



Obstacles churches face in accomplishing their mission

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Obstacle #1



- **Inherited religious forms may obscure biblical spirituality**



- **Gospel is communicated ineffectively**



- **Caveat: There is a good side to “tradition”**





Obstacle #2



- **Legalistic and moralistic distortions go uncorrected**
 - **Message and practices send wrong meanings**
 - **Church participation becomes a painful, mechanical pilgrimage**





Obstacle #3

- Wrong questions are being asked
 - “What does the church need to do for me and my family?” rather than “What does God require of our community of faith?”
 - “What will *make* our church grow?” rather than “What is keeping our church from growing?”





Obstacle #4

- **Failure to deal with nominalism**
 - **Too many “Christians” in name only**
 - **Norm today: church membership is double attendance**
 - **Lyle Pointer estimates only 20% of church members are “Biblical Christians”**
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Obstacle #5

- **Too many church members are pew-sitting consumers**
 - **Up to 80% of some congregations are simply consumers**
 - **Results:**
 - **Entertainment focus and ratings game**
 - **Insufficient ministry leadership**
 - **The Reformation theme of the “priesthood of all believers” remains an ideal rather than a reality**





Remember . . .



If a basketball team is awful, it doesn't mean that the game itself is bad.



It doesn't mean that there isn't a team somewhere who plays the game the way it should be played.



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Let's bulldoze them
out of the way





This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>

