**The Downward Spiral of Church Members**

**(Adopted and Adapted)**

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**1. Distraction**: Church not a priority > employment or more hours; relationships (wife, children, parents, dating); tragedy, politics; technology; personal projects; hobbies; pets; personal Bible study and translation issues; addictions such as alcohol, sports, immorality; etc.

**2. Descent**: attitude of contempt towards Christianity, church, church members, or pastor.

**3. Disagreements**: starts with little things in church such as physical settings; services; programs or lack of programs; dress codes or lack of dress codes; songs and music; pastor’s behaviour personal and public.

**4. Distancing**: avoiding members in conversation and fellowship in church services; not participating in church ministries or programs.

**5. Disappearance**: coming late and leaving early to church services or starting to miss services and activities regularly. Excusing self for physical problems, not feeling good, oversleeping, conflicting meetings, lack of transportation, etc.

**6. De-Valuing:** Taking the “high moral ground” and finding fault with church members or the leaders, or the pastor (the limburger syndrome = everything stinks!).

**7. Departure**: begins with missing services and then eventually forsaking assembling.

**8. Defamation**: Hypercritical of everyone but especially the pastor (he must be a terrible person and certainly an apostate). Spreading criticism to everyone in and out of the church!

**9. Disaster:** At some point, church discipline occurs but he/she does not care; in the mean time, he/she church hops or stops going to any church. If true Christian, his/her life is a mess and will have great loss at Judgment Seat of Christ!

\*This is a checklist. Do you see yourself in any of the “D’s”?