



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

## *Ten Ways to Kill a Church!*

Chuck Northrop

Sometimes people must look at a negative in order to respond in a positive way. In reality, the purpose of this article is not the desire to kill the church. Rather, we earnestly desire to see the church grow. The following list is for the purpose of self-examination. Any one of these items is enough to destroy a congregation.

1. **Don't Do Anything!** It is allowable for a person to say you will do something, but be sure it never gets done. Procrastinate or better yet put it under the realms of patience. However, what ever you do, be sure you don't do it.
2. **Allow Sin to Be in the Camp!** Whatever others do and no matter what they do, ignore it and pretend it is not happening. After all, it is really none of your business. And besides, "Am I my brother's keepers?" Oh, uh, be sure to justify the sin if at all possible.
3. **Be Sure You Always Get Your Way!** No matter what it takes, it is important for things to be done your way. Also, if by some slight chance you do not get your way, be sure to create a small stir in order for you to get your way the next time.
4. **Put Your Priorities in the Wrong Place!** Get more *bent out of shape* about someone blundering the *King's English* than about someone using the Lord's name as

a byword. Also be sure to put money and jobs as well as family and friends before the Lord and His church. After all, the Lord is more forgiving than a boss or a family member.

5. **Gossip!** Just talk about everyone, no matter whether you know anything about it or not. Be sure to always talk about anything you have no business talking about. Also, don't worry if people are talking about you, just talk about them all the more.
6. **Be a Habitual Complainer!** Never say anything positive about the church, her members, and her work. Be sure never to be satisfied with what others are doing. Oh, remember point number one: "Don't Do Anything!" After all, someone might complain about you.
7. **Always Cause Strife!** Now be sure to disguise strife under a different name such as "doctrinal purity." Everyone will know it's your opinion, but it will look much better if you call it doctrine. I mean, after all, we do not want anyone to think we might have the wrong motives or a bad attitude.
8. **Ignore Others!** This will surely get a rise out of someone. Just think, the attention will be turned away from you and towards them. Everyone will think they are just imagining something which really is not. Now remember once you begin to ignore others, you need to start complaining about cliques in the church.
9. **Never Pray, Study, or Meditate on God's Word!** This kind of action is for all those religious fanatics anyway. You know the ones. Those who think the Bible is really inspired by God. It seems like they are always quoting some antiquated *mumble jumble* anyway.
10. **Don't Discipline Yourself, Your Children, or Your Friends!** Discipline is an undue harshness which is not needed anyway. Let us let everyone do their own thing. After all, God gave them the talent. As long as it is not hurting anyone else, it really does not matter.

Remember these are ten ways to **KILL** a church. Anyone of these things will do the job, but if you want to be sure the job gets done quickly and effectively, then incorporate several into a plan which will pulverize and polarize the church.

Oh, uh, before I forget, this is not the Lord's plan; it is the **DEVIL'S LIST!**

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"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." – 2 Corinthians 2:11

# The Lord's Plan:

(Corresponding to the Previous List)

- God intends for His people to be workers.** Titus 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
- God’s people must stand against sin.** 1 Corinthians 5:6 “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”
- Like Jesus, Christians must always be considerate of others.** Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
- God’s way and the kingdom must always take priority.** Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
- Though difficult, Christians should always strive to control the tongue.** James 3:5 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”
- Murmuring and complaining are against God’s will and are sins.** Jude 16 “These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage.”
- Strife is a work of the flesh and not a work of God.** James 3:16 “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”
- Christians must look to the needs of others.** 1 John 3:17 “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”
- The standard of judgment is God’s word, and men ought to seek to understand it.** Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
- In areas of achievements, discipline is always necessary.** Hebrews 12:7-8 “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”

## Observations and Concerns

April 10, 2024

**Welcome Visitors!** Your Presence is our Pleasure.

**Praise in Psalm:** “Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever” (Psalm 106:1).

**Declaration of Appreciation:** We are thankful for all who bring food for our monthly potlucks.

Our **monthly potluck luncheon** is this Sunday after morning services. All are encouraged to stay!

Our second Sunday morning guest speaker will be **Michael Bonner** from Ramona.

Please remember our evening worship service this coming Sunday will be at 2:00 PM.

This year’s **VBS** will be June 9-12, 2024. The theme is “**Jesus: Eternal God.**” With VBS quickly approaching, there will be a VBS meeting Sunday afternoon at 1:30.

The **Summer Series** is also quickly approaching. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for speakers. This year’s theme is **Beatitudes of the Old Testament.**

**Azalea Gospel Meeting:** April 14-17; Matt McBrayer will be the speaker.

Our sympathy is extended to the **Carmona family** upon the passing of Ed. No memorial service has been planned at this time.

Our sympathy is extended to Sammy Gray and the **Williams family** upon the passing of Guy Williams. Guy was a dear friend and neighbor of Sammy.

**Remember in Prayer:**

- ▶ **Pat Taylor** is scheduled for surgery on her carotid artery on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ **Glen Beamen**, brother of Dicie Jackson, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is scheduled for surgery on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, April 10	Sunday, April 14 AM	Sunday, April 14 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes . . . . . 9:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
(except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 2 PM)			
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes . . . . . 7:00 PM	Ross Swearingen	Michael Bonner	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson