

Sunday, May 10th, 2020

Dear Churchgoers,

After continuous prayer over the past year and since the beginning of this ministry, I've felt convicted to make some changes in our approach to "checking churches." To read more background information and the details behind this decision, please read our post on the CMC Blog. To read what those specific changes are, as well as my formal apology to certain churchgoers, please continue reading below.

Effective immediately, we are going to be changing the way we write church reviews, or "checks". Instead of writing the in-depth and opinionated articles on each individual local church as we've done since our ministry's inception, we will instead only be including factual information regarding each church in the "checks."

That information will include the following:

- The answers to our Questionnaire
- Links to the church's worship services if available
- Links to the church's teachings and sermons if available
- Links to their social media and website
- Any other information available online or elsewhere for the curious churchgoer.

We will *not*, however, be inserting any personal bias or opinions into these reviews. There will no longer be assessments of the church's worship services, websites, sermons, and so forth. Only information provided for Christians looking for a church, and curious about the facts surrounding those churches.

In addition to these changes, I would personally like to issue a formal apology to all of the Christians who attend the churches we have checked in the past and were offended by our method.

Our intention was never to attack or offend the many Christians who love Jesus and attend these churches in His service, but rather to try and help them recognize the many problems within the local Christian churches today. I now see that the way in which we went about this was spiritually immature, and as a result, ineffective. For my spiritual immaturity, biased review method, and offending the Christians who attend churches I've reviewed negatively, I am sorry.

Going forward, I hope to be a source of helpful information to churchgoers despite how we conducted our reviews in the past. Our goal is always to tell the truth in love, and maybe now with this new approach, we will be able to do that in a much more reasonable and effective way.

As far as my personal opinions go regarding matters of the local church, such as tithing, memberships, financial transparency, and so forth, I will continue to post separate articles on

the CMC Blog on these topics. These issues are important to the Church as a whole in my opinion, and their use (or misuse) dismisses the Gospel as well as dilutes the Word of God. They also burden the Church through legalism and greed, and sometimes even abuse.

My goal is to help people recognize these problems and find true freedom in Christ. For that reason, I cannot stay silent on these issues. They will, however, be separated from the church checks in order to keep the checks truly unbiased and objective moving forward. It will be up to each individual Christian to take or leave my personal opinion, as it should be, while the checks will provide the information desired on each church for those wanting the cold, hard facts alone.

There are wolves in our local churches, dear Christians, but our approach of writing opinionated reviews of local churches wasn't working the way we intended, and it was having a negative impact at the same time. We are not the judge or authority on what makes churches good or bad, but we do have a passion for defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ, defending God's sheep against wolves (especially those in sheep's clothing), and telling the truth for God's glory, but always in love. As it turns out, that love wasn't showing. Now, we hope it will.

Please contact me by email or through our Contact Us page on the website with any questions or concerns regarding our new approach, or anything else you'd like to talk about.

And *please* don't forget, churchgoers: Jesus paid your tithing on the cross.

For Christ & His Kingdom,

Sarah Leann Young

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