

The Emergent Church
A Final Movement?

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Fall 2006

Matt 16:13-27

The Central

1. Question every man must answer
2. Issue in Christianity: the Cross
3. Person, dividing between life and death: Jesus

Jesus 1st teaching of the Cross and His Resurrection

Peter rebuked Him (Matt 16:22)

Jesus rebukes Peter for rejecting the Cross

God's will is

- Is 53:5-10a
- unity in Truth
- multiplication thru division

Man's will is

- fame and fortune
- power and pleasure
- unity at the expense of Truth
- multiplication thru addition

Is 55:8-9

There is a movement in the Church today that is rapidly gathering momentum

It's called "The Emergent Church" or "the Emerging Church" and it is

- very appealing
- very "forward thinking"
- very subtle
- very dangerous to one's spiritual health
- Cross-less

The men influencing this movement sound very much like Peter in Matt 16:22

What is this movement called “The Emergent Church”?

What kind of a tree is this?

Matt 7:15-23 The LORD Jesus Christ’s foundational teaching

To know what kind of a tree is this, we must examine

- the root
- the fruit

We will find that the root of this movement is

- not from Biblical Christianity, the plan of God...
- from Babylon, the world system of the deceiver

We will find that the fruit is

- a lukewarm relationship with Jesus Christ
- spiritual poverty, blindness, nakedness, wretchedness, and misery

The Emergent Church...the Laodicean Church...with roots in Babylon...
may well be the “Christian feeder” into the One World Religion of the
70th Week of Daniel...
which may well be headed by the Church at Thyatira...
which also has its root in Babylon

The One World Religion goes back to Babylon

Zech 5:9-11

Before Jesus returns, there will be a great falling away from the faith...

a falling away from the Three “Centralities” of Biblical Christianity

The Holy Spirit warned us about this so that we would not be caught unaware.

1 Tim 4:1-2
2 Tim 4:1-5
2 Thes 2:1-5

Jesus personally warned us about the times in which we live

Rev 3:14-22

So we will take a closer look at The Emergent Church in order to be aware...

to not be deceived

Warning: This study may be offensive to many

To which I say, “Be a Berean!” (Acts 17:11)

My concern for the Church in our day really began when I noticed the degree to which Secular Psychology had infected the body of Christ

This man-centered “religion of Self” is now embraced by the Church...with its

- doctrines of
 - self-esteem
 - victimization
 - self-actualization
- plethora of self-help programs

This “science” is a fraud

- Every discipline of science confirms the Word of God
- Secular Psychology stands contrary to the Word of God

<u>Secular Psychology</u>	<u>the Word of God</u>
Man-centered...selfishness	God-centered...selflessness (Matt 16:24)
Faith in man	faith in Jesus Christ (John 15:5)
Man is good, but a victim, a result of his environment	man is evil, a sinner in rebellion against God (Jer 17:9, Gen 6:5, Rom 3:10,23)
man can be cured thru therapy	man can only be cured thru repentance (Eccl 12:13-14)
a collection of ever-multiplying and conflicting theories	God’s absolute, unchanging truth... (Is 9:6, Heb 13:5)
an ever-expanding list of “disorders” and “diseases” ...but no cures	THE source of comfort, strength, healing ...for only God knows the heart and the motives of man (Heb 4:12, 2 Cor 5:17)
“disease”/”disorder	sin
alcoholism	drunkenness
drug addiction	sorcery
overeating	gluttony
purging	pride
sexual addiction	fornication/adultery
kleptomania	stealing
malingering	slothfulness
narcissistic personality	pride
oppositional defiant	disobedience
a cornucopia of phobias	fear
another cornucopia...	self-centeredness
some...	demon-possession

Very disconcerting to me was the high esteem and bubbling favor showered upon
“Christian psychologists”...which is an oxymoron...
classic double-mindedness (James 1:8)

The two religions/world-views cannot co-exist....which one “loses” in that office?

Then, my concern for the Church was heightened as I...
a Marketing major by education and a Sales and Marketing professional for
25 years that had to un-learn all those things to be a servant of God...
observed the philosophies of Peter Drucker also infect the Body of Christ...
as if the Church were an organization vs organism with a Head!

First, with the “seeker-friendly” movement and its inclusiveness, ear-tickling
fluff, and half-Gospel

Then, the “*Prayer of Jabez*” phenomenon and its purely carnal application.

Finally, the “*Purpose-Driven Life*” tsunami and the world-wide degree of
influence in the Church of this program that is

- Cross-less
- a half-Gospel
- a mere shell stripped of the regenerative life of the Seed

Then, the lure of Roman Catholic Church

- “Come home” to mainline Protestant denominations
- Prayer stations, icons, candles, and grottos to Mary...in Evangelical churches!
- Transubstantiation taught at a Calvary Chapel Pastor’s Conference

Lastly...

the “straw that broke the camel’s back and got to doing an in-depth research of
the Emergent Church...
were conversations with other Christians that adamantly insisted that “post-moderns”
needed to be reached differently than any other previous generation

There was a distinct disconnect in our conversations.

I did not understand what they were saying, the terms or the reasoning they were
using.

