

The Church in An Age of Apostasy

Jude 3-4, "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Like the early days of Christianity, one of the biggest threats to modern Christianity is the marriage between human philosophy and biblical theology. ***What Gnosticism was to the early Church, postmodernism is to the modern Church. Postmodernism says there are no absolutes. Christianity says there are absolutes. When postmodernism influences theology, it always leads to heresy and apostasy.***

We must aspire to be a church of orthodoxy in an age of heresy and apostasy. ***Jude 3, "...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."***

Orthodoxy is defined as a set of shared beliefs by all Christians related to the foundational and essential tenets of the historic Christian faith.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."

Hebrews 13:8-9, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines."

Heresy is an unbiblical doctrine or extrabiblical teaching that is added to the foundational tenets of Christianity.

Apostasy is turning from and rejecting the foundational tenets of Christianity once held as essential to the faith.

"No, God's not a Christian. I mean, we are ... For me, the Christian tradition is the way to understand God and my relationship with the world and other humans and it's the way for me to move into that relationship but I'm not about to say what God can and cannot do in other ways and with other spiritual experiences."

Jude 17-18, "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts."

The end times "Church" described in Scripture as a "harlot" is emerging. One that has "prostituted" the truth with lies! *Revelation 17:5, "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABMONINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (See also 2 Thess. 2:3)*

2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling way comes first..."

Arizona Christian College Cultural Research Center (2020)

52% of Evangelicals don't believe in absolute truth

75% of Evangelicals believe people are basically "good"

1/3 -1/2 of Evangelicals embrace one or more beliefs or behaviors contrary to biblical Christian teaching.

69% of Pentecostals/Charismatics reject absolute moral truth

54% of Pentecostals/Charismatics are unwilling to define human life as sacred with half saying the Bible is ambiguous on its teaching toward abortion.

“The irony of the reshaping of the spiritual landscape in America is that it represents a post-Christian Reformation driven by people seeking to retain a Christian identity. Unfortunately, the theology of this reformation is being driven by American culture rather than biblical truth. The worldviews embraced by the adherents of these distinct religious communities reflect contemporary, worldly influence, rather than biblical influence.” — Dr. George Barna, Director of Research at the Cultural Research Center

Excerpt from John Cooper blog post 8/13/2019

“It is time for the church to rediscover the preeminence of the Word. And to value the teaching of the Word. We need to value truth over feeling. Truth over emotion. And what we are seeing now is the result of the church raising up influencers who did not supremely value truth who have led a generation who also do not believe in the supremacy of truth. And now those disavowed leaders are proudly still leading and influencing boldly AWAY from the truth.

Is it any wonder that some of our disavowed Christian leaders are letting go of the absolute truth of the Bible and subsequently their lives are falling apart? Further and further they are sinking in the sea all the while shouting “now I’ve found the truth! Follow me!!” Brothers and sisters in the faith all around the world, pastors, teachers, worship leaders, influencers...I implore you, please please in your search for relevancy for the gospel, let us NOT find creative ways to shape Gods word into the image of our culture by stifling inconvenient truths. But rather let us hold on even tighter to the anchor of the living Word of God. For He changes NOT. “The grass withers and the flowers fade away, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8)

Let’s stand for TRUTH in these days of deception.