

Letter 248
Burien Chapel
(Tolerating Jezebel)
 2014-05-11

Dear Dan,

My memory is not clear as to the exact sequence or time in which the following occurred. But what I am about to describe happened.

Sometime in the mid 1980s I was reading the newspaper and came upon a series of articles about a Church in Burien. It was named Burien Chapel. The news article was describing how some of the elders had started to promote a form of dancing in the church services where married people would exchange partners and dance with someone else's spouse; **essentially doing a form of husband or wife "swapping" for the duration of the dance.** The news article reported that this was referred to in the church as "soulical dancing". The paper further reported that marriages had been broken because of this dancing, and that the church was on the verge of collapse.

But the article reminded me of something else that happened. A few years earlier before the dancing began, I had occasion to visit Burien Chapel. This was because for a little while (CS1), the girl I was dating at the time, attended Church there.

I think I went there one Sunday service on my own. I remember being in the back of the crowded meeting hall, with an usher or elder standing just in front of me. As he turned to scan the crown behind him, his gaze met with mine for an instant, and right then I knew two things.

I knew that;

1. he was proud of the fact that he was better dressed than I, and
2. he was arrogantly looking down on me because I was not wearing a tie.

I had on slacks and a nice shirt. But in his eyes I was less important because of my lack of a tie.

If I remember rightly, that was the last time I visited Burien Chapel.

Looking back now it seems pretty clear that the Church became infected with the Thyatiran Tolerance of Jezebel (see Revelation ch. 2). Later on it apparently suffered the consequences.

According to WIKIPEDIA (see Donald Lee Barnett);
In 1985, Barnett began to advocate the practice of "spiritual connections" to the members of his church. The practice involved seeking intense emotional experiences of love with another

person, usually not one's spouse, while dancing together in worship.[6] Following the introduction of this practice, turmoil increased in Barnett's church and many members began leaving. These troubles reached their culmination in 1988 with several lawsuits brought against Barnett and others in the church's leadership alleging sexual improprieties related to the practice of "connections," including church policy condoning French kissing of children.[7] At that time, Barnett was ousted from his church by its remaining elders, leading to further protracted legal proceedings.[8]

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus