

**General Topics :: Practicing the Presence of God****Practicing the Presence of God - posted by HeartSong, on: 2014/7/13 5:23**

Oh what beautiful images coupled with a wonderful book! Oh how I love Jesus!

Audio Book: Practicing the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence
<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/myvideo/photo.php?lid=3916>

Re: Practicing the Presence of God - posted by Friedrich (), on: 2014/7/13 10:25

Do you know of anyway I could download the mp3 for this?

Are not all the ailments of a christian due to a broken communion with God?

There is something about the honest testimony of a man wrestling in a great spiritual walk.

Thanks for sharing!

Re: , on: 2014/7/13 13:31

I use Freemake Video Downloader to download free sermons (and burn them to DVDs also).

One of Freemake's software also lets a person take the MP3 portion out of the Youtube video. Make sure it is legal to do so for the particular video/mp3.

http://www.freemake.com/free_youtube_converter/

Take care

edit:

PS - there is "adware" that comes with the package, which if you select out of installing the "adware", you can have the freemake software, without any extra adware installed. read carefully.

Re: Practicing the Presence of God - posted by SolaVeritas, on: 2014/7/13 14:50

I have read this book more than once and it has been an inspiration to me. In the hands of a discerning Christian with sound biblical theology it may inspire to follow "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men" (Colossians 3:23) and to keep God's presence in mind. However it is not a Gospel based book and can mislead an undiscerning person into a mystic, feelings based type of connection to God, that is not Christ centred and therefore void of the power of the cross. As such I would like to suggest that one reads it with a discerning mind.

Re: Practicing the Presence of God - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2014/7/13 15:41

Thank you HeartSong for highlighting this wonderful little book in which we can learn much to the practical outworking of practicing the presence of God.

One thing that is made clear in this little book by Brother Lawrence is that living in the presence of God is not just for the time we set aside for prayer, but we can have sweet communion and fellowship with God no matter where we are or what we are doing.

God is always with us. We are in Christ, and He lives in us. That does not mean that we will automatically live in the conscious presence of God, for Jesus said "Abide in me." The Word of God says that we are to set our affections on things that are above. We can live and walk in the Spirit.

God has said that we can come boldly unto the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)

We can enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. (Psalm 100:4).

Living the Christian life should never be boring because His mercies are new every day, great in His faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22,23).

Mike

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/13 17:21

Quote:
-----Do you know of anyway I could download the mp3 for this?

Brother we added it in mp3 format here: <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=1457>

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/13 19:56

But he was a Catholic. Horrors.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/14 3:45

Quote: But he was a Catholic. Horrors.

Mystical Eastern religions have been around since the time of the tower of Babel, it isn't just a catholic thing. You'll find these practices in Buddhism, Hinduism as well as catholicism. One thing you'll find it will promise is a Union with God, which is gained through certain disciplines, one of which will be always breath prayers.

Re: , on: 2014/7/14 3:59

Quote:
-----Union with God, which is gained through certain disciplines, one of which will be always breath prayers.

This might be the principle in Eastern religions, but it is not so in the church, even the Catholic Church.

Union with God, as in John of the Cross' "Dark Night of the Soul" is to be obtained through grace alone and is classed as a gift. The practices of contemplative prayer, are to 'make a space' for God to work, or in other words, to devote ourselves to seeking for God, or hungering and thirsting for righteousness. This is what Brother Lawrence is talking about.

Christian mysticism is sadly greatly misunderstood and condemned because people do not understand this distinction.

Re: Practicing the Presence of God - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 5:19

from the web sight stand for the truth which indorses mantra praying "Practicing the Presence of God" a growing contemplative trend

Today we are seeing the mystical type of contemplative practices that date back to the eastern practices of Buddhists and Hindus, including a type of mantra-style breath prayer that many say can bring us to a higher consciousness to experience God.

Rick Warren, as evidenced by his Tweet today about this practice, is a proponent and teacher of breath-prayers to reach this level of consciousness.

Brother Lawrence The contemplative practice of practicing the presence of God dates back to the late 1600s, when Catholic monk Brother Lawrence wrote the book, "The Practice of the Presence of God." Rick Warren was greatly influenced by Brother Lawrence and wrote about him in his book, The Purpose Driven Life, in which he shares six secrets to become God's friends. One of those is practicing God's presence by being in constant conversation with Him.

After quoting 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (pray without ceasing), Warren asks how a Christian can practice unceasing prayer to which he answers, "One way is to use breath prayers throughout the day, as many Christians have done for centuries. You choose a brief sentence or a simple phrase that can be repeated in one breath. Then after providing ten examples of prayers, short biblical phrases that could work as breath prayers, Warren advises Pray it as often as possible so it is rooted deep in your heart. In this context Warren also cites the book of Catholic Monk Brother Lawrence (c.1605-1691), The Practice of the Presence of God, who advocated experiencing the presence of God in the most menial of circumstances, by praying short conversational prayers throughout the day. The Roman Catholic practice of praying the rosary is also akin to breath prayers,,,

after spending nearly the whole day watching and reading about eastern meditation and the kudalundy syndrome and mental illness and psychosis,, i read this above and am very very weary about this

is this what Jesus wants when he says pray without ceasing ,, or is this eastern mysticism

i don't have a biblical mandate for this

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 5:24

what is vain repetition in the context of pagan prayer,, that Jesus forbade ,, i think that it is this what we read here ,, i can't write a clear concise prayer like that ,, has anyone here tried repetitious mantra prayer

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 5:27

brand i find it a huge contradiction , that you would preach the spirit baptism as the means to reach the holy intimate level with God ,, and then talk about christian mysticism as the path

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 5:43

just thought i would post some of what John Wesley wrote about mysticism....

.....John Wesley (AD 1703-1791)

After living a very religious life (he was even a missionary to America), but not knowing the Lord, John Wesley was born-again in AD 1738. His own experience alone, of having great piety without being born-again, should have cautioned him against promoting the life of a devout mystic (Madame Guyon), who followed the false doctrines of Rome. Devotion alone is not proof of knowing God, as Wesley preached in his famous "The Almost Christian" sermon. In his early life, Wesley was clearly opposed to mystical teachings.

AD 1742

"I made an end of Madame Guyon's "Short Method of Prayer" and "Les Torrentes Spirituelles." Ah, my brethren! I can answer your riddle, now I have ploughed with your heifer. The very words I have so often heard

some of you use, are not your own, no more than they are God's. They are only retailed from this poor Quietist; and that with the utmost faithfulness. Oh, that ye knew how much wiser is God than man! Then would you drop Quietists and Mystics together, and at all hazards keep to the plain, practical, written word of God. -The Journal of the Reverend John Wesley <http://goo.gl/OJV5Og>

AD 1772

I have industriously guarded them from meddling with the Mystic writers, as they are usually called; because these are the most artful refiners of it that ever appeared in the Christian world, and the most bewitching. There is something like enchantment in them. When you get into them, you know not how to get out. Some of the chief of these, though in different ways, are Jacob Behmen and Madame Guyon. My dear friend, come not into their secret; keep in the plain, open Bible way. Aim at nothing higher, nothing deeper, than the religion described at large in our Lord's Sermon upon the Mount, and briefly summed up by St. Paul in the 13th chapter to the Corinthians. All the high-sounding or mysterious expressions used by that class of writers either mean no more than this or they mean wrong. O beware of them! Leave them off before they are meddled with. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-letters-of-john-wesley/wesleys-letters-1772/>

AD 1773

For what is prayer but the desire of the soul expressed in words to God, either inwardly or outwardly. How, then, will you teach them to express a desire who feel no desire at all? When, therefore, Madame Guyon talks in that manner, it often makes me afraid that both she and her teacher, Archbishop Fenelon, talked by rote of the things they knew not. Both of them had an amazing genius, but I doubt full little experience. It is exceeding certain neither his nor her writings are likely to do us any solid service. We have all the gold that is in them without the dross, which is often not only useless but dangerous. Let you and I keep the good old way. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-letters-of-john-wesley/wesleys-letters-1773/>

AD 1773

Madame Guyon was a good woman and is a fine writer, but very far from judicious. Her writings will lead any one who is fond of them into unscriptural Quietism. They strike at the root, and tend to make us rest contented without either faith or works. It is certain the Scripture by "prayer" almost always means vocal prayer. And whosoever intermits this for any time will neither pray with the voice nor the heart. It is therefore our wisdom to force ourselves to prayer to pray whether we can pray or no. And many times while we are so doing the fire will fall from heaven, and we shall know our labor was not in vain. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-letters-of-john-wesley/wesleys-letters-1773/>

Saying that someone is a "good woman" or a "fine writer", is not the same as saying she is a Christian woman or an edifying writer. It is probably the following bad advice by Guyon that Wesley was addressing in the quote above: Guyon advised, "Now that your soul has been called to a state of inward silence, you should not burden yourself with vocal prayers." (Chadwick, 93) At this point though, in 1774, Wesley started compromising, acknowledging the "excellent things" in Guyon's books, and recommended the recipient of his letter to read only those things which he published, but two years later, he published a biography of Madame Guyon (although it was an abridged version)!

AD 1774

There are many excellent things in Madame Guyon's works, and there are many that are exceedingly dangerous. The more so because the good things make way for the mischievous ones. And it is not easy unless for those of much experience, to distinguish the one from the other. Perhaps, therefore, it might be safest for you chiefly to confine yourself to what we have published. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-letters-of-john-wesley/wesleys-letters-1774/>

AD 1776

John Wesley owned many works by Madame Guyon and in 1776 he republished her autobiography which had been translated into English by a Quaker. <http://goo.gl/gf8CVy>

AD 1776

Concerning Madame Guyon, a mystic believed by many to be on the cutting edge of spirituality in her time, he cautioned: "The grand source of all her mistakes was this, the not being guided by the written word. She did not take the Scripture for the rule of her actions; at most it was but the secondary rule. Inward impressions, which she called inspirations, were her primary rule. The written word was not a lantern to her feet, a light in all her paths. No; she followed another light, the outward light of her confessors, and the inward light of her own spirit." (An extract of the Life of Madame Guyon. By John Wesley, M.A., <http://goo.gl/2E6vF2>)

AD 1789

“Not that I would recommend a cold, dead, formal prayer, out of which both love and desire, hope and fear, are excluded. Such seems to have been the calm and undisturbed method of prayer, so strongly recommended by the late Bishop Hoadly, which occasioned for some years so violent a contest in the religious world. Is it not probable that the well-meaning bishop had met with some of the Mystics or Quietists (such as Madam Guion, or the Archbishop of Cambrai) and that having no experience of these things he patched together a theory of his own as nearly resembling theirs as he could? But it is certain nothing is farther from apathy than real, scriptural devotion. It excites, exercises, and gives full scope to all our nobler passions; and excludes none but those that are wild, irrational, and beneath the dignity of man.”

- <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/117/>

In the quote above, Wesley also recognized the danger of the irrational, which Guyon did not see as a danger. Guyon advised, “let your soul linger sweetly and silently on the Scripture verse you have read. Do not try to reason out the truth in it” (Chadwick, 17) Guyon further confirmed, “We must, therefore, continue steadfastly and immovable in our abandonment, without listening to the voice of natural reason.” (Chadwick, 36) This anti-rational stance is common in Guyon and other mystics, but the downplaying of logic opens up the floodgate for irrational and unbiblical revelations. More on this in the section about Watchman Nee.

Later in life (AD 1789) Wesley still saw the errors of Madame Guyon's ways, and still rightly promoted scriptural devotion, in contrast to mysticism, but the damage was already done. In Wesley's abridged version of Guyon's life, he had already made a partial acceptance, and a half-hearted endorsement of her teachings, even though he gave due caution for his readers, saying “The grand source of all her mistakes was this, the not being guided by the written word.” Nowadays many who promote Guyon's works refer to John Wesley to bolster their claim, as though Wesley had made a full endorsement of Guyon's works. This is one of the dangers of compromise- the often unseen (though at other times clearly seen) negative influence it brings to many others.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/14 6:33

"The Practice of the Presence of God" is a well-accepted Christian classic.

My comment about Brother Lawrence being Catholic was not intended to be taken seriously.

AW Tozer and Wesley both thought highly of this work, so I guess Warren is in pretty good company. In fact Tozer thought highly of a lot of the Christian mystics.

Gary, those "discernment" websites might have some value but most are pretty over the top.

There is nothing wrong with trying to keep God in the forefront of your mind throughout the day. It is almost impossible to do but it is a good goal to have.

"Breath prayers" are simply one sentence prayers. "Thank you God for that beautiful sunrise." "Lord be with me as I make this telephone call." "Bless that guy that just cut me off in traffic."

I think the idea is that if we are trying to keep God in the front of our minds then breath prayers will come naturally. The alternative is our natural man coming out naturally, and who wants that?

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 6:49

so you saying that is different from the mantra pray that is common place now amongst christians ,,and are you saying this is what jesus comandad us to do when he said pray with out ceasing?

i just don't see this in scripture ,,if it is so important ,,why is it not taught

brother tozer is a terrible example he,, he spoke highly of yoga as well which i think is verry confusing for people

do you pray like that all day

i never got anything from a discernment web site,,what i poster was an indorsment web site so to speak

wesley also cautioned about mystics as well.

so do you think we are all living in sin if we dont pray with out ceasing in this same manner ,,is this what god is calling u s to do

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 6:55

Breath Prayer: Practice

Breath prayer is a short petition, repeated in the space of one inhalation-exhalation cycle, that acknowledges the natures of both the Lord and the petitioner.

1. Sit comfortably with your back straight and close your eyes.
2. Pay attention to your breathing. Focus on breathing will probably exaggerate the intake and output a little. Wait until a comfortable rhythm has returned.
3. Ask Jesus to be present, to lead, to guide, and to protect. Invite him to draw you into the community of the Trinity.
4. Wait silently until you feel ready to begin praying.
5. When you are ready, pray in your breathing rhythm.
â—¼Inhale: Lord, Jesus Christ,
â—¼Pause: Son of God,
â—¼Exhale: have mercy on me, a sinner.

6. Use a prayer rope, touching one knot or bead for each repetition. A typical prayer rope is strung with a sequence of one large bead to every ten small ones. The small beads remind one to focus on the prayer. The large one allows for a pause. You may simply touch each of your fingers in succession. Through the first ten repetitions, you might pray aloud, considering the words of the prayer. As distractions arise, gently return your concentration to the words. (Suggestions for dealing with distractions can be found under

this seems macanhical and reptedtive ,,hri krishners pray like this as well

that was from a sight called ten ways to pray

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 6:59

hey dont get me wrong if it is bibical and comanded from god as how we should pray then i will do this

i used to medatate in a similar way early in the peace ,,but i stoped after believing it was just like hindisim

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 7:16

jesus must have made a mistake when asked teach us to pray ,,he said pary like this our father who is in heaven ,,ectra ... if i wasnt swuch a bible believer ,i would be strugeling ,,,,,,,so i ask can any one give one example of breath praying or centering prayer ,,that i might have missed ,,thanks brethern i just want to do what the bible tells me to

blessings

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/14 8:25

Gary- That "breath prayer" instruction you posted looks like a bunch of hocus locus to me. That is not what I am talking about.

I am talking about walking in the Spirit to the extent that a prayer is always on our lips-- a running conversation with God.

I am not talking about " centering down" or some other mystical concept.

I am against mixing New Age with Christianity which is what streams like Bill Johnson's Bethel church are doing.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2014/7/14 8:27

Some of the Catholic mystics had a deep relationship with the Lord, and we are greatly blessed today to have their writings.

Andrew Murray, William Law, and A. W. Tozer are just a few men of God that had much to say on the presence of God being experienced in the life of a Christian.

"Tozer explains that a "mystic" is one who partakes in the "personal spiritual experience" which saints of Biblical and post-Biblical times enjoyed. He is speaking, he explains, of "the evangelical mystic who has been brought by the gospel into intimate fellowship with the Godhead" (vi). The source of theology for the mystic is "no less and no more" than what is found in the Bible; fellowship in the same commitment to truth that the reformers and Puritans enjoyed.

So how does the mystic differ from other Christians? Tozer answers, "Because experiences his faith down in the depths of his sentiment being while the other does not. He exists in a world of spiritual reality. He is quietly, deeply, and sometimes almost ecstatically aware of the Presence of God in his own nature and in the world around him. His religious experience is sometime elemental, as old as time and the creation. It is immediate acquaintance with God by union with the Eternal Son. It is to know that which passes knowledge" (vi).

Mike

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/14 9:51

Quote: I think the idea is that if we are trying to keep God in the front of our minds then breath prayers will come naturally. The alternative is our natural man coming out naturally, and who wants that?

What you have described is a form of godliness, but has no power over sin. It's a discipline to try and suppress the carnal nature.

