

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN YOU CONSIDER LEAVING YOUR CHURCH

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### I. Regarding the Reasons

1. What would Jesus do? Would Jesus leave this church?
2. Is this a nonessential issue over which godly Christians hold differing positions?
3. Should Christians divide over nonessentials (1 Cr. 3: Rom. 14:1; Act 15:39)?
4. What biblical grounds do I have for leaving this church? i.e.:
  - a) Am I being disfellowshipped for unrepentant sin?
  - b) Am I being sent out with the church's blessing to help another work?
  - c) Am I moving out of the geographical area?
  - d) Is the church denying fundamental doctrines of historical Christianity?
  - e) Is the church promoting sin or immorality.
5. Am I being influenced by some past hurt? Am I leaving because I am better about some situation that happened to me or someone else?

### II. Regarding Unity

1. Am I "endeavoring" (working to the point of sweat) to maintain unity (Eph. 4:3)?
2. Am I following Christ's example of humble sacrifice of my rights, privileges and desires for the sake of unity? (Phil. 2:1-8)
3. Have I worked through the conflict resolution process with my church?
4. Am I teachable, willing to yield and not being "wise in my own opinion"?
5. Have I taken the time and effort, through study and conversations with the pastor, to understand fully my church's position on the issue?
6. Have I sought the wise, qualified, informed counsel of my pastor and spiritual leaders in this church as well as outside this church? Did they counsel me to leave?
7. Do I believe that the Bible calls us to maintain unity in our church relations, at great personal sacrifice, so long as essential Christian doctrine and morality is not compromised?

### III. Regarding Love

1. Am I doing unto others in this church what I would have them do unto me?
2. Have I jumped to conclusions based on partial information?
3. Have I taken what is said and put a negative spin on it?
4. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things – am I doing this here?
5. "Now we know in part" (1 Cor. 13:9). Am I so confident in my knowledge of this issue; is it so clear in the Bible, that I am willing to leave the church over it?

#### IV. Regarding God's Work in This Church

1. When I first came, did I sense God calling me to this church?
2. Has anything *essential* about the church changed to remove that call?
3. Have I grown spiritually in this church: i.e.:
  - a) Have I learned more of the Bible in this church?
  - b) Have I grown in my understanding of commitment to Christ and His church?
  - c) Have I been challenged more to obey the great commission?
  - d) Have I been challenged more in my personal holiness & Christlikeness?
4. Have I weighed out on paper the pros and cons of this church, and is this issue, which I want to leave over, sufficient to outweigh all the benefits of this church?
5. Do I truly believe that God cannot progressively improve the situation?
6. I have seen how meticulously the pastor preaches week by week, word by word, verse by verse, book by book through the whole Bible. Do I really believe that he would be less committed to biblical truth on this issue?
7. Have I found the pastor and spiritual *leaders* to be unreasonable and unteachable when taken to the Bible and shown they are wrong from the Word?
8. Have I found *myself* reasonable and teachable when taken to the Word? On this issue?
9. What is the alternative church you would then be willing to make a commitment to?
  - a) A mainline church whose denomination denies the fundamentals of the faith?
  - b) A mega church which does not preach expositionally, maintain standards, train the people to obey the Great Commission, build relationships in small groups or discipleship, etc?
  - c) A Word Faith type church: "little god", "faith is a force", materialism.
  - d) Another biblically sound church? Do I know how hard those are to find? Would this next Bible church be *substantially* different than the one I am in now? Would its pros be sufficient enough to outweigh the pros of my church?
10. Has God used this church to positively impact the lives of my family, friends and relative?

#### V. Regarding the Impact of my Leaving

1. Does my leaving break my membership covenant?
  2. Does my leaving dishonor the spirit of the Lord's Supper?
  3. Do I understand how seriously God takes my membership vows and commitments?
  4. What is the rush? Why do I feel I MUST leave now?
  5. Who will be negatively impacted if I leave/stay?
  6. Is this church big enough and stable enough to take another "hit"?
- "Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God" Point – you are deeply loved! We truly LOVE you.
  - "That they may all be one in US, that the world may believe that You sent Me" Point – we want oneness w/you