

Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church Introduction

Why was this book written?

❖ “to declare the glory of the church and to invite people to enjoy the church.”

❖ “to contend against the consumeristic view of the church prevalent today.”

Many who attend church do so as religious consumers who feel no more sense of commitment to the church than does a consumer to a mall. They perceive no responsibility to the church except (perhaps) to give money in exchange for services rendered. The problem is that it is self-defeating. A church that has decreasing numbers of people willing to serve in its ministries will have few ministries to offer to consumers.

❖ “to contend against the privatization of spirituality.”

Spirituality is seldom considered in the context of the church body. But the personal Spiritual Disciplines are not intended to make us spiritually self-absorbed evangelical monks. The church is a community in which Christians are to live and experience much of their Christianity. Too many believers isolate themselves from life with the family of God.

❖ “to encourage those who love the church.”

There is an increasingly common lack of commitment to the church not only nominal Christians, but among supposedly mature believers.

❖ “to help growing Christians learn about the church.”

Do you know why you should do certain things aside from thinking it has just always been done that way?

❖ “for anyone interested in spirituality.”

Here you’ll find a presentation of the Bible’s teaching that true spirituality is found in knowing God through Jesus Christ and in becoming like Christ, and that becoming like Christ means loving His church.