

Also, we see leaders within the Seeker-Friendly churches, the Purpose Driven churches are nothing more than Emergent in their teachings!

We see leaders like Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Tony Campolo, Tony Jones, Brian McLaren, Allen Jones, Doug Pagitt, Rob Bell, Spencer Burke, Marcus Borg, Dave Fleming, Richard Foster, and many, many more.

Walter Martin gave this warning to us and tragically, people were not listening and today, many don't seem to care. But it is a warning we need to heed. He wrote,

"It is a cult because it follows every outlined structure of cultism; its own revelations; its own gurus, and its denial – systematically - of all sound systematic Christian theology. It is a cult because it passes its leadership on to the next group that takes over - either modifying, expanding or contracting - the same heresies; dressing them up in different language, and passing them on. . . . it denies the authority of Scripture, it ruins its own theology. And it ends in immorality; because the only way you could have gotten to this homosexual, morally relativistic, garbage - which is today in our denominational structures - is if the leadership of those denominations denied the authority of the Scriptures and Jesus Christ as Lord. . . . Test all things; make sure of what is true (see 1 Thessalonians 5:21). I'm not being harsh; I'm not being judgmental. I am being thoroughly, consistently, Christian; in the light of historic theology, and the holy Bible."

The Bible is very clear that in the last days the church is going to be split into two major divisions, those who follow the Lord and those who follow men. In I Timothy 4:1 we are told, "**Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits, and doctrines of demons.**"

And tragically, instead of testing the spirits, we are embracing them because it makes us feel good, even though it is not part of the Word of God! We read books like Jesus Calling, Love Wins, The New Christians and-so-on. We embrace practices like Yoga, the Desert Fathers, the Silence, labyrinths and-so-on. We need to discern between what is of God and what is not!

Listen to what John tells us about testing the spirits and how we can know truth from error. You see, we should not be deceived.

In I John 4:1-6 we are told, "**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**"

And yet today, we don't test the spirits but we believe what anyone and everyone is telling us except for God. There is a lacking of discernment and if you are struggling in this area today, I would encourage you to search the Scriptures to see if what is being taught in your church is of God or of man!

And I will leave you with this to think about. Jude tells us, "**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.**" Jude 3.

I pray that you will earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to you. There is a battle going on and if you don't search the Scriptures, you are going to be in trouble!

Remember, in the Garden of Eden Satan said to Eve, "**Has God indeed said?**" and he is doing that today and many are listening to him and embracing the doctrines of demons. Be warned, be aware. Love the Lord and His Word and He will guide you in the truth because His Word is truth!

As Jesus said in John 8:32 that if we abide in His Word, that "**... You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

What the Bible says about . . . "Emergent Church! Not my Church!"

Years ago we saw liberalism sweep through sound, mainline Protestant churches and brought them down. And there was the doubting of the authority of the Bible and from there foundational doctrines began to fall!

You would think we would have learned the lesson, but as you look at what is happening in the church today, we are falling prey to more liberalism and this time it is called - The Emergent Church!

What is this Emergent Church all about? Let me share this with you and you will see how dangerous it really is. We are told,

"The emerging, or emergent, church movement takes its name from the idea that as culture changes, a new church should emerge in response. In this case, it is a response by various church leaders to the current era of post-modernism.

Although post-modernism began in the 1950s, the church didn't really seek to conform to its tenets until the 1990s. Post-modernism can be thought of as a dissolution of "cold, hard fact" in favor of "warm, fuzzy subjectivity." The emerging / emergent church movement can be thought of the same way.

The emerging / emergent church movement falls into line with basic post-modernist thinking - it is about experience over reason, subjectivity over objectivity, spirituality over religion, images over words, outward over inward, feelings over truth. . .



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For example, because experience is valued more highly than reason, truth becomes relative. Relativism opens up all kinds of problems, as it destroys the standard that the Bible contains absolute truth, negating the belief that biblical truth can be absolute. If the Bible is not our source for absolute truth, and personal experience is allowed to define and interpret what truth actually is, a saving faith in Jesus Christ is rendered meaningless.

