

I was born and raised in a Church of Christ ~ the kind that used a piano. My husband T.A. and I married there, and worked six and one half years in the junior department, grades four through six. In those years we had kids come to class with red eyes from crying. We hugged them and they told us that their parents were yelling at each other or at them on the way to church. We would ask the parents, "How are things?" They'd reply, "Great!" or "Just fine." There was no hint of anything being wrong. This was disturbing to me because when I was small, our family did the same thing!

Another disturbing thing that happened in those years was that some of the parents were getting divorced and remarried ~ in the same church. And there had been no indication that anything was wrong. No one knew that they were having marital problems! The pastor tried to get people to open up with close friends so they could be helped. But this didn't help because a few years later we were there because one of "our kids" was getting married, and we found out that more divorces and remarriages had happened in the years we were gone!

Since we moved to northern CA we learned that the husband of one of

"our kids" had committed suicide. He was the son of one of the professors. They had three young teenage children. I suspect he had a problem that no one knew about. We'd all been taught to hide our problems so as to appear more spiritual than we really were. It's very sad because he could have been helped!

In my brochure called *Why I love Small Groups* I tell how we began to grow spiritually. Then we attended a church that was a perfect stepping-stone to charismatic. We weren't ready for that yet. It took several years. That church taught us about hearing from God, the power of prayer, and the importance of a clear conscience to get prayers answered. It was very good for us!

After some years there, we got invited to a charismatic church. It was a tame one, most of the members having come from denominational churches like ours. The pastor was wonderful, teaching us beginning lessons from the Bible about the Holy Spirit, holiness, hearing God's voice, the gifts of the Spirit, tongues, the power in praise, and lots more that we didn't know anything about! We were there ten years.

In that church, I attended a women's Bible study group that was held on Thursday mornings every week.

We sang praise songs to God (a new thing for me) and then broke up into smaller classes on various subjects. I learned so much!

One thing I learned was that God does not like us to pretend to be more spiritual than we are, or to make others think it. We should be honest when asked how we are. Now, not everyone who asks, "How are you" is someone you should unload on. But you should have someone you can trust to not gossip and tell your secrets. And it should be someone who is more spiritual than you are. They can help you. This group was perfect! We were encouraged to practice using the gifts of the Spirit, and often someone would say, "There is somebody here who's been thinking of getting divorced" or some other problem. The person who it was meant for would admit, "It's me." and so then they'd be prayed for or counseled or both.

Once it was me that the word of knowledge was about. So I got helped. A gal started describing what was going on in my thinking. It was exactly right. So I got helped! One day, the mother of one of my friends came to visit. She got prayed for, and God revealed some things in her life that needed help. She never came back. We asked the

daughter why, and the answer was, “It’s too revealing.” She didn’t know that God was wanting to help her!

If someone had a problem or anxiety about anything, God would tell someone in the group about it! A problem couldn’t be kept secret there. In another group that T.A. and I both attended (an evening group) there was a case like this. A young gal said she’d lost her joy and wanted it back. Would we pray for her? So we gathered around her and started praying softly, waiting for God to reveal what the problem was. Soon, T.A. got a picture in his mind of the problem. He was new at this, so he was nervous. He pulled one of the leaders aside and told him what he saw. The leader said, “That sounds like God. Tell it.” So this is what he said to her. “I saw a huge funnel up above your head and it’s filled with God’s joy. But it can’t come out because a big brick is in the way. On the brick was a word in bold print, ADULTERY.”

Her mouth opened big, and so did her eyes! “How did you know? I haven’t told anybody!!” Then she admitted that she’d been seeing a high school friend and they’d been having an affair. She also admitted that she was planning to confess a lot of things, but not that one. We were all amazed that she would think

God wouldn’t expose it. So the leader helped her to confess, and she was told she must break it off with that guy. She promised she would, and then they prayed for her and she got filled with God’s joy. It was great.

I know many people, whole families, who go to churches that don’t have these teachings and groups. These people have gotten so good at acting and sounding spiritual that they have become proficient liars. Yes, they are faithful Christians, or maybe I should say “church attendees,” and no one seems to suspect that they are not as spiritual as they talk. I am amazed that they seem to really believe the lies that they tell. I cannot tell them what I know. They wouldn’t believe me, anyway.

In my brochure called *Can a Christian have a demon?* I say that one way to get a demon is to continue to do a thing that you know is sin. I believe that these Christian liars started out just wanting to appear more spiritual than they were, but as time went on and they continued, they got a lying demon. Now they believe their own lies, and don’t even recognize that they have a problem. If they could find a church where the leaders and counselors can hear from God, they could be set free.

CHRISTIAN LIARS

COULD IT BE?

Lev. 19:11,
Do not lie.

Testimonies
By Cheryl Boone