

“Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft”

Through the **Maze**

—www.BeyondMormonism.com—

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Your Evangelical Church is in Danger of becoming a Cult!

One hundred years ago mainline churches, following the doctrine of “Higher Criticism” rejected the authority of the Bible.

In reaction, biblical Christians adopted Fundamentalism. Fifty years ago (under the influence of men like Billy Graham) the great Evangelical movement was begun. Today, Evangelicalism itself is under heavy threat.

It may be too late for many Evangelical denominations and independent Evangelical churches!

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! (Gal. 1:6-9)

This is the scripture all we cult-busters used against Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witnesses thirty years ago. If you would have told me that I would live to see much of the Evangelical Church become cultish, I would not have believed you. But it has happened in my life time.

I first wrote about this in my newsletter two years ago in March of 2009. The title of that newsletter proclaimed: ***Pathetic & Blasphemous.... The Emerging Church is Confused by Postmodernism, Intimidated by Political Correctness, Greedy for “Church Growth, Bitter toward the Evangelical Church, and Hungry for Acceptance—The Emerging Church is simply one more Cult. (BTW, if you write the word “Emerge” on the purple card and return it, I will send you the March 2009 newsletter).***

The past two years has led me to believe that what I feared has not only come to pass, but it is worse than I could have imagined.

According to Christian pollster George Barna

“Barna Survey Examines Changes in Worldview Among Christians”

Definition of “Biblical Worldview:”

Those who believe:

- Absolute moral truth exists
- The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches
- Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic
- A person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works
- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

“Definition of Born Again Christian:”

Those who say they have made a personal to commitment to Jesus Christ that is important in their life today and that they are certain that they will go to Heaven after they die only because they confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior.

Survey Results:

Only 19% of Born Again Christians report having a Biblical Worldview.

From “Barna Survey Examines Changes in Worldview Among Christians...” (Mar. 6, 2009) Online at Barna.Org

What is the root of this error?

Worldly philosophy has wormed its way into the Evangelical pulpit. Call it PostModernism, Relativism, Political Correctness, or whatever you like. The point is that human thinking has replaced biblical doctrine. Men and women are substituting their wisdom for the revealed wisdom of the Bible. They are becoming unbiblical. They are adopting an unbiblical worldview. It is a worldview that says "God ought to be like this;" instead of a worldview that says "The Bible says God is like this."

In this short note I will not attempt to prove my case. Neither will I name names. I have done that in the March 2009 newsletter and I will expand on that in coming full edition newsletters. The purpose of this note is to sound a warning; to communicate to you that the Church is on fire and you should understand that it is going to get worse.

Secondly, I want to say to you that this is the time for you to realize that you will doubtless be forced to make some very hard choices. It is time to ask yourself if you are in a healthy church setting. You must not let the fact that you love people convince you to stay in a group that is imploding.

Think about it. How often have you seen Mormons, for example, begin to understand that Mormonism is wrong, but out of love for their family and friends, choose to stay in the Mormon Church. There even are ministers who advise Mormons to stay within the Church to help their loved ones. I have always resisted that idea because I think it is an invitation for the awakening Mormon to go back to sleep under the sedative of Mormonism. It is a strong delusion and those who would escape it must *flee!*

Another analogy

If you have ever taken a commercial airline flight, you have heard a flight attendant say something like this:

"In the event the cabin loses pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the overhead. Please put your own mask on before trying to help others with theirs." That is good advice. If you struggle to help your neighbor before you are breathing healthy air, you may pass out and both of you will be in danger.

So, first of all, check the atmosphere in your church.

In my opinion, this is one of the most critical areas of concern:

New Age, PostModern Heresy downplays human sinfulness

"Jesus loves you is only half the story. The love of God is and ought to be central to every sermon preached. However, if the message of mankind's abject corruption is not constantly voiced, people will never come to a place of true godly sorrow for sin—which is a prerequisite for salvation.

Much of the error in the modern Evangelical church stems from the reluctance of ministers to address the horrid, selfish sin-nature of human beings. The message is become something like: "You, are a poor victim alone in a cruel world into which the love of Jesus comes to heal you."

The true message that mankind possesses a corrupt heart which is terminally selfish is good news! Why do I say that? Because nothing else can account for our behavior. All the man-made religious philosophies attempt to tell us that we are victims and we need to learn how to overcome the behavior that has enslaved us.

Since that is *wrong* we spend our lives isolated from our true

What is the biblical Message?

1. Creation. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen 1:1) "...And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Gen 1:26)

2. Man enters the world with a congenital sin nature. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer 17:9)

3. God Himself became a man. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

4. God died as a ransom for man's sin. Those who put their faith in Him are saved from the consequences of their sin. THIS IS THE GOSPEL: THE "GOOD NEWS." "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

corrupt condition and never confront the fact that we are totally, absolutely, unable to better ourselves. We go to our graves with an unanswered question in the back of our minds: "What the heck went wrong with my life?"

Only when we face the music of who we really are will we be able to consider the possibility that there is no help within ourselves. Only then will we be able to consider the true cost of discipleship: we must give up our lives by surrendering everything we are and hope to be to the strong Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I remember when I made that decision. Some of you have read my book *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder's Story*, in which I recount the story of my conversion.

I was driving my car down the highway and engaged God in conversation. "What is the matter with me?" I asked. God replied (not in an audible voice, but within my heart) "You must be born again.

"What does that mean? I asked.

"You must give up your life into My control."

"But that means I could wind up as a missionary to Africa or some such thing."

"You understand the terms of this agreement perfectly."

"But I don't want to do that, I want to make a million dollars."

At any rate, with the best understanding I could muster, I concluded that my life was such a mess, so worthless, so unenjoyable, so selfish that I had nothing to lose by offering it to God.

If there would have been another way, I would have been interested!

Christians who now walk in Christ, continue to walk in sin, their rebellion still explains their pain. Only as we acknowledge that fact and turn to God as the only source of help, strength, and rescue can we hope to live at peace.

If our spiritual leaders do not preach the biblical message of salvation through repentance and immersion in the forgiveness of Christ, we will live shallow so-called Christian lives, and perhaps discover we never really accepted the Gospel. ■