Re: , on: 2014/7/14 10:02

Quote:
-----breand i find it a huge contradiction ,that you would preach the spirit baptism as the means to reach the holy intamant leval with god ,
,and then talk about christian mystasisim as the path

There is no contradiction. The aim is what mystics call union and what evangelicals call baptism of the Spirit, the effect is the same though the pathway in the mystical tradition is of three stages and involved the same practices of repentance and obedience to the light given. It is falsely believed that mystics think that it is their efforts which achieve the aim but this only applies to eastern mysticism.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/14 11:13

Saints,

As others have shared many godly men including John Wesley have spoken well of this book and author as a help in our spiritual walk towards God. Brother Lawrence did not teach "breath prayer" as one poster has said and also the majority of Christians do not either. I personally am not aware of any evangelicals who do but I am sure there are a few. Reading discernment sites do not get us closer to God but fill us with confusion, hurt, and dismay. If we seek to be closer to God in prayer then He will give us all the discernment we need by the Holy Spirit.

Tozer and others have believed also there are true believers in the Catholic church as well in other earlier churches. We as evangelicals believe the Church began with Martin Luther but there was 1500 of Church history before this. We should be open to learn some of the godly traditions of fasting and prayer that the Church has excelled in for 1500+ years.

A note for Gary: Brother thank you for all you write but I have to comment on the spelling, there are in many of the recent posts so many mis-spelled words it was very hard to read what you wrote. I suggest a few things:

1. Not to use ,, to separate words but rather use periods and proper sentence structure.
2. Slow down when you write and re-read what you write slowly correcting errors before you submit.
3. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Spell checker plugins. If you use Firefox this is free: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/spell-checker/> If you use Internet Explorer this is free: <http://www.iespell.com> if you use Chrome here is a free one: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/spell-checker-for-chrome/jfpdnkkdggghlpdglidicfgnknkhdfhocg?hl=en>

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 18:43

Yea I had some sort of spell checker set up that used to underline and give a list of correct words ,,it disappeared from the computer ,,I asked if any knew how to restore it but had no comment ,,I'll try one of yours ,,I've got influenza at the moment it's a bit of a struggle focusing on the monitor ,,I'd get on well with Moody's recollection

OK so Brother Lawrence never did breath prayers ,,I never heard him mention that either

Also I find it hard to reconcile a lot of what is called mysticism ,,with biblical revival ,,through the Holy Spirit when He comes on us in like in the book of Acts ,,any one that has experienced a revival notes the presence of God ,,in the book of Acts instead of sitting down meditating using a Jesus mantra in repetition to get the presence of God the example in Acts ,,is group prayer with basic words in faith ,,then was the Holy Presence of God filled them and then preached with boldness ,,it seems to me if this mystical meditation is what we write ,,then our brothers in Acts are missing something ,,I struggle with wanting to do what the Bible says and mysticism ,,what is also obvious is that in the Catholic Church ,,Pope John Paul had prayer meetings all manner pagan and occult practitioners ,,and many that teach mysticism in that context talk about the Hindu yogis as masters ,,foster is one that does

Brother Lawrence doesn't sound like that so I'm saying that about him

Oh Greg you lost me I don't know what periods and sentence structure is

and lol I do write very slow and check for mistakes ,,I can see the mistake but that it ,,can't fix most of them ,,because I can't remember how to spell them ,,when I see the word I know when it is spelled right ,,so I have no problems reading

Thanks I'm trying it now

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 18:54

i dont know if that will work the one i used was so much quicker ,,thanks for trying to help ,,but i hope to get the old one back working ,,as i typed it would underline the wromg word ,and i would right click and the list of correct words would come up and i would click on the right word and carry on typing ,,do you know how to get that one

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/14 18:57

gary I am so used to your typing that it doesnt even phase me. your meaning is always pretty clear to me.

Do whatever feels comfortable to you.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 18:57

oh like i said before greg i never went to a deserment sight

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2014/7/14 20:55

Are there believers in the Catholic Church?

Yes, and some of them manifest more of the fruit of the Spirit in their lives than those that criticize them.

I honestly don't understand why a Catholic believer would remain in the Catholic Church after seeing the many contradictions to the Word of God.

In the late 60's and 70's the Holy Spirit was being poured out on all Christian churches and many Catholics were saved., many came out of the Catholic Church but some stayed.

I have never had a Catholic tell me that healing has passed away. Most of them welcome prayer for healing. I was blessed years ago to work with a Catholic woman that resulted in her salvation and most of her large family ended up coming to The Lord. I have found it easy to witness to Catholics through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Mike

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 21:41

thanks tmk ,,ill try to sort something out

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 22:00

yea brother i know there are believers in catholic sysytem ,im not critical of them ,the ecumential movement is every where ,,but when you have the head of the church ,have prayer meets with pagans and voodoo preists and kissing the koran ,LITERALLY ,,THAT doesnt say much for those who are following that line of thinking ,,i wached a documentry done by some traditional catholics and they exposed some absulty shocking stuff from the top ranks ,,i dont think this it is a fringe movment ,,what do you say to a work mate who is an unbeliever when they point this stuff out ,,after me saying that christianty is the opasite to paganism ,,esepial after they watch something like the zeitgeist ,,we need to explain the apos tacy of the churches and the catholic church is not exepmt from it ,,,

if you fail to be critical like some would suggest ,,you fail period and people will walk away justified in their false beliefs about what true and false views of christianity is all about ,,,,

we must be critical of error , especially in what is called the church

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2014/7/14 22:55

Brother Gary,

I am not saying that we should not strive for sound doctrine and come against the false teaching that permeates much of the Catholic religion. What I am saying is that Catholics already believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for their sins, and was raised from the dead. They need to be shown in the scriptures that it is only through Christ that they can be saved. They need to be shown that it is through grace alone that we are saved. Telling them that the pope is the antichrist will not get the job done.

Mike

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/7/14 23:41

lol i didnt say that mate ,,i was talking about general unbelievers that have no faith ,,

but also beg to differ that they all believe Jesus is the son of god ,,,,if they really did believe they would already be saved even if they dont understand what grace is

i come across catholic that think their OK with god cause they got baptized as Babs and the parents put them in a catholic school,,,nominal Christian is over here bigger i think then born again Christianity

i was witnessing to one of those types at work a few weeks ago ,, gave my testimony said what the bible teaches about being born again ,went through the Gospel of the cross ,told him if he wants god ,,gods there he should just seek god and believe the Gospel of repentance and faith ,,

then 2 weeks latter another young man joined our crew ,and at they both found out they went to Catholic schools and were baptized ,,and the new guy called him self a catholic ,,and so the guy i was witnessing started to say am a christian also ,and he was telling others at work ,,i guy called john told me ,,he already heard the Gospel new my story ,,so he was mocking the guy a little to me because he new enough about what the bible teaches about repentance and faith and the holy spirit by witnessing to know this guy was not born again far from an image of Christ ,,,,

any way this guy Zak,,came up to me and said i am a Christian all ready ,,and i explained to him that we to be set free by faith in Christ from or sin ,,,,he said but im not a sinner,,,i said have you stole anything ,,he said not since i was young ,,have you lied ,,he said not really ,,mind you the whole crew was listening to this ,,then i felt the holy spirit bring to mind a few hours ago Zack ,stole a big bolt out of a box ,i saw him and said hey you cant take that ,,but he smiled and walked ,,so i said to you just lied to me because you stole that bolt in front of me a few hours ago ...he said but that not stealing ,,i explained to him it was ,and that he was Clearly a sinner and needs Jesus ever one was just listing ,,i left it at that ,the next day Zack pick a small tool of the ground that the roofers drop ,and stole it ,and was busted and sacked ,lost his job ,,i hope the holy spirit convicts him ,,,,,,,

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/15 2:18

Quote: Reading discernment sites do not get us closer to God but fill us with confusion, hurt, and dismay. If we seek to be closer to God in prayer then He will give us all the discernment we need by the Holy Spirit.

It very easy to jump to conclusions and assume that, but we don't need a discernment site to let us know the true from the false as you say. It is our responsibility as a Christian to ensure that we are not taken captive. This something I have taken very seriously from the moment I became a Christian.

Quote: Tozer and others have believed also there are true believers in the Catholic church as well in other earlier churches.

For the first time this week I read Towzer book: The Pursuit of God, I must admit I struggled on to read it to the end as I found myself rejecting it, but I struggled on just to see where he would try and lead me. At the end of reading it I removed it from my computer and I will not read anymore of his books or quote from his writings. Why because I find the exact same teaching in his writings as all those contemplative teachers that he quotes from.

What is that teaching, for years I have sought a truth, can a Christian be set free from Sin, this has lead me into reading a lot of Holiness teachings. In those holiness teachings, I find something false that has wormed it's way in it's called "Quietism". What is Quietism: A form of Christian mysticism enjoining passive contemplation and the beatific (joyful) annihilation of the will and absorption of the soul into the Divine Essence (Union with God).

