



# WHERE ARE ALL THE BROTHERS?

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO MEN'S QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH

ERIC C. REDMOND

“With a trained head and a tender heart the author enters the private domain of the reader just as a physician enters the examining room of the patient. He responds to the disturbing questions by giving biblical and practical prescriptions for holistic help and healing. Women also would be better equipped in understanding and encouraging the men in their lives. Make an appointment! Follow the instructions! Expect to live a vibrant life in Christ!”

—SHEILA M. BAILEY, international Bible teacher;  
conference speaker

“Pastor and denominational leader Eric Redmond has tackled well a very tough subject in the African-American community and black church. When some congregations are approaching 80 percent female active involvement, many are saying that black men have already left the church. The question that remains for many is, how can they brought back? How can the church change without watering down the gospel to be relevant in the twenty-first century?”

—T. VAUGHN WALKER, Senior Pastor, First Gethsemane  
Baptist Church, Louisville

“Here is straight talk, plain talk, direct talk, great talk for men who want to please God with their lives.”

—JAMES W. SIRE, author, *The Universe Next Door* and  
*Praying the Prayers of Jesus*

“Strongly apologetic, candidly polemic, and soundly catechetical, pastor and resident-theologian Eric Redmond listens to the questions put to the black church by skeptical black men. He offers a brief diagnosis of the black church’s illness, provides a prognosis of its treatment, and presents a picture of the type of church worthy of black men’s return—the transformed or changed church of the unchanged Christ. This work is a biblical bridge for a conversation that must be continued.”

—ROBERT SMITH JR., Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity,  
Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

“The Bible commands that we believers are to be ready to give an answer or defense of our faith with gentleness and respect to every man who inquires about our faith (1 Peter 3:15). Pastor Eric Redmond has provided a much needed tool to equip African-American Christian men to be able to provide biblical and rational answers to commonly asked questions that many of us have to address often who regularly engage in evangelism and apologetics specifically targeting the African-American male. I highly recommend this resource and pray that God would use it mightily to inspire the ‘Ethiopians to stretch out their hands to God’ (Psalm 68:31).”

—WILLIAM DWIGHT MCKISSIC SR., Senior Pastor,  
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas

“Redmond gingerly affirms the black man while taking biblical truths to dispel myths surrounding the church. Men, keep this evangelistic tool in your pocket!”

—MONIQUE ROBINSON, Pastor of Women’s Discipleship,  
Faithful Central Bible Church, Inglewood, California;  
author, *Longing for Daddy*

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**ERIC C. REDMOND**

 **CROSSWAY®**

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

*Where Are All the Brothers?*

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To Pamela,  
my Autumn





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## INTRODUCTION

# What You Will Gain If You Give Me Ten Minutes of Your Life for Each of the Next Nine Days

**G**iving me ten minutes of your life for each of the next nine days could change your whole life. It could make life better than it ever has been. It could also make an eternal difference.

“Yeah, yeah, brother . . . I’ve heard it all before,” you protest. But if I may say so, the words above are not empty promises but words of hope, for your sake. For if you have this booklet in your hands, it means that someone is concerned for your well-being. That someone intends for you to see life from another perspective. Someone is concerned for your heart, mind, and soul.

Either you do not go to church, or you attend infrequently, or you go to a church that the person who gave you this booklet perhaps judges to be harmful rather than beneficial to you. You have your reasons for your type of church attendance—all reasons that are legitimate to you. These might include your experiences with church as a child or an adult, your study of religion, your contact with so-called “Christians” who consistently attend church but whose lives do not seem to match their declarations of faith. Or maybe you have had contact with people of other faiths whose

lives appear to conform better to their confessions. Based on these experiences, you dismiss church as a sham or settle for giving up two hours on Sunday so your children will have some religion and your wife will leave you alone!

If you have been thinking any of these thoughts, you are not alone. I would like to talk with you about your reasons for not giving church (or a different church) another chance. I believe that you are right in your observations. But I request ten minutes so that we may follow the path of your conclusions to stops further down the road.

If you will accept the challenge to read this book with me, what you will find is truth that can lead you to have success and satisfaction in your own life:

- You say church is for women and not for men. I will show you why church is for men just like you.
- You are turned off by the preacher who fattens his purse through the giving of others. But I will show you how to find a real church with a preacher whose life matches up to the biblical standard for a man of God.
- You think the church is weak compared to followers of Islam. I will show you how your view of Islam should make you take another hard look at the potential might of the church—a potential that you hold in your hands.
- You have found organized religion a hindrance to your faith in any God. I will explain to you how organized religion has benefits that you have overlooked that could radically improve your life.

- You say that you do not know about the Jesus people preach. I will talk to you about who and what Jesus himself claimed to be and do.

My hope in offering you this book is that a transformation will take place in your life. My hope and prayer for all who read this book is a reformation—that an army of African-American men will make their way back into the church, back into the leadership of the church, back into leading a change in the church to be and do what it is called to be and do, so that we may have power to do good for our people, and people all over the world, in a way that no government or service organization has been or will be able to do, and that no one will be able to take away.

I think you will enjoy the trip through these pages. To make the readings most enjoyable, may I suggest a manner for gaining the most from this book:

1. Set aside a ten-minute time period to read each day and for reflecting on the reading.

2. Beginning with the first day's reading, read one chapter a day for nine days in a row, starting today. If you put the book down for a period of time and do not get to it daily, that's okay. Simply pick up where you left off when you begin reading again.

