both God and the world, "I've come way too far to protect His glory on my life to be yoked with only a counterfeit or "perpetrator" of Him and miss out on my own soul salvation." No, I told the Lord I'm not having it because as for me, I'll stay unknown, in the background before I let anybody misuse, abuse, or pimp what God has given to me.

In fact, even the Lord, Himself, has tried to warn us about the fakes and phonies by saying: *"Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and driven out demons in your name and done many mighty works in*



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*your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands]" (Matthew 7:21-23 AMP).*

The truth is, the church industry is what I'd like to call a disguise because it's where satan, himself, actually stands as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) anxiously awaiting to accept us right on in to his program. Yes, his mission is to promote us, put us on platforms all across this world, and of course, even pay us more money than we've ever even imagined. However, if we allow ourselves to be lured into his deception, when it's all said and done, we will not be able to claim ignorance or use the excuse, "But God, they said it was for your name." No! God is going to hold us all accountable, and this will include who or whatever we allow ourselves to be yoked with as well as what we did or did not have the ability to discern.

A great example of this can be found in 1 Kings 13:1-29. (Please read that passage of scripture.) This chapter tells us about a situation where there was a young prophet of God who literally lost his life by being deceived by an older prophet. Although when you read this you may ask, "Well, why didn't this young prophet just listen to what had God told him to do?" Here's the reason: the young prophet thought like any of us could have thought that since the older man was a prophet, he could just believe and trust him. However, what this young prophet didn't know was that the older prophet was lying to him in order to get him off the "obedience track" he was on with God. The sad news is . . . it worked.

This is why, personally, I believe it's critical we all stay in a regular state of consecration. Something I'll discuss more in detail in the chapter entitled, "God Is Calling Us to Be Holy-Set Apart." But the reason I say this is because when we live a lifestyle of consecration, we are then guaranteed to operate in a greater level of discernment which in return will enable us to distinguish between good and evil and know what's really for Jesus, opposed to things that just have His name thrown all over it.

Matthew 7:15-20 tells us to: "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.***"

Since this church industry thing is undeniably a very real and serious issue, we need to keep our eyes and spirits extremely open at all times so we can discern and make a conscious decision right now to refuse to allow our gifts and talents to be bought or "pimped". Likewise, it's also very important that we only allow God, to make our names great so we are never deceived into thinking we're going forth in the name of Jesus yet all along we're working for satan.

### **Walk It Out and Focus Questions**

- Be very cautious with whom and to what you allow yourself to be yoked. Just because someone uses the name of God or Jesus, only accept his or her belief system when you have first seen the character and fruit of God displayed.

- Allow Galatians 5:22-23 to be your guide in discovering what kind of fruit folks, companies, ministries, etc. are really bearing. The Amplified version reads: “*But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*”
- When tempted by the church industry to go astray, use this scripture as a weapon to defeat the attack: “**A GOOD name** is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).
- Rid yourself of the outright deception of thinking that every door opened is from God because, truthfully, it may not be. It could be a door opened by satan, himself, in order to attempt to strategically get you off course. 1 Peter 5:8 AMP tells us: “*Be well-balanced (temperate, sober of mind), **be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.***”

**Let's Agree in Prayer:** *Father, please deliver me from **all** evil including that of the world and that of the church by keeping me far away from getting involved in anything that does not officially represent You and Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*