

always been: *submission to sin*. The vast majority of people want to have their ears tickled, their selfish lusts justified.

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; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

– 2Timothy 4:3-4 (Authorized King James Version)

What could be more pleasing than to have your entire self-centered existence ratified by a purported man of God? “God wants me to have a Maserati, a mansion, and piles and piles of money? Where do I join?”

I am not even close to being a legalist, but I can and do see how this style of Krispy Kreme Christianity is clogging the arteries of the body of Christ, and interrupting the proper flow of his blood *to and from us*.

Is the great falling away on final approach, or is it possible that it’s already taking place? We can’t say. We can’t know...until we all do at least. I do know that whether our wonderful Savior returns tomorrow, or carries another thousand years, that *all* of humanity is drowning in a cesspool of our sins, and sadly no great amount less so within the church, *among Christ’s own*.

We have to fight. We have to stand in the gap. Step into harms way as God calls us to do, and battle the worm *until Jesus does return* to us again. He has given us the Word as our sword, he gives us faith as our shield, and those are the only weapons

we need so long as we obey. We need to bring people back to the Word of God. We need to teach them how the Bible gives them the ammunition to fight daily against any and all enemies. We need to teach them how through faith Christ sustains us, renews us, comforts us, heals us, and that His chastisements are only for our own good. We *need to ask* Jesus to use us as instruments to aid someone in either coming to know Him as Lord and Savior, or in returning to properly following Him once again.

I believe that is only possible by *Biblical Counseling*; be that in a one on one session between a counselor and a counselee, a personal mentoring situation, or from a pulpit on a Sunday morning. The arenas may shift, the particulars may differ, but *the battle is the same* in every situation isn’t it? The endless battle, for people’s hearts and souls; and I don’t believe that any Christian, *any disciple* of our Lord Jesus Christ, can ever rightly claim to be 4-F in this war.

“how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,” - Acts 20:20 (NASB)

“Why Do We Need Biblical Counseling?”

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WHY DO WE NEED BIBLICAL COUNSELING?

Why do we need counseling? Better still, why do we need *Biblical Counseling*? An honest look at the state of the world should make the reason fairly clear to anyone willing to see what’s uncomfortable to see viewed with truthful eyes. We need counseling because society is eating itself alive at an ever increasing pace, and we need the counseling to be Biblical because the root cause of this cancer is *sin*.

Sin has always been at the root of the problems of mankind, has always caused man’s attempts at civilization to stumble and fall. It has never been so readily apparent as it is in modern society – particularly American society, where the last hundred or so years has seen the sublimation of all morality by the agenda of humanism.

This destructive system of thought has so permeated modern society that most people are unaware that it even exists, that they themselves have become *secular humanists*. In arrogant naiveté they believe and live their daily lives as if they’re the most important thing in the entire universe, and that their sole responsibility in life is to pursue without regret any and all desires they hold within their hearts. At best half of them will openly admit that their entire *raison d’être* is self-fulfillment, the rest will emphatically deny they are so totally self-centered and use blame-shifting and rationalization to justify their actions.

Throughout the world, but nowhere more readily apparent than the United States, rampant narcissism and social apathy have become outward symptoms of a worldwide epidemic of megalomania. Lord God help us.

Any change for the better, any improvement at all, in the world, the country, the city, the church, and even our own hearts...will only come from our acceptance of personal responsibility. An acceptance that admits that it is all the result of *sin*. It is sin in our world, in our culture, and *in ourselves*. Real change in each of us, and thereby society, will only come from *true repentance* being offered unto Christ for our sins.

It's a very simple process; the truest cure for all that ails humanity, the one cure that actually and always works. The problem in effecting this solution is that we're dealing with a culture that has been utterly indoctrinated in the *false ideology* that sin does not exist, that all morality is merely subjective to the individual personal point of view. We've been brought up from birth to believe that all people's viewpoints are equally valid, so long as they don't impinge upon our own. Anyone of even average intelligence can see how utterly *illogical* that supposition is – that is, should they be willing to consider it apart from their inclinations of self-gratification.

Faulty as it is, this illogic is understandable from people who don't know Jesus Christ as their Savior, from people who don't believe in the existence of God. We've been taught all our lives that God is an outdated notion dreamed up to frighten cavemen

into being easily lead, and easily controlled. Indeed, we've in effect been raised to believe that *we ourselves* are deities, we cannot expect people to easily accept that there *is* an authority higher than their own, one that holds each and every one of us personally responsible for each and every action we take, each thought we entertain.

Sadly, this exact same mindset regarding the nature of self and sin has burrowed into the body of Christ like an intestinal hookworm; slithering deep into our bowels and laying eggs at every opportunity. Perhaps the growth of this horrible malignancy can be attributed to the fact that Christians are targeted and attacked in one way that non-believers aren't: from *professed Christian sources*.

Can we much longer deny the causal effects brought on the body of Christ by the false (or at least weak) teachings of men such as Robert Schuller, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyers, and Rick Warren? Their 'churches' are overflowing with attendance in the multi-thousands, their books sell in the millions, and their words fall more and more frequently from the lips of professing Christians across the nation.

Let me clarify, I have nothing against mega-churches for *being* mega-churches, nor against their leaders for achieving such voluminous numbers. *If they can properly teach, preach, and edify* five, twenty-five, or even one hundred thousand souls for Christ – God bless them one and all!

However, in the case of the names mentioned, and several (if not *most*) other mega-church mod-

els, the real reason they have become so successful in numbers (and let's face it: *dollars*), is they serve either a watered down version of the gospel, *or* pass off self-help seminar cliché's poorly re-packaged as Biblical exposition. At best they feed their flocks powdered milk, and at worst Tang. The quote below from John MacArthur, sums up the situation quite well.

"The philosophy that marries marketing technique with church growth theory is the result of *bad theology*. It assumes that if you package the gospel right, people will get saved. It is rooted in *Arminianism*, which makes the human will, *not* a sovereign God, the decisive factor in salvation. It speaks of conversion as a "decision for Christ." Such language and such doctrine have begun to color modern ministry. The goal of market-driven ministry is an instantaneous human decision, rather than a *radical transformation of the heart* wrought by Almighty God through the Holy Spirit's convicting work and the truth of His Word. An honest belief in the sovereignty of God in salvation would bring an end to a lot of the nonsense that is going on in the church." (MacArthur, John. Ashamed of the Gospel. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993.)

Our greatest challenge in shepherding the body of Christ isn't attacks from the secular world, but ones that *come from within*. Christians on the whole do not approach with reasonable caution things that proclaim to be of the faith. We can attribute that in some measure to laziness; and in some measure to foolishness. The major reason is the same as it has