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2014/7/15 3:14

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." - 1 Kings 19:11-14

Re: , on: 2014/7/15 5:04

There is a lot written about Quietism that is just plain wrong, and I don't know where I stand on it as I don't fully understand the various teachings on it, and there is also a great danger in it if it is not properly understood. At its basis, it seems, is the reality that when one walks in the Spirit, all impulse and therefore life, is to come from the Holy Spirit, as the core of one's being and the motions of the flesh or our human internal actions are stilled, so that it is Christ living within us and not us. But it is hard to put it into words exactly - it has to be experienced. It is not a death to the self which is from eastern religions, but that self is denied.

Passive contemplation or indeed contemplation is another thing that is being misunderstood and confused with eastern religions again.

Contemplation, in traditional mysticism, is the state where one is united with God in spirit, when one is set free from the power of sin, and where one dwells in the light.

Passive contemplation, is the act whereby God infuses this state as grace, without any action being taken by man, it is a gift and can only be given when God alone decides.

In this state, self will is annihilated, but that does not mean that man cannot bring his self will back to life if he chooses, and gets back down from the cross as it were. It does not mean that self is annihilated, just that self direction is and one is directed purely by the Holy Spirit.

Our souls are absorbed into the divine essence when we are one with the Father in His holiness.

It is so very close to eastern religions and it takes discernment to know the difference but it is a fatal error to dismiss the

real and the fake. Men have always strove to reach that state of perfection, but have devised ways of re-enacted it without the necessary sacrifice and worship to God alone, worshiping idols instead. But it is possible to gain some of the benefits through brainwashing and putting self to death.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2014/7/15 6:10

Murrcoir,

Isn't it strange that a book like "The Pursuit of God" can caused you to reject it but it created in me just the opposite effect of hungering and thirsting after God, wanting to know Him more?

I agree with Greg about the heresy hunter websites. Those that write on these web sites are focused so much on the error and heresy that they actually are blind to the truth. You will never arrive at true discernment by studying what is wrong With everyone , but when you hunger and thirst for truth, that which is false will be clearly revealed.

Mike

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/15 6:18

Mike-

I feel the same way about "The Pursuit of God." Very powerful and exhortative.

Is there anyone that discernment sites approve of? I am not sure if I have ever seen that. Maybe the apostle Paul but even that might be questionable because of Rom. 7.

Re: , on: 2014/7/15 9:52

I totally agree with you Mike. The Pursuit of God encouraged me to want to know Him more. Many heresy hunting sites I have checked out over the years are coming from a cessationist angle and have complete contempt, dare I even say even hatred, for any person who believes in the gifts and in speaking to God personally and in hearing God speak. This is the essence of the truly religious person, who despises the thought that God actually speaks to His children and His children know that still small voice.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by SugarRun (), on: 2014/7/15 11:14

Salvation is a Person. This Person lives within . Therefore the outworking of our faith will not be an Imitation. It is a Participation.

First Aspect of the Cross: Christ died for me. Those who stop here will try Imitation ' little value in this' could only be a wooden, artificial thing.' F.J.Huegel

Second Aspect of the Cross: I died with Christ. Dying to self rule. Participation in Christ's resurrected power comes only to those who have experienced death to self.

Harold J. Brokke penned the words. "So much more O Saviour, show me, of the meaning of thy Cross; Break to me the bread of Calv'ry lest my soul should feed on dross.

Bone of His Bone author F.J.Huegel writes- It is not, as someone of our British brethren has said, a great stir in the realm of fleshly doing, but a Divine dying which will bring the Church again to a flaming Apostolic zeal, and a fruitfulness comparable to that of primitive Christians.

So far from attempting to patch man up, and then leaving him to IMITATE as best he can the pattern given two thousand years ago in Judea, Christ takes him down in the grave where the " old life" is utterly terminated , and then makes him

the PARTICIPANT of His resurrection. Christ our Lord fastens us to Himself and imparts to us an entirely "new Life". But we have the new upon the basis of our RESURRECTION of the old.

Christ is the Vine, we are the branches. He is the Head, we form the body. Exceeding great and precious promises are given us, "that by these we might be PARTAKERS of the Divine Nature. 2 Peter 1:4;

"We are made PARTAKERS of Christ" Heb. 3:14;

"The riches of the glory of this mystery- Christ IN you the hope of glory." Col.1:21

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2014/7/15 17:01

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."
- John 3:16-21

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/15 18:19

Amen to that Heartsong!

(See, there are some things we agree on!)

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/16 0:10

Quote: Isn't it strange that a book like "The Pursuit of God" can cause you to reject it but it created in me just the opposite effect of hungering and thirsting after God, wanting to know Him more?

I don't find it strange and I fully expected the types of replies that we are seeing. But as for me I am going to stay away from any book or teacher that encourages me to, constantly practice a habit of inwardly gazing upon God.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/16 6:23

But Murrcolr--

"The Kingdom of God is within you." Lk 17:21.

Re: , on: 2014/7/16 7:18

It is not wrong or just some type of religious self effort to remind ourselves of what God in Christ has already done for us and in us.

It is very important to know that this thinking can never cause these facts to be true or make them true. The Divine facts of what God in Christ has already done for us and in us can never be changed but we can embrace them and enjoy them. Let's never forget that true Christianity is the fact that it is Christ Himself living and dwelling within us.

We can embrace these facts every day and just enjoy Him!

Re: , on: 2014/7/16 8:24

Murrcolr, has God not taken up residence within your heart?.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/16 21:41

Quote: The Kingdom of God is within you. Lk 17:21

Let's look at the verse you mention context.

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:20-21

Surely the Jesus wasn't telling the Pharisees that the kingdom of God is within them. No the word here within has been wrongly translated entos (the Greek word that is translated "within") can also be translated "in the midst of". The New American Standard Bible, the NIV, the Modern King James Version and Green's Literal Translation translate this phrase "in your midst".

In this sense, Jesus, the King of the coming Kingdom of God, was standing in the midst of the Pharisees. These translations are clearly better, for the Kingdom of God was not in the hearts of these Pharisees.

Unfortunately, in reading Jesus's statement that "the kingdom of God is within you," many have wrongly limited the Kingdom of God to a philosophical perspective.

On that note, we are to proclaim the Kingdom of God, not inwardly gaze upon it.

Re: , on: 2014/7/16 22:01

Dear Murrcolr, it is the man who cannot see that God dwells in him that has reduced this spiritual reality to a mere philosophy.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Praise God that The Father and the Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in our hearts. This is no mere theology, it is reality. And those who talk about inward gazes merely use flowery language to speak of this reality, this includes Tozer and many others.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/17 0:23

Murrcolr, has God not taken up residence within your heart?

Yes - God Spirit dwells in me.

Quote: And those who talk about inward gazes merely use flowery language to speak of this reality, this includes Tozer and many others.

Well that your opinion that it's only flowery language.

Towzer Quote: Many have found the secret of which I speak and, without giving much thought to what is going on within them, constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God.

No - what I found when reading Towzer book is that he was leading you somewhere; Using his own words he describes it as a "secret", there is a secret that's hidden behind the flowery language, there is a secret he is trying teach and that secret is to "constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God"

This is something worrying that I find in a lot of Holiness teaching, here is a part of a testimony of a man who has a Holiness website and seeks to promote Holiness.

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Quote: During this period I developed a technique after I had read about the life of the medieval monk "Brother Lawrence".

Ah he found the "secret" and developed a technique based on the book of Brother Lawrence.

Quote: This was a very spiritually healthy practice quite similar to my familiar yoga.

He used a technique based on a book by Brother Lawrence, which is quite similar to his familiar yoga. If we have ears to hear it's the same secret technique promoted by Tozer.

Now I really don't care how flowery someone may paint it; I will not go down that route of practicing a secret technique that similar to yoga in my quest for holiness.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/17 1:54

Solaveritas writes:

Quote:
-----I have read this book more than once and it has been an inspiration to me. In the hands of a discerning Christian with sound biblical theology it may inspire to follow "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men" (Colossians 3:23) and to keep God's presence in mind. However it is not a Gospel based book and can mislead an undiscerning person into a mystic, feelings based type of connection to God, that is not Christ centred and therefore void of the power of the cross. As such I would like to suggest that one reads it with a discerning mind.

I read that book once as a very young believer and at that time I too felt it was a good practical book on "praying without ceasing." I remember I tried applying it and it seemed to go good for a while but I was only able to hang in there with this deep concentration on nothing but God for about only a whole day. After that I found it too hard. The thing with this is you have to be careful not to fall into condemnation or legalism.

