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”
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