“What is a “post-modern”?”

What makes them different than every generation before them?

I do not understand what you are saying to me.”

I pray this study will help you understand

- Terms and phrases being bandied about
- The harm this way of thinking cause

And I pray it will equip you to “Contend for the Faith” with family and friends who are being deceived by this thing called “The Emergent Church.”

As I have been watching this movement for a number of years as it crystallizes, I recommend three books for your own research

1. “*Becoming Conversant with The Emerging Church... Understanding a Movement and Its Implications*” by D.A. Carson (Zondervan Publishing , 2005)

An account of the abandonment of Biblical truth by the Church

2. “*A Time of Departing...How Ancient Mystical Practices are Uniting Christians with the World’s Religions*” by Ray Yungen (Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2006)

An account of a subtle attack on Christian culture

3. “*Deceived on Purpose...The New Age Implications of the Purpose-Driven Church*” by Warren Smith (a former New Ager) (Mountain Stream Press, 2nd Edition, 2005)

An account of the deception of the Church

I would also recommend that you subscribe to Jacob Prasch’s newsletter, an excellent source of current information

“email-alert@moriel.org”

I will also introduce other sources as we proceed.

Disclaimers

- I will name names...without apology
 1. God does
 2. Jesus did
 3. Paul did
 4. How will you know from whom to flee unless I tell you?

- I am not judging
 1. the hearts of these men
 2. their relationship with Jesus Christ...

for I am grossly unqualified to do so

- I am discerning
 1. the words of these men
 2. where their teaching leads

by comparing this movement to the Word of God, the truth that transcends nice guys and good works

Our position before God our Creator is not based on our good works but

- upon His holiness and righteousness...
- by grace through faith
- in His finished work of redemption at the Cross

- I take very seriously the calling the LORD Jesus Christ has given me

James 3:1

Ezk 3:1-6, 17-19 (for we have been grafted in)

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

If I just feed the flock and not warn the flock, I may only be fattening up the flock for the kill" -- Jon Courson, Applegate Christian Fellowship - [CSN 12/28/00]

We will examine and understand

1. Definitions and buzzwords used by this movement
2. The influence this movement is having on Christendom...and the world
3. The men leading this movement and what they believe
4. The Biblical errors of this movement
5. How we should respond to this movement

Definitions and buzzwords used by this movement

3 Schools of Thought...an overlapping transition of the thoughts of man

1. Pre-modernism:

A way of thinking...an outlook...characterized as

- Judeo-Christian thought before the Enlightenment
 - a. the period of time between the Dark Ages and the Age of Reason concluding in the 18th Century
 - b. “marked” by the American and French Revolutions
- the belief that all human knowledge is a subset of God’s knowledge
- human knowledge depends on the revelation of God
- The omniscient God is the beginning of thought, finite man is not
- A dominant belief in absolute truth

2. Modernism:

A way of thinking...an outlook...characterized as

- Western thought from about the 17th Century to a few decades ago
- “I think, therefore I am” (Rene Descartes)
- thought begins with the finite “I” of man
- man is not dependent upon God for knowledge...
- the universe is all there is, a transcendent God is a myth
- constrained by the “scientific method” to find “foundational truths”
- certainty is desirable and attainable
- what is true is true, regardless of culture or language or historical time period

3. Post-modernism:

A way of thinking...an outlook...characterized as

- Western thought beginning a few decades ago
- a direct challenge to all that is “Modern”...
- except that thought begins with the finite “I” of man...
 who is innately good
- but every “I” is different from every other “I”
- emphasis is placed on
 - culture instead of individuals
 - feelings and emotions instead of rationality...
 - experience instead of truth...
 - inclusion instead of exclusion
- opposed to “foundational truths” because not all things are true in all cultures...all claims of truth are only true for some people
- certainty/objective knowledge/absolute truth is neither attainable nor desirable

 truth can be found using a myriad of methods, none more true than any other
- an openness to the mystical and all religious claims...calling it
 “authentic spirituality”
- worship that places a high value on contemplation, candles, incense, robes, icons, and other liturgical symbols to create a sense of mystery and awe...
 i.e. from “vintage Christianity” (RCC!) steeped in mysticism
- Panentheism (New Age)...the belief that God is in all things...
 clever combination of
 theism (personal God) and
 pantheism (God is all)
- The science of mystical evolution, the employment of the hidden mystical faculties of man to discern the hidden reality of nature
 i.e. to see God as the all in all.

Tolerance

It used to be understood as the “heart” that permits those with whom we disagree to speak up and defend their viewpoint.

In other words, one had to disagree before he could tolerate.

Now, tolerance is redefined and understood to mean the “heart” that refuses to think any opinion as good or bad or evil or anything but “accepted”.

Logically, tolerance now is no tolerance at all!

Yet, post-modern thinkers have very little tolerance for those who disagree with them!

Emergent Church/Emerging Church (Post-modern)

- A conviction that cultural changes signal that a new church is “emerging” in order to win that culture/new generation to Christ
- The movement calling for a “2nd Reformation” of Christianity
- An approach to Christianity defined by the beliefs of its leaders that is characterized by Protest
 - Pre-millennial, pre-tribulational eschatology (Pre-modern)
 - historical performance of Christianity on social issues
slavery, women’s rights...therefore, on homosexuality
 - spiritual isolationism vs pluralism of Christianity
 - exclusivity of Christianity (the only truth) vs relativism
 - disunity/denominationalism of Christianity
 - offensiveness of sin (Cross) vs the appeal of grace
 - rationalism and reason vs emotions and experiences
 - sensory starvation of modern church services
 - belonging (in a culture) vs believing (in a doctrine)

I could not understand what these believers were saying to me because they were coming from a different school of thought...

I from pre-modern perspective and them from post-modern perspective

Contemplative prayer

Widely unknown to or understood by Biblical Christianity...
yet it has very deep roots

It is the common denominator that must be understood if this deception is to be discerned.

Contemplative Prayer: an Eastern mystical form of meditation that tries to fill the mind...after first emptying it.

It is a practice characterized by

- Silence...not being quiet or quietly thinking...but emptying of the mind...
ridding oneself of all thoughts in order to still the mind by effectively putting it “in neutral.”
- Breathing exercises
- Repetitive words or phrases called “mantras”
(Sanskrit for “to escape from thought”)
- An altered state of consciousness...a self-induced trance
- A close personal contact with a powerful Presence
Presumed to be God because something this positive has to be of God!
But is instead he who appears as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)

this encounter in a cloud of unknowing is variously referred to as
 - awakening
 - enlightenment
 - self-realization
 - metaphysics
- crossing religious boundaries...a spiritual practice to develop yourself rather than change your religion (Gospel of Self)

The mantras of Eastern religions introduced into Christianity by a group of hermit Roman Catholic monks in the wilderness areas of the Middle East named the Desert Fathers

Michael Leach, former president of the Catholic Book Publishers Association said in 1992, “But many people also believe that the spiritual principles underlying the New Age movement will soon be incorporated – or rather re-incorporated – into the mainstream of Catholic belief. In fact, it’s happening in the United States right now.”

This movement in the Roman Catholic Church not only has the approval of the highest levels of power in Rome, but they are in fact the source of it.

Pope Paul VI speaking to the Trappist Monk Order in the 1970s said that unless the Church rediscovered the contemplative tradition, renewal could not take place. He called upon the monks, because they lived the contemplative life, to help the laity and other orders of monks/nuns to bring that dimension into their lives as well.

The 1995 Roman Catholic Catechism says in Paragraphs 2709-2724:

- As defined by St. Teresa of Avila: “Contemplative prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.”
- Inner prayer...(*empty mind*) a gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus... His gaze purifies our heart; the light of the countenance of Jesus illuminates the eyes of our heart and teaches us to see everything in the light of his truth and his compassion for all men.
- Silence...(*non-thought*) In this silence, unbearable to the “outer man”, the Father speaks to us.
- Achieves real union with the prayer of Christ to the extent that it makes us share in his mystery.

Roman Catholic monks Thomas Keating and Basil Pennington blended their Christianity (Roman Catholicism) with Eastern mysticism through a contemplative method called “centering prayer”.

In 1991 alone, they taught 31,000 people how “to center.”

Contemplative Prayer has entered into the Protestant denominations as well Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, etc

“Silence” is the operative word

Note: Mystic: a person who claims to attain, or believes in the possibility of attaining, insight into mysteries transcending ordinary human knowledge, as by direct communication with the divine or immediate intuition in a state of spiritual ecstasy.

Mysticism: an occult practice to enter into the spiritual realm (demonic)

Deception: Because the experience is pleasant, the mistaken notion is the encounter was with God.

The Root: The men leading this movement and what they believe

Spencer Burke

- 18 years in the ministry, concluding at Mariners Church in Irvine, CA
- felt a spiritual unrest with contemporary Christianity (“Protest” above)
- went on a 3 day “**silent**” retreat with author and **priest** Brennan Manning – told not to speak or read, not even the Bible (I think, an “un-biblical encounter”)

Who is Brennan Manning?

A Roman Catholic priest and mystic from the Franciscan order

Influenced by the “Desert Fathers”, who are the root of contemplative prayer practices in Christianity

In the late sixties, he joined the Little Brothers of Jesus of Charles de Foucauld, an Order committed to an uncloistered, contemplative life among the poor -- a lifestyle of days spent in manual labor and nights wrapped in silence and prayer.

In his book *The Ragamuffin Gospel* Manning:

calls the gospel of Jesus Christ "folly" (p. 209)

teaches an eastern-type meditation (pp. 43, 205-206)

uses vulgarity (pp. 46, 137)

twists scripture (pp. 23, 173, 73, 28)

says that everyone will go to heaven, even those who receive the mark of the beast enter in (pp. 17, 26, 29)

promotes worldliness (pp. 80, 94, 98)

says that repentance is not a prerequisite for forgiveness (p. 73).

- at the retreat with Manning was introduced to

- Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968)

A Roman Catholic **Trappist monk**...The Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, a contemplative Benedictine order... with a home base in a monastery in Kentucky

Took contemplative prayer out of the monastic setting and into the masses

Shared a deep spiritual kinship with the Sufis, the spiritual teachers and mystics of Islam, particularly in “fana, the act of merging with the Divine Oneness”

“I am deeply impregnated with Sufism.”

Also found Buddhist enlightenment in contemplative prayer

“I see no contradiction between Buddhism and Christianity. I intend to become as good a Buddhist as I can.”

“I think I couldn’t understand Christian teaching the way I do if it were not for the light of Buddhism.”

His book *Contemplative Prayer* teaches contemplative prayer as a way to God is considered a “must read” by the leaders of the Emergent Church

Likened the ecstasy of contemplative prayer to an LSD trip (how would he know?)

Admired by Max Lucado, Amy Grant, and Michael Card, and Rick Warren

Embraces

Basil Pennington’s book, *Centering Prayer*

Thomas Keating’s book, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, considered a primer for centering prayer, which projects a panentheistic view of God

Believes Catholics have an obligation to seek God in other religious traditions (One World Religion?!)

Claims the Spirit enlightened him regarding the unity of all living beings.

In his vision of a new world, all divisions fall away and the divine goodness is perceived and enjoyed as present in all and through all.

- Henri Nouwen (1932 – 1996)

A Dutch Roman Catholic **priest** and theologian

Profoundly influenced by Thomas Merton

“Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God’s house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God.”
i.e. John 14:6 must not be true and Biblical Christianity is not the only means of salvation.

Believes Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam offer great wisdom for spiritual life to Christians.

Embraced contemplative prayer as the means to be in God’s active presence.

Esteemed the famous Hindu swami Sri Ramakrishna as an important spiritual leader

Along with Richard Foster, quoted favorably by Chuck Swindoll in his 2005 book, *So You Want to be Like Christ: Eight Essentials to Get You There*

○ St. Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582)

Roman Catholic nun of the Carmelite order

Half Jewish and influenced by the Jewish Kabbalistic mysticism

Her mystical thought throughout all her writings is in four stages:

The first, or "*heart's devotion*", is that of devout contemplation or concentration

The second is the "*devotion of peace*", in which at least the human will is lost, while the other faculties, such as memory, reason, and imagination, are not yet secure from worldly distraction. The prevailing state is one of silence.

The third, the "*devotion of union*" is not only a supernatural but an essentially ecstatic state. Here there is also an absorption of the reason in God (an empty mind), and only the memory and imagination are left to ramble. This state is characterized by a blissful peace, a sweet slumber of at least the higher soul faculties, a conscious rapture in the love of God.

The fourth is the "*devotion of ecstasy or rapture*", a passive state, in which the consciousness of being in the body disappears. Sense activity ceases; memory and imagination are also absorbed in God or intoxicated. Body and spirit are in the throes of a sweet, happy pain, alternating between a fearful fiery glow, a complete impotence and unconsciousness, and a spell of strangulation, intermitted sometimes by such an ecstatic flight that the body is literally lifted into space. This after half an hour is followed by a reactionary relaxation of a few hours in a swoon-like weakness, attended by a negation of all the faculties in the union with God. From this the subject awakens in tears; it is the climax of mystical experience, productive of the trance.

Mike Yaconelli

- Feeling spiritually desperate after 25 years in the ministry, he picked up a book by...Henri Nouwen (*In The Name of Jesus*) and “heard the voice of Jesus...hiding in the pages of Henri’s book.”
- He longed for a God “for whom friendship was enough...I just wanted God to like me.” and was thereby introduced to contemplative prayer

The Bible teaches that God demands our

- obedience
 - holiness
 - submission
- Joined a community called “L’Arche”:
 - “They didn’t talk much about sin, perhaps twice in twelve years. Not because they did not believe in sin, but because they already knew all about sin...and what they needed now was grace.”
 - They told stories about what was going on inside them.
 - Editor of a book called, *Stories of Emergence: Moving from Absolute to Authentic*

Brian McLaren

- The movement's most articulate speaker and influential thinker and recently named by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 most influential evangelical leaders in the country.
- Influenced by the philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre
Whereas many contemporary philosophers advance philosophical positions by focusing on the logical, analytical or so called scientific underpinnings, MacIntyre often appeals to ordinary story telling to resolve complicated issues in the areas of morals

MacIntyre focuses on moral problems as those having to do with how to make the most of an entire human life whereas most others focus on more granular, sharply focused and emotionally-charged ethical debates such as abortion, homosexual political rights, etc.

MacIntyre is not silent on such matters, however, he does approach them from a wider context and less rule based standard. This is an approach to moral philosophy that demonstrates that good judgment of individuals emanates from the development of good character.

- Philosophical pluralism: no single outlook can be the reality for all of life
i.e. no such thing as absolute truth
- Relativism: morality and religion are relative to the people who embrace them
- "I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu, or Jewish contexts."
- "We cannot point to any other way of salvation than Jesus Christ; at the same time, we cannot set limits to the saving power of God."
(Jesus is not really needed for salvation...what is salvation and from what?)
- On the Cross of Jesus Christ:
Calls the Cross "false advertising for God"
Endorses a book by Andy Jones that calls the Cross "a vile doctrine."

- Blames the major evils of the past 300 years – Nazism, Communism, slavery, colonialism and imperialism – on the “absolute truth” thinking of pre-moderns (i.e. Judeo-Christian morality)

Note: It was precisely such thinking that ended slavery!

It was the failure of such thinking that enabled Hitler and Stalin

- Believes there is no good stance to take on the issue of homosexuality, because all positions hurt someone, and that is always bad.
(belief system devoid of repentance)
- Named Richard Foster as one of the “key mentors of the Emerging Church.”

Richard Foster

- A notable Christian author and speaker...and an author in high demand in New Age bookstores
- Wrote a very popular book called *Celebration of Discipline*, which make frequent reference to and openly quotes...Thomas Merton
- Founder and head of an organization called Renovare (Latin for “renewal”), whose goal is to provide the evangelical church with a practical strategy for growing spiritually
- In his book *Prayer: Finding The Heart’s True Home*, he recommends the practice of “breath prayer” – picking a single word or short phrase and repeating it in conjunction with the breath to induce a mystical trance...
classic contemplative mysticism and Eastern meditation vs using the mind to the glory of God
- “Christian meditation is an attempt to empty the mind with one thought.”
- “Christianity is not complete without the contemplative dimension.”
- Considers Thomas Merton’s book *Contemplative Prayer* as a must-read

Both Eastern and Christian mysticism i.e. contemplative prayer try to fill the mind after first emptying it....leading to the same gods of the East...

the demonic realm, the very powers that are against the preaching of the Cross of Jesus Christ in Eph 6:12 and the very reason believers in Jesus Christ are given the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in order to discern the spirits

Sue Monk Kidd

- A Southern Baptist Sunday school teacher who underwent a spiritual transformation when a Sunday school co-worker gave her a book written by...Thomas Merton
- After reading Merton's book, her worldview and belief system changed radically and went down the "contemplative prayer" path.
- Author of numerous books mentioned by others like Brennan Manning and Richard Foster.
- One book is *When the Heart Waits*: "There's a bulb of truth buried in the human soul, not just the Christian, that's 'only God'...the soul is more than something to win or save. It's the seat and repository of the inner divine, the God-image, the truest part of us."

Thereby negating the necessity of being born-again unto salvation and the subsequent indwelling by God the Holy Spirit.

- In *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, "The minister was preaching....He was saying that the Bible was the sole and ultimate authority of the Christian's life. I remember a feeling rising up from a place about two inches below my navel...it was the purest inner knowing I had experienced, and it was shouting in me *no, no, no!* The ultimate authority of my life is not the Bible; it is not confined between the covers of a book. It is not something written by men and frozen in time. It is not from a source outside myself. My ultimate authority is the divine voice in my own soul. Period!"
- She now openly worships the Goddess Sophia rather than Jesus Christ
 - "We need Goddess consciousness to reveal earth's holiness... Matter becomes inspirited; it breathes divinity. Earth becomes alive and sacred...Goddess offers us the holiness of everything."
- Is favorably quoted by Pastor David Jeremiah of Turning Point Ministries in his book *Life Wide Open: Unleashing the Power of a Passionate Life* written in 2003.

Tilden Edwards (1940-2005)

- Episcopal clergyman and founder of Shalem Institute in Washington DC, the largest and most influential contemplative school in the US turning out “spiritual directors” for “emerging” churches
- openly admitted, “This mystical stream (contemplative prayer) is the Western bridge to Far Eastern spirituality” in his book, *Spiritual Friend*, which Richard Foster endorsed, calling it an excellent spiritual book
- A Shalem Institute newsletter in December 2005 said of the book *A New Language of Prayer* by Ann Kline: “Thomas Merton taught that there is only one way to develop this radical language of prayer: in silence.”
- In a workshop he called *Buddhist contributions to Christian Living*, he promoted that if a Christian wanted to live in the divine Presence, then “Some Buddhist traditions have developed very practical ways of doing so that many Christians have found helpful...offering participants new perspectives and possibilities for living more fully in the radiant glorious Presence through the day.”
- “The new ecumenism involved here is not between Christian and Christian, but between Christians and the grace (!?) of other intuitively deep religious traditions.”

Ruth Haley Barton

- Trained at Tilden Edwards' Shalem Institute
- Writer, spiritual director, teacher, retreat leader, and co-founder of The Transforming Center, a community of Christian men and women who shape and care for the souls of leaders
- Former Associate Director of Spiritual Formation at Willow Creek Community Church (Bill Hybels) echoes Sue Monk Kidd: "A few years ago, I began to recognize an inner chaos in my soul...No matter how much I prayed, read the Bible, and listened to good teaching, I could not calm the internal roar created by questions with no answers. I sought out a spiritual director, someone well-versed in the ways of the soul...eventually this wise woman said to me, 'What you need is stillness and silence so the sediment can settle and the water can become clear.'...I decided to accept this invitation to move beyond my addiction to words (normal ways of praying)."
- Wrote *Invitation to Solitude and Silence, Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*...with a forward by Dallas Willard and endorsed by Tilden Edwards.
- Argues that God cannot be reached adequately, if at all, without the silence.

Rick Warren

- Formerly a Southern Baptist preacher, he is a graduate of the Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership, a springboard for the church growth movement.
- According to his wife Kay, “He (Schuller) had a profound influence on Rick.” (as evidenced by the re-packaging of Schuller ideas into *The Purpose Driven Life*)
- According to Schuller regarding this school, “All of our students have to watch and listen to...Henri Nouwen. I keep interrupting and stopping the video machine, telling them to notice how he uses his hands, to look at the twinkle in his eye, to see how he connects his eye with the eye of the listener, to be aware of the words he uses – all positives, no negatives.”

Kay Warren recommends a book, a book Rick says he “highlighted almost every word”, called *In the Name of Jesus...* by Henri Nouwen

- New Age prophet Norman Vincent Peale was the key influence of Robert Schuller and his church growth movement
- He believes his Purpose Driven movement has put evangelical Christianity on the path to a “2nd Reformation” and a great spiritual awakening...echoing Robert Schuller’s call for a “new reformation”

“I’m looking for a 2nd Reformation. The first reformation of the church 500 years ago was about beliefs (aka doctrine). This one is going to be about behavior.”

(contemplative prayer/meditation is not a doctrine, it is a practice...
a mystical feeling is replacing sound doctrine)

- In 2003 proposed a five-step global P.E.A.C.E. Plan to solve the major dilemmas currently facing the world...
 - P lant new churches
 - E quip new leaders
 - A ssist the poor
 - C are for the sick
 - E ducateone year after New Age leader and spirit channeling author of *Conversations with God* Neale Donald Walsch announced a five-step global P.E.A.C.E. plan to bring the world’s religions together (New Age agenda).
- Said fundamentalism...Muslim fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism...is the greatest threat to world peace.

- In *The Purpose Driven Church*, Warren praises a number of parachurch movements, including the “spiritual formation movement” and names Richard Foster and Dallas Willard (yet another former Southern Baptist who wrote *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, glowingly endorsed by Sue Monk Kidd) as leaders of this movement.
- Said reading/studying/teaching Biblical prophesy is a “waste of time.”
- Warren condemns the KJV as antiquated, applauds all the new “translations”, which do great violence to the Word of God
- Teaches contemplative prayer

On Day 11 (“Becoming Best Friends with God”) of *The Purpose Driven Life*, Warren says there are “secrets” to having a friendship with God. One of those secrets is a form of contemplative prayer spirituality called “breath prayers” (see Richard Foster). The example he gives of this secret is a Carmelite monk named Brother Lawrence, who was influenced by Teresa of Avila. He also includes a reprehensible translation of Ephesians 4:6 from the New Century Version: “He rules everything and is everywhere and is in everything.” (aka panentheism)

On Day 38, Warren teaches how to become “world-class Christians” through the “practice of breath prayers.”

- His “favorite author” is Tricia Rhodes who wrote *The Soul at Rest: A Journey into Contemplative Prayer*.
- On his pastors.com website and via his weekly communication to over 150,000 pastors and church leaders, he repeatedly quotes and promotes Spencer Burke, Richard Foster, Brennan Manning, Henri Nouwen, and Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating (a Roman Catholic Trappist monk like Merton), and other contemplatives.

From pastors.com also dispenses alarming counsel via “Rick Warren’s Ministry Toolbox”, such as:

<http://www.pastors.com/article.asp?printerfriendly=1&ArtID=9230>

- Said another way, Rick Warren is a conduit for spreading the contemplative prayer message worldwide.
- Rick Warren is not new or novel...he is a very marketing savvy man... a polished pitchman...expounding other men’s ideas

- Purpose Driven has very deep roots in New Age, roots that have been documented in extraordinary detail by Warren Smith, a former New Ager.

Deceived by the New Age but set free by the Word of God, Smith can clearly see what millions upon millions of “illiterate” Christians cannot.

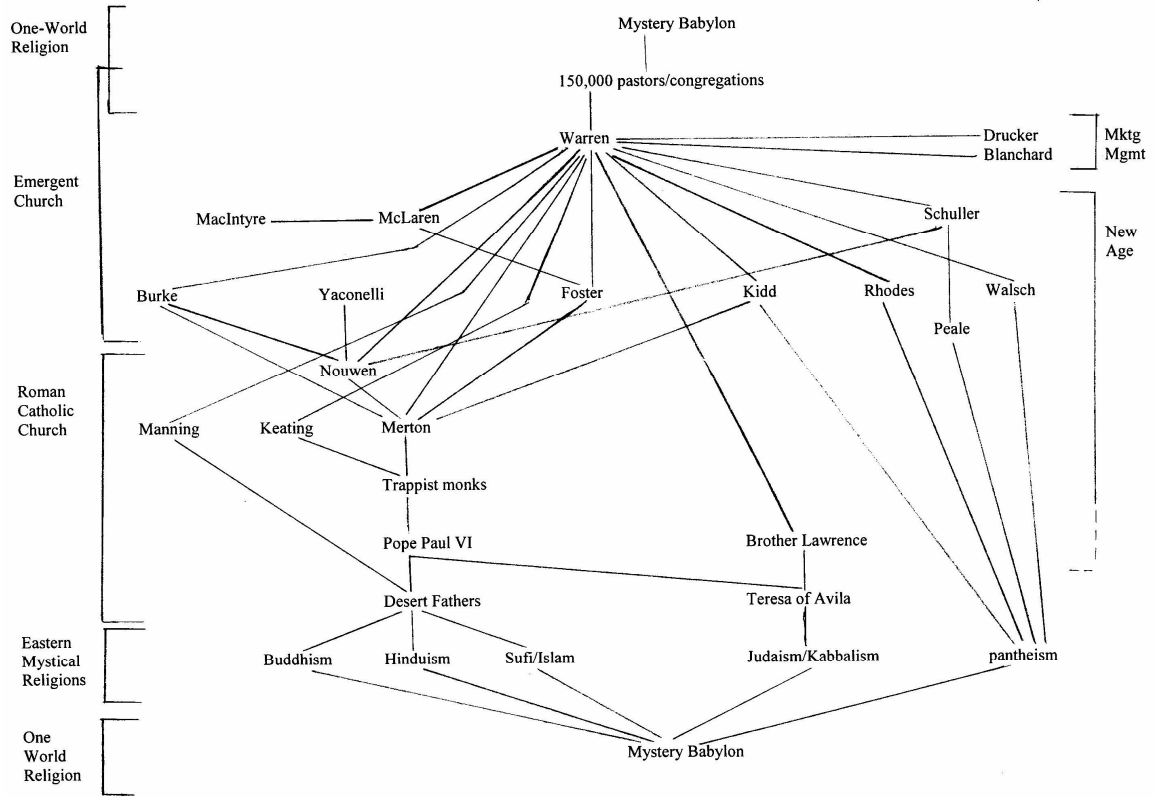
Purpose Driven,

rather than leading to a 2nd Reformation and a great spiritual awakening in the traditional Christian contexts,
may in fact be leading Christianity into spiritual apostasy...Laodicea

having sold out Christianity by using high tech marketing methods and a watered down Gospel devoid of sin and repentance but filled with

New Age
Roman Catholicism
Eastern mysticism
secular psychology

The Emergent Church: Roots



The influence this movement is having on Christendom...and the world

This movement, the very subtle introduction of Eastern mystical practices, has seeped into every aspect of our society – business, medicine, education, politics, and the Christian church.

Richard Foster has very consistently been one of the most popular Christian authors, according to Christianity Today polls...even earning remarks like, “the most significant impact on their Christian life, other than the Bible.”

In a 1994 survey of 3,400 Protestant church leaders, Henri Nouwen was ranked second only to Billy Graham in influence among them.

In a 2002 poll by *US News and World Report*, 70% of all Christians believe that those in other religions should NOT be actively reached for Jesus Christ, that they should be left alone.

A 2001 poll by *Spirituality and Health* magazine revealed that 84% of those polled believed God to be “everywhere and in everything” rather than “someone somewhere.”

Chicken Soup for the Soul books are written by Jack Canfield, a teacher of the highly occultic “psycho-synthesis” who experienced a “spiritual awakening in a yoga class.

‘I do yoga, tai chi which is a Chinese martial art and three kinds of meditation – vipasana, transcendental, and mantra (sound) meditation.’

Men Are From Mars and Women Are From Venus is written by John Gray, who practices Transcendental Meditation, an Eastern mysticism practice

The One Minute Manager is authored by Ken Blanchard, a professing Christian who practices Buddhist/New Age meditation.

“I look for inspirational messages from a variety of sources besides Jesus. Our folks get to hear words of wisdom from great prophets and spiritual leaders like Buddha, Mohammed, Yogananda, and the Dalai Lama.”

Author M. Scott Peck (1936-2005), an “institution” on the New York times bestseller list with self-help books like *The Road Less Traveled*, said,

“Zen Buddhism should be taught in every 5th grade class in America.”

“...the purpose of emptying the mind is not ultimately to have nothing there; rather it is to make room in the mind for something new, something unexpected, to come in. What is this something new? It is the voice of God.”

“Jesus was an example of the Western mystic who integrated himself with God.”

“It is for the individual to become totally, wholly God.”

“Christianity’s greatest sin is to think that other religions are not saved.”

An alternative medicine/healing technique called Reiki, which initiates the “patient” into a sacred metaphysical order to receive help from Reiki spirit guides and other spiritual beings (now over 1 million Reiki practitioners in USA)
Reiki comes from Japan and Buddhism

Meditation is widely used as a stress-reduction technique...and it introduces practitioners to spirit guides.
According to *Time* magazine, 10 million Americans practice meditation

Yoga (“union”) is now a highly desired form of fitness, well-being, and stress-relief
The objective of yoga meditation is – God in everything, a force or power flowing through all that exists

Yoga is Hinduism!

The Swami Satchidananda introduced the USA to yoga at Woodstock in 1969 by teaching an entire generation to chant “Om.”

20 million Americans practice yoga

(We were doggedly pursued locally to offer “Christian Yoga” in our church)

Psychology father Carl Jung predicted that “God in all things”...panentheism...would be the “yoga of the west.”

Psychiatrist and author Gerald May (1940-2005) gave thanks in his book *Simply Sane* to two Tibetan Buddhist lamas (holy men) and a Japanese Zen Master for their particular impact on him.

May’s book *Addiction and Grace* is considered to be a classic in the field of Christian recovery. In it he says, “our core...one’s own center...is where we realize our essential unity with one another with all God’s creation.” Silence is the means of entering this core.

This Eastern mystical practice of “silence” leads right to the false gods of the East.

The Purpose Driven Life has sold nearly 30 million copies and climbing; practically every Christian family in America has at least one copy.

Over 150,000 pastors and church leaders around the world receive weekly electronic communication from Rick Warren via his pastors.com website.

Those pastors, in turn, share Warren’s material with their congregations.

Pastor John Higgins, several years ago, participated in a Pastors Prayer Meeting for churches in Tempe (no longer meets).

The Saturday before Labor Day he ran into another pastor who participated in the meetings.

The man was no longer pastoring but on the road promoting church growth.

Pastor John asked him how a backslider in the church growth movement was restored.
(Biblically correct answer: at the Cross)

The man had a blank look on his face until he finally said, “We don’t deal with sin, we do church growth.”

How do we respond?

In accordance with the fruit it bears

The Fruit

- Devaluation of:
 1. Holiness of God
 2. Sovereignty of God
 3. Word of God

“Vertical plane” of the Roots map:

Eastern mysticism entry into the “invisible world”/spiritual realm is into demonic realm

The deception of the presence of God of the universe vs god of this world
2 Cor 11:13-15

“Horizontal plane” of the Roots map (EC):

The foundational philosophy of post-modernism is false regarding

- Self-centered vs God-centered and others-centered
Arrogant Man-centeredness built on the foundation is the finite “I” of Man.
God is removed from the center and man is inserted.

Gen 1:1 ff (vs Evolution)

Eccl 12:13

- Relativism vs absolute, unchanging Truth
The Bible is viewed as an intolerant text from another time and another culture...
With the devaluations above, it is spiritually irrelevant

Neh 8:1-10

Ps 19:7-11

Mal 3:6

Heb 13:8

2 Tim 3:15-17

Heb 6:18

Judges 21:25

- Inclusive vs exclusive Truth

John 14:6

John 3:3-8

Devaluations to the point of spiritual poverty and confusion

- Accursed...because is another gospel built on another foundation...
a great apostasy

Gal 1:6-9

Greatest problem: What is NOT said...what is left out
Sin...blood...repentance...The Cross

Cross-less Christianity is powerless Christianity

Gal 3:3

Which makes it an unreasonable faith!

Is 1:18

Prov 14:12

- Laodicea:
Lukewarm, in need of nothing from Jesus, locking Jesus out
Embracing Eastern/Roman Catholic mystical traditions
Entangled in New Age inter-spirituality
Feeding One World Religion

Rev 3:14-22

So how should we respond?

1. Flee like Joseph did before a beautiful and seductive woman
Gen 39:1-12
Rev 18:4

2. Cry like Jeremiah to an apostate people (1 Cor 10:6, 11)
Jer 3:6-10
Jer 4:3-4
Jer 7:28
Jer 8:8-13 authors
Jer 9:4-9, 23-24
Jer 10:21, 23

3. Warn like Paul
Col 1:21-23 “if”
Col 2:1-4 e.g. *PDL*
Col 2:8-10, 18-19
Col 4:6

4. Stand like
 - Daniel...
Dan 1:8

 - Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah
Dan 3:16-18

 - Peter and John
Acts 4:1-2, 8-13, 18-20
Acts 5:17-20, 41-42

By not giving into the things they did not give into

- fear of man vs fear of God
- the lure of fame and fortune
- peer pressure (spoke out against Rick Warren lately?)

5. Contend like the 1st Reformers...*Sola Scriptura!*

The foundation, the Word of God, was abandoned by the Roman Catholic Church as it propagated doctrine after doctrine that departed from the Word of God...

The reformers took the Church back to its Rock-solid foundation and positive, needed reforms were introduced

But now, the Word of God is no longer viewed as an appropriate measure of truth...the foundation is being replaced!

The Church will, therefore fall rather than be reformed.

Share the Word of God liberally!

Is 55:8-11

Rom 1:16-17

1 Cor 1:18

2 John 9

2 Cor 4:3-4

John 17:17

2 Tim 2:15

1 Peter 3:15

6. Knock like Jesus will...

Educate the uninformed/ignorant on the danger of Contemplative Prayer which draws one away from the One, True, and Living God to false gods with a master stroke of subtle deception

Don't think those in such churches are safe, are OK...they are not

7. And then vomit like Jesus will if the warning is unheeded...

If the Truth is rejected, go with the gag reflex!

Is 2:5-12, 17-19, 22 (NKJV)

Parson-to-Parson: Pastor Chuck Smith