

## Ephesians 4:11

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers*

Do you remember a few years ago how we were all pretty much stuck in our homes on a Sunday and could not go to church because of Covid? I hated it because I love going to church, and hanging with my church family and worshipping the Lord in song with my church family and being there with them listening to God's word being taught.

But with this change that happened a few years ago, let me ask you this, "*How was your witness going during that time?*" Or let me ask it this way, "*How were you telling the lost about Jesus without being able to invite them to church?*"

*"Well, I invited them to watch online and I posted the link on social media for everyone to watch."*

That sounds good, but actually it's not biblical. You see, God did not appoint men to be Pastors and Teachers to share the gospel, that's not the job of a Pastor or Teacher. No, their job is to shepherd the flock (believers) and teach God's word, equipping the saints for God's work.

God will not hold your pastor accountable for sharing the gospel when you should have been doing it. That would be like holding a doctor accountable for making hamburgers for everyone who comes in the hospital. It's not their job. So if you think about it, every time you bring someone to church to hear the gospel or to be saved without sharing the gospel with them first, you are actually pawning your job off on your pastor.

Remember Jesus said

✠ **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Notice Jesus wasn't talking to a group of Pastors at a Pastors conference here. Jesus also didn't say to go into the world and bring the lost to church or to your pastor to hear the gospel, but that WE, are to go and preach the gospel. I am just as guilty as you are, because I have done the same thing and it's something we as the church (not a building, but a people) should repent of. Because like I said, we are pawning our job to share the gospel off on our Pastor, when we should be doing it ourselves.

So then is it wrong to invite the lost to church?

No, not at all. But before you do, have you considered doing your part of the job, which is to share Jesus with them and offer salvation to them before you invite them to church?

Another thing the bible does not say, and that's to bring people to church to go forward to an altar call, then they will be saved. I know when I got saved I didn't go forward at an altar call, it was my dad and the pastor who talked to me one day and shared Jesus with me. I got saved right then and there without having to go forward on a Sunday at church. I bet a lot of you have the same testimony where someone shared Jesus with you, and you got saved, and it wasn't at an altar call at church.

So invite the lost to come to church now that we can meet together again in the church buildings. But even more so, invite them to be saved now without having to go to church to get saved.

† **Romans 10:15** *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*