3. Think about your answers to the "Things to Consider" questions immediately after reading the chapter.

4. Over the course of the nine days, you may wish to consider a church to visit, keeping in mind what you have read and pondered.

5. When you have finished the book, give a second look at the chapters you deem of greatest importance, then pick two or three



issues about which to think further. I have provided a “For Further Study” section at the end of each reading in order to point you to resources to help you in your search for the truth.

My prayer for you on this nine-day journey is that you will see that you have every reason to go to church, that you will go to a good church, that you will greatly enjoy being there, and that your presence there will result in the redemption of many in your community and around the world.

The rest is on you.

If you are willing to accept the challenge, let us begin reading.



*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the kingdom of heaven,  
but the one who does the will of my Father  
who is in heaven.”*

MATTHEW 7:21

*“Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell  
and killed them: do you think that they were  
worse offenders than all the others who lived in  
Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent,  
you will all likewise perish.”*

LUKE 13:4-5

## DAY 1

### ISN'T THE CHURCH FULL OF HYPOCRITES?

**T**he church is full of a bunch of hypocrites who are simply looking for a crutch to make it through life. I have seen such people, just as you have:

- They sing, shout, and wave their hands on Sunday but curse you out later that week.
- They exalt humility as a virtue but wear the finest clothes and drive the nicest cars as status symbols, and they look down on those who cannot.
- They are deacons, stewards, trustees, elders, and preachers who are supposed to set the example for the people but can be regularly seen leaving the corner store with a brown bag that is not concealing pork rinds.
- They say they love Jesus but abuse their children, cannot mend a relationship with an estranged family member, or are the worst workers in the office.
- They repeatedly tell you and everyone else that you need to be “saved” or “born again” and are judgmental of your every word or lifestyle, never seeing that their attitudes need to be “saved.”

These apparent contradictions in thought and action suggest to you that nothing has truly happened inside those churchgoers' hearts. You do not see the spiritual transformation they claim to have. You even may have thought to yourself that if those people

represent what it means to be a Christian or a church member, then you do not need to live such a lie. You would be right!

In fact, your observations make some marvelous and significant assumptions:

1. A claim of a belief should follow through with practice of that belief. That is, a person's belief should influence his behavior.

2. Churches should be full of those whose claims and practices match, and churches should be without those whose claims and practices do not match—those who are hypocrites.

I would agree with you, and I would understand your skepticism where these two standards are absent.

However, this would also mean that you yourself must have a claim of belief that matches your practice of that belief (or you would be guilty of the very thing of which you accuse them). You yourself are without exception one of the following types of persons:

1. *Righteous*—one who believes he is a good and righteous person and therefore practices right and good all the time (or at least tries to). This is the only type of person who is both good and without hypocrisy in belief and actions.

2. *Wicked*—one who believes he is an evil and uncaring person who practices evil and unkindness. This is the only type of person who is both evil and without hypocrisy in belief and actions.

3. *Hypocritical*—one who believes he is a good and righteous person but practices evil and unkindness. This is the self-righteous

hypocrite who has caused you to be skeptical of church people. But church people are not the only ones who suffer from this flaw. Most people are hypocrites in this way, for most people tend to think of themselves as good people who do not harm others. All people, however, are guilty of evil or unkindness, even if it is to the smallest degree known to man, even if it is only an evil or unkind thought. People who are truly good and righteous cannot have even one evil thought.

4. *Weak*—one who believes he is an evil and uncaring person but believes he practices righteousness and good at all times. In theory, this person can exist. But he would have serious mental, emotional, and spiritual problems.

Truthfully, the Bible teaches that we are all wicked in the sight of God, for “none is righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). God’s standard of righteousness is higher than ours. Before him, we each are practical hypocrites, thinking we are righteous in his sight but actually practicing deeds of wickedness.

In person-to-person dealings, you may be an individual who believes he is a good and righteous person and therefore practices right and good all the time (or at least tries to). Or at least I hope you are! If so, you would be the ideal church member. You would be the ideal follower of God, one who could help others. Many like you who are not hypocrites would set an example for other people to follow. Together we could be the model of churchgoers who both claim and know the holy and righteous God, who have turned away from living sinfully and have turned to living

according to God's standards of practice as revealed in his Word, the Bible.

If this is so, why don't you find a local church of which you can be a member, learn more of God's Word, and live according to his standards of practice? The church would be glad to have you.

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER**

1. Read the verses cited at the beginning of this chapter (Matthew 7:21; Luke 13:4–5). What does Matthew 7:21 tell you about God's view of hypocrites?
2. What does Luke 13:4–5 tell us about the danger of seeing sin in others but not in oneself? How can these verses help you to examine yourself before criticizing others?
3. What might you gain if you went to church and studied God's Word to the point that you could correct a hypocrite and people would begin to see a truly righteous way to live?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Ellis, Carl. *Free at Last? The Gospel in the African-American Experience*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

"With trained head and tender heart the author enters the domain of the reader just as a physician enters the examining room. He responds to disturbing questions by giving biblical and practical prescriptions for help and healing."

**SHEILA M. BAILEY**, *President, Sheila B. Ministries*

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