

THE DANGER IN OUR MODERN CHURCHES

"We are now living in a reprobate world under the influence of apostate pastors and churches."

The soul-damning danger in the majority of our churches has been brought about by the Holy Spirit being withdrawn and replaced with an anti-spirit, false spirit, the spirit that sets aside the Word of God. A false spirit has swept over our churches. We live in a time when there is so much error in the church, and it's growing exponentially. In Christendom today the majority of people are in some form of major error or apostasy. At the root of much of this error is a false doctrine often referred to as the "Doctrine of Accommodation" this false doctrine is based on a formula created by pastors Rick Warren and Bill Hybels. Creating what is known as "seeker-friendly" churches with the goal of making visitors feel welcome by adapting the Gospel to appease and attract sinners. The formula involves going into a community and asking people why they don't go to church and what the church might offer that would motivate them to attend, and then providing it with a comfortable, non-threatening message designed to never make anyone feel uncomfortable. This is nothing but spiritual blasphemy, blackmailing men's souls by deception. Making visitors feel welcome is what churches should do, but their goal is to also have casual visitors and non-believers feel comfortable and relaxed and treat the church as a hangout spot rather than a serious place to build a relationship with Jesus Christ and this is tantamount to gospel treason.

The message preached in these churches is only about God's love and kindness, and how much he wants you to have a good life and be happy. There is never any mention of sin, repentance, and the reality of hell or God's judgment on those who do not repent and turn from their sinful ways. They make people feel comfortable in the church by making them comfortable in their sin. They give them a false peace by telling them that either they can live in their sin without repentance or that whatever makes them happy or feel good is not sinful at all.

It is a teaching that presents God's grace as a license to sin. Sometimes called "easy believism", this false doctrine implies that all one must do for right standing with God is to believe in Jesus, whichever 'Jesus' you feel comfortable with, pray a prayer at some point, and then resume control of one's life with the assurance of heaven at the end.

This results in a congregation that believes that just because they attend a "feel good" meeting at the church once a week they are saved and will someday inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul dealt with this thinking in Romans 6. In Matt. 7:21–23, Jesus warned those who adopt this doctrine that they did not know Him at all. 2 Cor. 5:17, states that those who are "in Christ" become "new creatures". That is regeneration, in response to a believer's faith in Christ, changes the inward behavior affecting the outward living. To know and

love Christ is to obey Him, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46.

A growing number of seeker-friendly churches and denominations have begun the rapid slide into apostasy by declaring that they no longer hold to a literal interpretation of Scripture because of their unwillingness to offend anyone or make them feel uncomfortable. There has been a fundamental shift both in society and the church in the last few decades, a total lack of belief in absolute truth. People today are free to make up their own truth which opens the door to the lie and final deception.

They are redefining the person of Jesus Christ by denying His deity, the virgin birth, His sinless nature, His actual death, or His physical resurrection. First John 4:1-3 makes it clear that a denial of biblical Christology is "anti-Christ."

They are denying the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as Saviour and teaching that there are "many paths to God". This philosophy has become popular recently under the guise of tolerance. This false doctrine claims that, since God is love, He will accept any religious effort as long as the practitioner is sincere. Such relativism flies in the face of the entire Bible and effectively eliminates any need for the Son of God to take on flesh and be crucified for us. It also contradicts Jesus' direct words that He is the only way to God. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6

They are erasing the existence of hell and any discussion of the sins that will cause you to be sent there. The Bible describes hell as a real place of eternal torment, the destination for every unregenerate soul; "dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus" 2 Thess. 1:8.

"And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire" Rev. 20:15. A denial of hell also directly contradicts Jesus' own words; "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28.

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" Matt. 25:46.

The Ten Commandments, if they are mentioned at all, are presented more like the ten suggestions. In the congregation, there could be an adulterer, thief, or idolater and they would not want to ever make them feel uncomfortable or convicted in their sin.

Many are condoning homosexuality, legitimizing same-sex "marriage", race-mixing and even ordaining homosexuals as clergy. Again, they would not want to be so intolerant as to make anyone feel uncomfortable by quoting God; "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" Lev. 18:22.

"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" Lev. 20:13.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" 1 Cor. 6:9-10.

Many of these churches get into the "New Age" idea of pleasing themselves, feeling good, and recreating God in their own image. Entertainment is seen as more important than a heart hitting message that touches the soul and motivates listeners to live more Godly lives and turn away from their sins. These kinds of churches normally don't give a message that makes listeners want to change. Messages that are politically correct or inoffensive to worldly people and accommodate the sinner and their needs and desires are preferred.

