

Dead Church Walking
Revelation 3:1-6

The church in Sardis appeared to be vibrant and successful, but God was not fooled. He knew they were spiritually _____—more concerned about pleasing _____ than pleasing _____.

To secure ease and comfort in an environment hostile toward God's word and will, they found ways to _____ their Christian practices to _____ the pagan culture around them. In doing so, they lost touch with the Spirit that gives _____ to the church.

I am concerned that Jesus' criticism of the church of Sardis could well be the criticism of the _____ of the 21st century. For decades now, churches have adopted modern marketing practices to "_____" the church to the world. Soon average church members began to think of themselves as _____ too. Churches filled with those who have succumbed to the religious consumer mindset may have a good reputation in the world, even look vibrant and alive, but Jesus knows they are on _____ at best.

What Christ desires of His church is _____. Authentic faith derives its direction from the prophet Micah's question, "What is good and what does the _____?"

A church is only a reflection of the _____ of its people. Dead or dying churches may be made up of people who really do not have a _____ relationship with the Lord. Or they may be made up of those who have simply become so influenced by that tendency to turn faith in Christ into "what's in it for me?"—that only a _____ of true spirituality is left.

The hardest word in this text is also its most hopeful. "_____." If we will turn to God and receive the ministry of Christ to recreate _____ in us, we will be beneficiaries of Jesus' promise: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will _____, even though they die." We will again walk with Him clothed in His righteousness and, with our names written in the book of life, He will _____ our faith before the Father in heaven.