

Goodbye Christian America
Richard Sterns

Student: Student Lazarre Simonis simonisl@allianceu.edu

Program: Masters of Divinity

Alliance Theological Seminary

As the world evolve and people adapt to changes in life, the need for Christianity has faded. Church was the place to go, and it had hold high esteem of respect. Even those who were not Christians used to have respect for the church leaders knowing these people are God anointed ones. The communities used to rely heavily on the local Church for spiritual guidance. The formation about life's journey used to be discussed at Church. The church used to gather folks around the community and talk about violence, love and spiritual growth. The leaders used to lead by example by doing the very thing they teach the communities. At some point in time, people evolve and transition from bias to authenticity. No longer do people go to church to hear a great sermon. Well, I guess because it is not about a great sermon but about true love. Church leaders these days have become motivational speakers with great sermons and have no anointing of love and soul caring.

As I read the article the concept that stood out for me was cleared "love your neighbor" Though Stearns quoted the word of God from the Bible, the statement is true to its nature and is simple. Notice, I said simple but not easy. The local churches in the communities have become a joke due to hypocrisy. The church is full of liars and hypocrisy. Folks at church have judged the world so much that pagans have begun to ask themselves does the love of God exist for them. Is there any redemption for the lost souls. Only to find out those church folks who are criticizing them and condemning them are not any better than them. The word of God said in the book of John 8 vs 7 those who are without sins throw the first rock. Church these days have no compassion or mercy for the afflicted ones. In the search of perfection, the church has lost its agenda. Loving people as God loves us is the essence of the Church, not judge and condemnation.

Richard Sterns stated in the article “The kind of Christianity the world responds to is the authentic “love your neighbor”.” This is a very simple statement. God does not ask us to change people from their way of doing things or lifestyle. Our job as Christians is not convince people to stop sinning but to tell them Jesus loves them and there is salvation in Christ. America is not the only country facing this situation, the entire world is facing this issue of fake Christians. Just because we go to Church and read the bible and sing a song, does not qualify us as a Christian. We become a Christian when people start seeing the love of God in us.

Don't get me wrong about my statements shared in this paper. I don't have to change my lifestyle as a Christian to show the world that I love my fellow neighbor, but I have to prove it by my action. I have learned to simply treat people with love and kindness despite who they are or their choice of lifestyle. If I have to condemn them for their sinful act, then I might as well add my name on the list because I am not any different from committing sins. We may not commit the same type of sins, but I still commit sin, it is a daily struggle. My job is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, and I leave the rest in the hands of the Holy Spirit. I have also learned that people don't change people but the work of the Holy Spirit in people changes people. So, for all of us Christians, please stop pushing people away from the house of God with your hypocrisy, simply preach the Gospel of Christ through your action.

References:

Richard Sterns, *Goodbye Christian America: Hello, True Christianity*
(Huff Post: Religion, 11/06/2012)