Just as you cannot say you are devoted to your spouse while at the same time having an extramarital affair, you cannot call yourself a Christian while continuing in unrepentant sinful behavior. Many professing "Christians" lives have never been changed since they're supposedly being saved. I fear the wicked hearts of many have brought disillusionment to a vast majority of those who make up the church of today.

Unrepentance is the great enemy of the church today. People have always been lying, cheating, stealing, and fornicating before salvation and even after professing faith months and years later they still do the same things. The seeker-friendly churches are designed to accommodate these people in their sin and make them comfortable sitting on a greased slide leading straight down to hell.

If you've been drawn to Christ and your life has not changed, then you have not come to the Christ of the Bible, and self-deception may well be in play in your life. You must surrender your life to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to fill you and live inside of you. This will result in a changed mind, heart, and life. If you are truly saved you will feel compelled to live a life that is pleasing to God and the Holy Spirit will convict you when you don't. It is not enough to simply come to the cross. Jesus said; "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" Luke 9:23-24.

Churches that practice the doctrine of accommodation never preach on sin's depravity, repentance of sin, or even sin its self. They present a message that is contrary to everything in Scripture because telling their congregations the truth would make some people so uncomfortable that they might leave and never come back, and these pastors judge their churches' success only by how many people they can get into the pews. But God will judge the pastors by how many souls they brought to Christ. It would be better

for a pastor of a very small church who brings only a few souls to Christ than the pastor of a mega-church of 10,000 who leads all of them straight to hell.

The Bible gives very stern warnings to pastors who lead their flocks astray;

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture," declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending His people: "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD" Jer. 23:1-2.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" Acts 20:28-30.

Peter said concerning the rise of false prophets; "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom, the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodlily; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" 2 Peter 2:1-10.

Paul warns Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 when he writes; "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort

with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul warns us that just before the return of Jesus there would be a great falling away from the faith and that apostasy would be rampant in the church. This is now happening to the point that true Christians are now considered a "fundamentalist fringe".

In the book of Matthew Jesus said; "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” Matt. 7:13-14.

There was a time when most Christians were on the narrow road. But gradually over the last few decades with false teachings and doctrines infiltrating the churches, more and more Christians have turned down the wide road that leads to destruction and now they are pointing back to those of us still on the narrow road calling us divisive, unloving and intolerant. This is the great falling away that was foretold by Paul in 2 Thess. 2. In Scripture, it is always the ones who depart sound doctrine who are called the divisive ones, now, those who stand on sound doctrine are considered the divisive ones. As in the days of Noah and Lot, it is always a remnant, or minority, who are actually true. It's not surprising that the unbelieving world cannot see what is happening, but the level of deception within the church among people who claim to be Christians and the speed at which it's happened is staggering, and unfortunately it will gain momentum. Most deceived "Christians" have no more Biblical knowledge than the secular world. Most have never taken the time to actually read the Holy Scripture for themselves. They treat Scripture in the same way the secular world does, cherry-pick a few verses that they like and either ignore the rest or twist its meaning into something that accommodates their sins. This is reinforced by the messages they receive in the "accommodating" apostate churches they attend only the "feel good" passages about grace and love are ever mentioned.

If people cannot see through obvious false teachers like Rick Warren or Bill Hybels and the hundreds of other pastors who are copying them, they don't stand a chance against the ultimate false teacher, the anti-Christ.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ, and no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also are transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little” 2 Cor. 11:13-16.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good and simple concerning evil" Rom. 16:17-19.

The delusion is not just perpetrated by Satan. It is something that God has allowed as an instrument of judgment on a reprobate world and an apostate church. "And for this, cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" 2 Thess. 2:11-12. This applies to both the non-believing secular world and the apostate church.

The ultimate purpose of false doctrine is to get people off course in finding and following Christ and perverting their beliefs so as to prepare them for the arrival of the anti-Christ. Your best defense against being led astray is to have enough Biblical knowledge to recognize these false teachers when you hear them. In Mark 13 Jesus said; "For false Christ's and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things" Mark 13:22-23.

While the Holy Spirit is preparing the faithful church for the return of Jesus, the opposite is also true. The spirit of anti-Christ, working through false prophets is preparing the apostate church for the coming of the anti-Christ.

Paul wrote in Second Corinthians; "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. But though I am rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things" 2 Cor. 11:3-6.

God is preparing a remnant in his own name that will stand in these last days. If you see through the apostasy in the church and the Doctrine of Accommodation, if you know what's wrong with the Ecumenical Movement and the Emergent Church, be grateful, that's God's grace to you. Most people, including a great number of Christians, are deceived by these things but if you receive the love of the truth you will be saved from this great delusion and deception.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" Hosea 4:6.