

July 14, 2008

## TURN A CORNER!

“To [God] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus from one generation to another, forever and ever! Amen” (Eph. 3:21).

In these days the church may seem to us a ragtag affair without much rhyme or reason. That’s because we’re looking at the tapestry on the wrong side, with all its yarn ends showing. Just wait till eternity and we’ll see the church on the other side, where God sees it! Oh, glory! Dazzling brilliance and splendor!

Don’t bad-mouth the church, Christian. Don’t put any activity or group, not even any parachurch movement, above the church. The church is Christ’s Body.

Now, I understand that there’s a difference between the visible church and the invisible. I know that the local “First Church” on the corner downtown is probably a mixture of true believers and fakes. But precisely because we don’t have the eyes to see which is which, we’d better treat the whole visible church with some kind of respect!

A few years ago the battles were hot between this Council and that, and we had our guns trained on what might have been our brothers, instead of on Satan, our true enemy. God’s angel will one day sickle out the tares from the wheat, but in the meantime, let’s be careful how we handle even the visible church. You may not decide to attend a certain one, but you don’t have to take potshots at it.

Think about how Jesus identifies with the church. Here was Paul, on the road to Damascus. He thought he’d only been giving *Christians* a hard time, but when he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Jesus answered, “*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*”

To persecute a brother is to persecute Jesus. To speak roughly of a brother is to speak roughly of Jesus. To touch His disciples is to touch Him!

Oh, Christian, love the church! God does! Get involved, give to it, *show up!*

Turn a corner!