But it is indeed needful for us to seek hard after God. We just need to be careful not to try to do that in the wrong way, like with contemplative, vain repetition. That type of unbiblical stuff is running rampant today with the emergent church movement and it is infiltrating many evangelical churches. It is deeply ingrained in much of Roman Catholicism, the new age movement and eastern mysticism.

Because I know that this book was written by a Catholic monk I wouldn't recommend it. Imho we don't need any Roman Catholic writings. There are too many serious errors within that system for us to play around with it. We need to stay close to the scriptures. And we cannot separate our Lord Jesus from His Word. Our Lord esteemed the Word of God very highly and so should we. There are many scriptures that speak of the need of having a high view of God's Word.

These are a few articles that deal with some of these dangers I mentioned:

What is Contemplative Prayer?
<http://www.gotquestions.org/contemplative-prayer.html>

What is Centering Prayer?
<http://www.gotquestions.org/centering-prayer.html>

What is Contemplative Spirituality?
<http://www.gotquestions.org/contemplative-spirituality.html>

Re: , on: 2014/7/17 4:36

Oracio wrote:

Quote:
-----That type of unbiblical stuff is running rampant today with the emergent church movement and it is infiltrating many evangelical churches. It is deeply ingrained in much of Roman Catholicism, the new age movement and eastern mysticism

Indeed, this is the false mysticism that is invading the church at present.

Quote:
-----Contemplative prayer begins with "centering prayer," a meditative practice where the practitioner focuses on a word and repeats that word over and over for the duration of the exercise. The purpose is to clear one's mind of outside concerns so that God's voice may be more easily heard. After the centering prayer, the practitioner is to sit still, listen for direct guidance from God, and feel His presence.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/contemplative-prayer.html#ixzz37TVZy9oG>

Quote:
-----A practitioner is exhorted to completely empty his/her mind, to just "be." Supposedly, this helps one to open up to a greater spiritual experience. However, we are exhorted in Scripture to transform our minds to that of Christ's, to have His mind. Emptying our minds is contrary to such active, conscious transformation.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/contemplative-spirituality.html#ixzz37TV4dZeC>

This practice is indeed what eastern religions do - empty the mind and as we know from scripture, this is a dangerous practice as there is no such thing as an empty mind, some spirit will come into it.

Quote:
-----Contemplative spirituality also encourages the pursuit of a mystical experience with God. Mysticism is the belief that knowledge of God, spiritual truth, and ultimate reality can be gained through subjective experience. This emphasis on experiential knowledge erodes the authority of Scripture. We know God according to His Word. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God's Word is complete. There is no reason to believe that God adds additional teachings or truths to His Word through mystical experiences. Instead, our faith and what we know about God is based on fact.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/contemplative-spirituality.html#ixzz37TVPeNL9>

That we are to experience God subjectively, is scriptural, and not just 'mystical' and the belief that it is not, comes from the side of the church that will not accept any gifts of the Spirit for today's church nor will they accept a secondary experience by whatever name we wish to call it.

If God spoke directly to men under the Old Covenant, why would it be more blessed to have a book in our hands instead under the new? The apostles heard God speaking to them directly and in fact Paul received all of his teaching directly from the Holy Spirit.

The problem is that this false teaching of mysticism is mixed up with genuine experience of knowing Christ intimately and hearing Him speak to our hearts as a constant companion, teaching us which way we should go, to the left or to the right, in order to keep us from sin, and this knowledge of God is the union of Him that has been spoken of by spiritual believers in the past, like Andrew Murray with their directions of how to get to that stage, which is through submitting ourselves absolutely to Him in obedience to the light given already and spending time in fervent prayer.

This type of spirituality, was not invented by evangelicals however, it can be found throughout church history and for a large part, the church WAS the Catholic church unless you wanted to be put to death and there has always been room in it for this type of spirituality to survive.

If we throw out the baby with the bathwater all we will be left with is a book even a holy book. We were not to have a relationship with a book but to have a living, moment to moment feeding on Christ for our very life.

It is also a mistake to dismiss the whole thing if we have not managed to reach union, or second stage or whatever when there could be something important in the way, but if we refuse counsel from someone who has achieved it because of

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our own prejudices, or stubborn pride, then we have sold our inheritance for a pot of stew.

Re: , on: 2014/7/17 9:31

Dear Murrcolr, then we shall agree to disagree, hopefully while not consigning anyone to the category of heretic. Tozer is widely read across denominational lines because he consistently pointed people towards Jesus. To take a couple of lines from someone and make of it something the author has never taught is, at the very least, bearing false witness.

Again, a text without a context is quite easily turned into a pretext, it is what the "discernment," sites do all the time. I have seen good men torn to shreds on those sites simply because they believe in a supernatural God that still speaks to His people. Brother Yun a couple of years back was similarly treated because he told of how the Spirit of God told each person where and when to show up for a series of secret meetings.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/7/17 15:39

Anything that has to do with catholic theology is incredibly dangerous. It is what the bible refers to as the "mystery of iniquity". It all stems from Babylonian mystery cults, which is what catholicism is based upon. I recommend that everyone read The Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/17 15:51

Quote:

Anything that has to do with catholic theology is incredibly dangerous. It is what the bible refers to as the "mystery of iniquity"

That is an extremely broad statement because the Church was One and was considered "catholic" meaning "universal" in the early church fathers time. Reading the Apostles Creed will verify that. So we cannot categorize the entire Church from its inception to be thus corrupted.

For those who read church history will understand it was not an immediate corruption at any point but a slow process of compromise in many areas including doctrinally.

True saints have been and still are in what we deem today as the Catholic Church. The charismatic catholic movement for instance did not all leave the catholic church. There are wheat and tares in all churches and some more than others.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/17 16:07

krautfrau writes:

Quote:
-----That we are to experience God subjectively, is scriptural, and not just 'mystical' and the belief that it is not, comes from the side of the church that will not accept any gifts of the Spirit for today's church nor will they accept a secondary experience by whatever name we wish to call it.

Agreed. Some cessationist-oriented ministries do seem to belittle any mention of emotional experiences with God. And that to me is unbiblical because we see in the scriptures many instances where believers had powerful emotional encounters with God. There is definitely the danger of being too cold or rigid in one's faith.

Quote:
-----If God spoke directly to men under the Old Covenant, why would it be more blessed to have a book in our hands instead under the new? The apostles heard God speaking to them directly and in fact Paul received all of his teaching directly from the Holy Spirit.

When it comes to someone claiming to have heard God's voice audibly or anything similar to that, we must be cautious and test the spirits to see if they are from God. Throughout history it is due to those types of claims that many cults and

heretical groups have been born.

Quote:
-----This type of spirituality, was not invented by evangelicals however, it can be found throughout church history and for a large part, the church WAS the Catholic church unless you wanted to be put to death and there has always been room in it for this type of spirituality to survive.

But haven't God's people also always existed outside the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox systems? Why do we need the writings of those who taught and believed such serious errors as taught within Roman Catholicism? For example, I was reading that St. Augustine believed and taught the following Catholic dogma:

1. The canon of Scripture includes the Septuagint OT canon (deuterocanonicals, Apocrypha)
2. Authoritative Tradition
3. Baptismal regeneration and grace
4. Necessity of baptism for salvation
5. Real presence of Christ in the Eucharist (Lord's Supper)
6. The Mass is a sacrifice
7. Necessity of the Lord's Supper for salvation
8. Purgatory and praying for the departed
9. The communion of saints and saintly intercession
10. Authority of the Catholic Church
11. Apostolic Succession
12. Possibility of falling from grace
13. The sacrament of penance
14. Mary was ever virgin

I don't know about you but I don't want to read anything from those who teach or taught that type of error.

My concern is that the great apostasy is increasing rapidly these days and part of it is seen in the embracing of Roman Catholicism as a valid expression of Christianity.

Quote:
-----If we throw out the baby with the bathwater all we will be left with is a book even a holy book. We were not to have a relationship with a book but to have a living, moment to moment feeding on Christ for our very life.

The Word of God is not just some holy book to be devalued. God has made sure to protect His Word and to hand it down to us so that we may know Him and be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We are sanctified by His Word of truth. We are washed through the Word. We are nourished and built up through the Word. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We must meditate on it day and night. We must esteem it above our daily bread. And there are so many other wonderful benefits that come from treasuring the Word of God in our hearts.

Yes, there is a place for emotional times of being raptured in the presence of God and those are wonderful times and as we seek the Lord they will come naturally so to speak. But those experiences must be consistent with the clear and sure revelation of God's Word.

