

TRUE CHRISTIANITY

What the Church is Not Telling You About Being a True Christian

Introduction

This book is for fellow Christians who've been kept in the dark and even bamboozled by the church about what "true" Christianity is all about.

The need for this book became apparent to me over the past six years as I labored to involve area churches (in Yavapai County, Arizona) to come together in unity to fulfill Jesus' last prayer in John 17 wherein He pleaded that we *"all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (John 17:21)

- The results of fulfilling this supplemental "commission" from Jesus is quite consequential. In His own words, Jesus says that if we were to do so *"the world may know that You have sent Me."* (John 17:23b)
- However, due to our prevailing disunity, the consequences have been painful and shameful – the world largely does *not* believe that Jesus is the Son of God sent to save the world.

Also, in working with so many different denominations, it also became apparent that we have exalted the traditions and doctrines of men over what the Bible teaches and exemplifies (see Chapter 8). Jesus said:

- *'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men." (Mark 7:6-8)

This realization resulted in a quest to understand and define "true" Christianity based solely on Scripture. Now some will argue that I don't have the theological training to undertake this mission. However, this is the very spirit that Martin Luther rebelled against – i.e. the underlying message being that Scripture is not understandable to mere mortals. However, the Bible is written for everyone and the Holy Spirit is supposed to be our teacher:

- *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* (John 14:26)
- *"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."* (1John 2:27)

Now this doesn't mean that we do not need human teachers, for the Scriptures are quite clear that this is one of the key ministries and spiritual gifts.

- However, most Christians have abdicated their responsibility to do their own studying and the church has been quite eager to place itself as the sole authority.

Many Christians say the Bible is "too hard" to understand on their own, but there are many study Bibles and aids that make this a lot easier.

- In addition, when we read the Bible, even if we do not understand all the historical and theological nuances, the Holy Spirit brings alive the main points which are clearly and plainly stated for all to comprehend.

Another feature of this book is that you don't have to read all the way through it to reach the major points and conclusions.

- The next section, "Summary," does exactly what its title suggests – it summarizes all the key points with references to the chapters where more detailed analyses are presented.