Another area where the emerging / emergent church movement has become anti-biblical is its focus on ecumenism. Unity among people coming from different religious backgrounds and diversity in the expression of corporate worship are strong focuses of the emergent church movement. Being ecumenical means that compromise is taking place, and this results in a watering down of Scripture in favor of not offending an apostate.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/emerging-church-emergent.html>

What the Emergent church has done is take the Word of God out of the hands of the people of God and because of the illiteracy regarding the Bible, aberrant teachings have been brought into the church! And now, if you come against false doctrine, you are unloving, judgmental! How sad that is!

Agree with me or not, I believe that this latest fad in Christianity is bringing about the church of Laodicea or the last days apostate church. I realize that may upset some of you, but look at what they are removing from Christianity!

They are taking away the deity of Jesus, His virgin birth, His atoning sacrifice for the sins of man, His death and resurrection! It is amazing that they still call themselves Christians!

It is interesting how this false doctrine is brought into the church and it is done in such a way that many don't recognize it until it is too late!

"Is my church going Emergent?" That is what we will be looking at. I am going to share with you some information that can give you an idea if your church is going Emergent. This is from Roger Oakland and he gives to us the following regarding the Emergent Church. He wrote:

What are some signs that my church is going emergent?

1. Sound biblical doctrine is dangerous and divisive, and the experiential (i.e., mystical) is given a greater role than doctrine.

2. Bible prophecy is no longer taught and is considered a waste of time.

3. Israel becomes less and less important and has no biblical significance.

4. Eventually the promises for Israel are applied to the church and not Israel (Replacement Theology).

5. Bible study is replaced by studying someone's book and his methods.

6. Church health is evaluated on the *quantity* of people who attend.

7. The truth of God's Word becomes less and less important.

8. God's Word, especially concepts like hell, sin and repentance, is eventually downplayed so the unbeliever is not offended.

Here are some of the warning signs:

1. Scripture is no longer the ultimate authority as the basis for the Christian faith.

2. The centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ is being replaced by humanistic methods promoting church growth and a social gospel.

3. More and more emphasis is being placed on building the kingdom of God now and less and less on the warnings of Scripture about the imminent return of Jesus Christ and a coming judgment in the future.

4. The teaching that Jesus Christ will rule and reign in a literal millennial period is considered unbiblical and heretical.

5. The teaching that the church has taken the place of Israel and Israel has no prophetic significance is often embraced.

6. The teaching that the Book of Revelation does not refer to the future, but instead has been already fulfilled in the past.

7. An experiential mystical form of Christianity begins to be promoted as a method to reach the postmodern generation.

8. Ideas are promoted teaching that Christianity needs to be reinvented in order to provide meaning for this generation.

9. The pastor may implement an idea called "ancient-future" or "vintage Christianity" claiming that in order to take the church forward, we need to go back in church history and find out what experiences were effective to get people to embrace Christianity.

10. While the authority of the Word of God is undermined, images and sensual experiences are promoted as the key to experiencing and knowing God.

11. These experiences include icons, candles, incense, liturgy, labyrinths, prayer stations, contemplative prayer, experiencing the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of the Eucharist.

12. There seems to be a strong emphasis on ecumenism indicating that a bridge is being established that leads in the direction of unity with the Roman Catholic Church.

13. Some evangelical Protestant leaders are saying that the Reformation went too far. They are reexamining the claims of the "church fathers" saying that communion is more than a symbol and that Jesus actually becomes present in the wafer at communion.

14. There will be a growing trend towards an ecumenical unity for the cause of world peace claiming the validity of other religions and that there are many ways to God.

15. Members of churches who question or resist the new changes that the pastor is implementing are reprimanded and usually asked to leave.

<http://www.understandthetimes.org/commentary/c54.shtml>

I realize that this may be shocking to some of you because you have seen this played out in the church you are going to. And once it starts it seems to move very quickly.

And you need to keep in mind that many times the church won't admit to being an Emergent Church, but their name may change, their focus may change and now there are books by authors that are truly Emergent in their thinking.