I think a clear distinction that needs to be made here is between seeking Christ, and seeking after an experience. Huge difference. One is in the Spirit and the other is in the flesh. If we focus on and seek after an experience we are sure to fail in finding true intimacy with Christ. We will find ourselves exerting ourselves in our own will power and it will always fail us. I have learned this principle the hard way and am still learning. May we seek after Christ through His appointed means. For as we do so He will be found by us as He has promised.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/17 17:44

Quote:
-----But haven't God's people also always existed outside the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox systems? Why do we need the writings of those who taught and believed such serious errors taught within Roman Catholicism? For example, I was reading that St. Augustine believed and taught the following Catholic dogma:

1. The canon of Scripture includes the Septuagint OT canon (deuterocanonicals, Apocrypha)
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 8. Purgatory and praying for the departed
 9. The communion of saints and saintly intercession
 10. Authority of the Catholic Church
 11. Apostolic Succession
 12. Possibility of falling from grace
 13. The sacrament of penance
 14. Mary was ever virgin
-

God's people have always existed in and outside of the larger consensus of what is called the main Christian Church. Over the years many great errors were accepted hundreds of years after the apostles into the mainstream church.

Most evangelicals do not know that all the main translations of the bible including KJV had the Apocrypha in it. Martin Luther's translation did. The Apostles quoted from the Apocrypha. And it was considered a valued document for the church greatly by most.

Authoritative Tradition - Evangelical churches that are reformed have many traditions also that are not clearly in scriptures. The Apostles tradition was something in the scriptures therefore there are some things the Church has done over the years which is beneficial for discipline and use. Of course there are good and bad traditions, both in catholic, orthodox and also evangelical.

Baptismal regeneration and grace - Again parts of modern evangelicals find grace to be only mercy and not the ability to do. There needs to be a balance with this. And baptism was not an option or a merely symbol without importance. The Church in all different types valued and treated baptism essential if one is going to follow Christ.

Real presence of Christ in the Eucharist (Lord's Supper) - Again we go too far to say it is just a symbol and has no spiritual help. For Paul said if we eat it unworthily it will harm us so therefore it should benefit us if we reverentially take the elements.

The Mass is a sacrifice - this is an extreme newer revelation of the catholic church. Augustine and catholics did not fully think of mass in this way in AD 300.

Necessity of the Lord's Supper for salvation - Again there is balance because many evangelicals take the Lord's supper flippantly like it is not important.

Purgatory and praying for the departed - I am not sure if it is right that Augustine started that thinking for it was implemented much later on in the dark ages.

The communion of saints and saintly intercession - There is balance for evangelicals in this area because many do not understand that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in the amphitheatre with godly saints and angels alike watching us. It is a sobering thought that we are a part of the true Church of all who have believed and ONE with them who have gone on to be with the Lord.

Authority of the Catholic Church - The true Church has authority whether it's a local church that is reformed or not. Submission to leadership is important.

Apostolic Succession - This is something that has been thrown out by most modern evangelicals but it was very important for MOST if not all Christian movements in history including Moravians, Methodists etc. John Wesley had a Orthodox priest ordain him as a bishop to be able to ordain his bishops for the methodist movement to be in the lineage of the Apostles.

Possibility of falling from grace - This is only not believed by some of the reformed segment of believers after Martin Luthers and Calvins teachings.

The sacrament of penance - Purgatory was invented in the middle ages and another wrong element of teaching allowed in the catholic system.

Mary was ever virgin - The balance is we do not honour Mary at all in evangelicalism where we should much more.

I just wanted to write these things to just let you know some balance on things you wrote and how evangelicals ourselves have many imbalanced thinking and everything is not as black and white as we would like to think.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/17 18:02

Thanks brother Greg. I did not personally write out that list but got it from another source. I didn't realize at the moment that some of those points may be non-essentials, like the possibility of falling from grace. But others are serious errors imo.

One point I want to make is that you interpreted those points from the perspective of Protestantism and sought to find common ground. But from a Catholic viewpoint they are understood differently and are serious errors I'd say.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/17 18:05

This is the source I got it from, from a Catholic site:

<http://www.willcoxson.net/faith/augprot.htm>

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/17 18:57

Greg

I found some of your last post confusing. For example you mention that evangelicals do not honor Mary, how would one go about doing that and where in the BIBLE would we be told to do so?

You mention the authority of the RCC church. The RCC teaches that all authority is given to one man, the pope who they claim infallible. There is a big difference in that and submitting unto church leadership.

The RCC churches teaches its member's to actually pray to dead saints, to ask them to intercede on our behalf. I do believe this is very different then understanding that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witness.

Just trying to understanding what you wrote...

God bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2014/7/17 19:46

Greg,

Respectfully brother I am not on a Catholic bashing campaign. But I found your last post to be troubling.

Are you giving some form of credence to the RCC?

Brother with respect I caution you on reading the church fathers or any man's systematic theology. Our ultimate authority is Christ through His Word.

My thoughts.

Blaine

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/17 20:31

Quote:
-----You mention the authority of the RCC church. The RCC teaches that all authority is given to one man, the pope who they claim infallible. There is a big difference in that and submitting unto church leadership.

Sister,

Thank you for your comment. All of my comments on the points were simply to ask for balance in our thinking. Many saints want to accuse Augustine as the father of Catholicism but then similarly many quote him as the father of Predestinationism or Calvinism. Was he the father of both systems of thought?

I believe many of Augustine's words are taken out of its larger context and also used by certain groups later on in Church History to support their train of thought. Of course Augustine stated some new controversial ideas, though it is easy to misquote older writers that wrote very long replies and used many words to convey a concept or thought.

It is simply impossible to not see the Roman Catholic influence in the reformation and reformation church practice, and of course this is not all bad because the RCC has had many of the early church traditions and kept them added other errors. The RCC which many argue during the dark ages was more formed is not the same as the Catholic One Church in the early church. There was just One Church really that most accepted.

My comments were to show saints that some of the RCC errors grew out of healthy right thinking in the early church, thus as evangelicals we need to understand this and not throw it all under the bus.

Yes the Scriptures are our example and rule yet they speak of the traditions, practices that the early church followed throughout the beginning of its history.

I hope that makes it more clear that I am not supporting the errors of the formal RCC as it now is but seeing there has been healthiness in the Catholic church especially more closer in the beginning of the Church the first 300 years, etc.

Just another quite thought that around AD 350 our Bibles were compiled by the One Church and bishops at that point and other councils of the church made very clear statements towards doctrine that we hold to today as evangelical.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/18 2:53

Quote: Dear Murrcolr, then we shall agree to disagree, hopefully while not consigning anyone to the category of heretic. Tozer is widely read across denominational lines because he consistently pointed people towards Jesus. To take a couple of lines from someone and make of it something the author has never taught is, at the very least, bearing false witness.

I am fine with that, agreeing to disagree but since I am accused of being false witnesses as I used a few lines, to make it into something the author never taught let's use a few more to see what's being taught.

Towser Purist of God Chapter 7 Now, someone may ask, "Is not this of which you speak for special persons such as monks or ministers who have by the nature of their calling more time to devote to quiet meditation?"

Quiet meditation????? --- Thomas Keating says; centering Prayer which is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer.

Towser Purist of God Chapter 7: Many have found the secret of which I speak and, without giving much thought to what is going on within them, constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God.

It's a secret what constant practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God. ----- Thomas Keating says: Contemplative Prayer is the opening of mind and heart our whole being to God.

Towser Purist of God Chapter 7: When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us we shall be ushered onto a new level of spiritual life more in keeping with the promises of God and the mood of the New Testament.

When you persevere with and the habit (inwardly gazing Godward) is fixed, you're ushered into a new spiritual life. ----- Thomas Keating says; Contemplative Prayer is a process of interior purification leading, if we consent, to divine union. Ahhh a new spiritual life.

Towser Purist of God Chapter 8: We shall find ourselves out of adjustment to the ways of the world, and increasingly so as we make progress in the holy way. We shall acquire a new viewpoint; a new and different psychology will be formed within us; a new power will begin to surprise us by its upsurgings and its outgoings.

Acquire a new viewpoint, new and different psychology formed within, a new power with upsurgings and outgoings ----

murrcolr calls that "The Kundalini awakening" and that's why he rejects the book..

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 3:36

Oracio wrote:

Quote:
-----When it comes to someone claiming to have heard God's voice audibly or anything similar to that, we must be cautious and test the spirits to see if they are from God. Throughout history it is due to those types of claims that many cults and heretical groups have been born.

Indeed and that is why we have scripture to confirm what God says, as He will never say anything that is opposed to it, it will be confirmed. Scripture however, is the fountain, but Christ is its source and primary revelation is to be direct communication with Him which is the way it has been for most of church history which was without a copy of the Bible for the average believer and those who were spiritually mature were to be classed as having authority and not just those having an academic study of scripture.

Quote:
-----But haven't God's people also always existed outside the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox systems? Why do we need the writings of those who taught and believed such serious errors as taught within Roman Catholicism? For example, I was reading that St. Augustine believed and taught the following Catholic dogma:

I don't know enough about church history to comment on those who managed to exist outside of the church, but as today, there have always been those in the RCC who are spiritually enlightened and do not go along with what their church is teaching and of course, as Greg has said, the later teachings of the RCC. Of course, it was not the teachers as they would not be able to keep their positions. There has always been flexibility though for things that are not dogma. Some dogmas listed by you, are not properly understood by Protestants as Greg has pointed out earlier including when he said:

Quote:
-----Purgatory and praying for the departed - I am not sure if it is right that Augustine started that thinking for it was implemented much later on in the dark ages.

Even today a number of Catholics believe that purgatory is to take place in this life whilst one is going through 'the dark night' and they do not believe in 'praying for the dead' if the departed are with Christ and alive in Him.

Quote:
-----We are sanctified by His Word of truth. We are washed through the Word. We are nourished and built up through the Word. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We must meditate on it day and night. We must esteem it above our daily bread. And there are so many other wonderful benefits that come from treasuring the Word of God in our hearts.

Scripture tells us that Jesus is the Word (John 1).

Quote:
-----I think a clear distinction that needs to be made here is between seeking Christ, and seeking after an experience. Huge difference. One is in the Spirit and the other is in the flesh. If we focus on and seek after an experience we are sure to fail in finding true intimacy with Christ. We will find ourselves exerting ourselves in our own will power and it will always fail us. I have learned this principle the hard way and am still learning. May we seek after Christ through His appointed means. For as we do so He will be found by us as He has promised.

I am not talking about having esoteric experiences here, I am talking about hearing Christ speak to us directly and as a lamp that guides our feet so that we need not sin.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/18 8:08

Murrcolr--

You really need to just stop denigrating AW Tozer who is one of the most respected and prophetic Christian leaders of the past 100 years.

To equate Tozer with anything associated with the "kundalini awakening" is nothing but a slanderous lie.

You obviously cannot grasp the truth of what Tozer was teaching in that classic book or you would not be saying such horrible things about such a great man of God.

I would certainly say to anyone following this thread to not be dissuaded from reading and listening to anything Tozer has ever wrote or said because of murrcolr's false accusations.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 8:50

TMK writes.....

"You really need to just stop denigrating AW Tozer who is one of the most respected and prophetic Christian leaders of the past 100 years. To equate Tozer with anything associated with the "kundalini awakening" is nothing but a slanderous lie.

You obviously cannot grasp the truth of what Tozer was teaching in that classic book or you would not be saying such horrible things about such a great man of God. I would certainly say to anyone following this thread to not be dissuaded from reading and listening to anything Tozer has ever wrote or said because of murrcolr's false accusations."

I agree entirely with the above comment by TMK. Very sad commentary indeed and without a shred of truth. Indeed a false accusation, murrcolr has certainly bore false witness against brother Tozer, may the Lord forgive him.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 10:25

I have just read Tozer's book and there is nothing of the sort that Colin is claiming.

Tozer is speaking of the interior life of keeping our mind's eye on Jesus, which is what the Christian mystics of the past taught, which will lead us onto the pathway of becoming holy which has no correlation at all in eastern religions, being as they are, uninterested in the concept of sin.

It is a shame that a spiritual man like Tozer who has encouraged many on the path of seeking righteousness has had his reputation denigrated on this forum.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 12:46

Krautfrau writes.....

"I have just read Tozer's book and there is nothing of the sort that Colin is claiming.

Tozer is speaking of the interior life of keeping our mind's eye on Jesus, which is what the Christian mystics of the past taught, which will lead us onto the pathway of becoming holy which has no correlation at all in eastern religions, being as they are, uninterested in the concept of sin.

It is a shame that a spiritual man like Tozer who has encouraged many on the path of seeking righteousness has had his reputation denigrated on this forum. "

I wholeheartedly agree sister. The accusation against Tozer really just boggles the mind to anyone who has read him. Yet here is the thing I considered as I walked and prayed this morning. Saints all down through the ages have been falsely accused, maligned and had contempt poured upon them. I pray that I would be worthy enough to fall into the category that is maligned and falsely accused rather than be counted with those who falsely accuse and malign. And the wonder of it all was that those who found themselves falsely accused, loved their accusers. This can only be achieved by the Spirit of God. May the Lord pour out that Spirit upon us, and this would surely be an act of grace.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/18 15:39

I'd like to briefly comment in defense of brother murrcolr here. Just because he happens to question some of the writings or teachings of Tozer it doesn't make him a false witness. Tozer was not infallible, neither was Ravenhill, Wesley, Spurgeon, Whitefield, etc. While we can embrace these men of God as brethren and expect to see them in heaven some day, it doesn't mean we cannot or should not use discernment regarding their writings. They are not Scripture.

From reading some of C.S. Lewis' writings and seeing certain RCC errors in them I don't like any of his books. And I know that to many Christians I'll be seen as odd on account of that. If brother murrcolr feels the same about Tozer's book because he senses RCC mysticism in it, so be it, we can agree to disagree respectfully.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 17:47

Hi Oracio, I think you need to re-read the comments. It is not about men being infallible or not questioning men , its about, well....this

"murrcolr calls that "The Kundalini awakening" and that's why he rejects the book.."

This is murcolr summing up of the book " The Pursuit of God." He claims that Tozer is teaching eastern practices, he does not. That is not a matter of opinion, he does not teach eastern practices nor does he teach or endorse " the Kundalini awakening." Not true is not true Oracio. Is there another name for making false claims about a brother?.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/18 20:21

But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse, when they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/18 20:36

I don't think this quite compares to the stoning of Stephen.

Lighten up dude.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 20:53

Quote:

-----Krautfrau writes.....

"I have just read Tozer's book and there is nothing of the sort that Colin is claiming.

Tozer is speaking of the interior life of keeping our mind's eye on Jesus, which is what the Christian mystics of the past taught, which will lead us onto the pathway of becoming holy which has no correlation at all in eastern religions, being as they are, uninterested in the concept of sin.

It is a shame that a spiritual man like Tozer who has encouraged many on the path of seeking righteousness has had his reputation denigrated on this forum. "

I wholeheartedly agree sister. The accusation against Tozer really just boggles the mind to anyone who has read him. Yet here is the thing I considered as I walked and prayed this morning. Saints all down through the ages have been falsely accused, maligned and had contempt poured upon them. I pray that I would be worthy enough to fall into the category that is maligned and falsely accused rather than be counted with those who falsely accuse and malign. And the wonder of it all was that those who found themselves falsely accused, loved their accusers. This can only be achieved by the Spirit of God. May the Lord pour out that Spirit upon us, and this would surely be an act of grace.....bro Frank

If Tozer is speaking of the interior life, of keeping our mind's eye on Jesus, then one would have to ask what the mind's eye is and what the interior life is?

All these words are rubbish if we do not know what they mean. Does anyone really know what they mean or are we just repeating what we read?

In my own understanding I think that Colin is right to be concerned. Whether he is right about the Kundalini claim also needs to be thought about. What is the Kundalini spirit really? Does anyone actually know or are we once again just using words?

As for the idea that the "practise" of inwardly looking at Jesus leads to a holy life, I reject completely. Has anyone on here actually spent any genuine time in solitary meditation for months on end to experience these things? Or are we just using words again and skipping over their meaning. Tozer may very well make the claim that it is not necessary to have a monastic experience physically in the sense that Brother Lawrence did, but who knows what that means? Is it really possible to find Christ in you? If so where in you? If it is in your mind then you have abrogated truth already.

Finally why ought Colin not to say what he believes? Who said that expressing a concern either amounts to a judgement unto condemnation or a false accusation? Why cannot such a saying as Colin has made simple be a sincere one borne out of some deeper knowledge of his own?

I appreciate that these kinds of claims by Brother Lawrence are profound and they do have real meaning, but who has actually experienced them without inducing a state of mind which is the counterfeit of true spiritual depth.

Lo I call Him deep unto Deep
Never tiring, never sleep

The place that Lawrence is speaking of cannot be found by looking for it as though the natural mind knows where to find God. It can only be comprehended in the spirit. Likewise it can only be walked in daily by bringing the mind into obedience in all things and not simple by focusing on Christ. The mind is not the instrument by which Christ is comprehended.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 21:36

Amrkelly,

Our brother was not "expressing a concern." He stated that Tozer's teaching was "a Kundalini spirit." You think accusing a brother of teaching and sharing a demonic spirit is "expressing a concern?" I think you are way of base brother, or perhaps you believe that Tozer taught demonic teachings? If you have read Tozer (not quotes from discernment sites) and that is your opinion, then that is fine, let us know what you think and let the Body of Christ here decide if they think it is a false accusation or not. I have read around 30 Tozer books, and there is not one instance where he teaches a kundalini spirit or "solitary meditation for months."bro Frank

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/18 22:04

I read the Pursuit of God a few times as a newer Christian and I remember thinking positively of it, especially the parts that bring deep conviction of sin. However, I do believe there is a valid concern regarding Tozer's endorsement of Catholic mystics. That kind of endorsement can lead to much confusion and stumbling of believers who are not mature in the faith. My reasoning is that we don't need to endorse or share writings of medieval Catholic monks to teach any of God's truths. There is no question that during the time of Brother Lawrence the RCC was fully established in full apostasy.

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/7/18 22:12

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/7/18 22:25

sermonindex said: "True saints have been and still are in what we deem today as the Catholic Church." Am I misunderstanding you, or are you advocating catholicism? The catholic church is antichrist, the priests dope men's souls and send them to hell, the pope and the Jesuits have fomented wars, established dictatorships, toppled governments, assassinated presidents and kings, advocated genocide, created depressions and insidiously rule the world from behind the scenes. Many people have either said to me, or it has at least been their attitude, "if you strongly protest the catholic church, you are not having a christian attitude." When people say that, I know it is the spirit of antichrist influencing them. Every true christian must stand up against "Mystery, Babylon the great" and warn people to "come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her deeds, and that ye receive not of her plagues." No true catholic can be a true christian at the same time. If you think they can, then you are saying that it is okay to worship graven images, to pray to the 'virgin' Mary and to saints, salvation by works and all the other awful, soul-damning heresy that the catholic church promulgates.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 22:34

Quote:
-----Our brother was not "expressing a concern." He stated that Tozer's teaching was "a Kundalini spirit." You think accusing a brother of teaching and sharing a demonic spirit is "expressing a concern?" I think you are way of base brother, or perhaps you believe that Tozer taught demonic teachings? If you have read Tozer (not quotes from discernment sites) and that is your opinion, then that is fine, let us know what you think and let the Body of Christ here decide if they think it is a false accusation or not. I have read around 30 Tozer books, and there is not one instance where he teaches a kundalini spirit or "solitary meditation for months."bro Frank

I have no idea whether Colin was expressing a concern or not! I asked a rhetorical question. Only Colin knows what he fully intended to say and why.

I haven't visited any discernment sites of late, and the few times that I have I have found too much nonsense and blatant inaccuracies to trust a word of them. On the other hand I have no idea what a supposed discernment site is. What is more Frank I do not care to know.

As for Tozer I have read a few of his books going back some thirty years. I have absolutely no opinion at this moment and no especial recollection as to anything he may have said.

Lastly Frank you agreed with a statement made by Brenda and that had to do with the mind being the instrument by which men focus on Christ. As a matter of far greater importance than trying to discern others thoughts from a distance of many miles I tend to read their words and from that I can usually see what may be problematic with what they have said. So on that basis it is an easy thing to share my thoughts without having to second guess someones actual real intentions or else whether they have become a vehicle for the devil.

When I do read something and comment on what I read, the response may well make it necessary to exercise my spirit in order to understand things better, especially how best to approach a person. On the other hand words carry real meaning apart from what an individual intends by them or even understands them to mean. Satan makes use of the real meanings of words which are implicit in the very way the brain itself processes speech. In other words a statement which asserts that the deep experience of Christ, which Tozer and Lawrence, Nee, Guyon and others speak of, is carried out in the mind, has real and serious implications because it is simple not true.

I know this because I was saved in a cell and spent nearly a year in that solitary condition alone with the Lord for company. Which is why I can relate to Brother Lawrence and is precisely why I can relate and see the need of Tozer to assert that solitude is not a prerequisite for the deeper life. Being in a solitary place is no guarantee of anything, nor does the marketplace exclude the reality of knowing Christ in the inner man. I have by God's grace the benefit of both things. The cell and the city are equally fine to me.

The seriousness of saying that the mind is the instrument by which a man "gazes" on Christ is to miss the reality that the Holy Spirit does not dwell in the mind. Paul speaks of being renewed in our thinking, but he also speaks of being renewed in the spirit of the mind. Paul also tells us that we have the mind of Christ. It is clear that unless God Himself brings about this deeper and fully intimate experience of Christ within, we are at risk of inducing a counterfeit effect and therein lays the opportunity for demonic spirits who operate in and through the natural mind.

I think that Colin may have been better saying something less emphatic, nevertheless he may have good reason to believe what he is saying. Unless I read every Tozer book, according to your estimation I have no authority to comment. I can not and do not trust the majority of websites because they are mostly nonsense or repetitive lies perpetuated by an ever increasing number of men and women who appear to have lost touch with real people.

Anyway Frank I am happy to go back to my meditations and endless "gazing" into the deep abyss of the soul if only to remind myself why Christ died. As I look inward Frank all I see is the flesh. By what instrument will I see Christ if I look inward by my own effort? Dangerous stuff mysticism and deep contemplation just scrapes the bottom of the barrel. There are more fools peddling it than you can shake a stick at. The ones I have met were little short of witches in need of a good soul massage. Give them one and you are a god too. Tell them to take their sorceries away and you become an object of fear or derision. Rarely do they repent. It is a deep sickness of the soul and only the cross can break its power. The real thing on the other hand is wonderful and full of revelation of God and Christ. I believe that Brother Lawrence is expressing the real thing. I have no idea about Tozer.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/18 22:36

Quote:
-----sermonindex said: "True saints have been and still are in what we deem today as the Catholic Church." Am I misunderstanding you, or are you advocating catholicism?

Brother, I was not promoting Catholicism in anyway but simply stating that as evangelicals we need to learn balance on not throwing out all of church history as Catholic. Most evangelicals do not read early christian leader writings because they think its the Catholic church and that is false. So I was just trying to encourage us not to just throw out the baby with the bathwater.

The 1600's reformation was not perfect by any means and we still have much to learn of true Church history and the ways of God.

Re: , on: 2014/7/18 23:49

Okay amrkelly, here is the direct quote from colin speaking for some reason in the third person.....

"murrcolr calls that ~~the~~ "The Kundalini awakening" and that's why he rejects the book."

The book in question is Pursuit of God. Colin claims he rejects this book because it teaches the demonic.

You write.....

" words carry real meaning apart from what an individual intends by them or even understands them to mean. Satan makes use of the real meanings of words which are implicit in the very way the brain itself processes speech."

I agree. The quote from Colin is real words with real meaning and leaves no doubt as to what Colin means. I reject what Colin says about Tozer as a false accusation. And I call upon the brother to repent of that. I shall say no more about it and leave it between the brother and God. The false accusation was made publicly therefore it was rebuked publicly.....
.bro Frank

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 0:51

Quote:
-----The charismatic catholic movement for instance did not all leave the catholic church. There are wheat and tares in all churches and some more then others.

Brother Greg, sincerely I ask, do you mean to say that the charismatic catholic movement is a legitimate movement within Christianity? For example, if there were such a group nearby would you be willing to fellowship with them as brothers and sisters without warning them to come out of the RCC? From what I understand the charismatic catholic movement still holds firmly to all the teachings of the official RCC Catechism. As such I would not deem that movement to be truly Christian in any sense.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/19 0:56

Quote krautfrau: I have just read Tozer's book and there is nothing of the sort that Colin is claiming.

So what is he describing in his book krautfrau

Quote krautfrau: Tozer is speaking of the interior life of keeping our mind's eye on Jesus, which is what the Christian mystics of the past taught, which will lead us onto the pathway of becoming holy.

The pathway to becoming Holy, following the principles of the purgative, illuminative, and unitive ways?

Have you found this Secret way, does it come through quiet meditation, until it forms a habit of inwardly gazing upon God. Have you been ushered onto a new level of spiritual life, have you found yourself out of adjustment to the ways of the world, with an awareness of nothingness as you went through interior purification? But then a new power arose in you with its upsurgings and outgoings as you connected to the divine essence the light that lives within all men?

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 1:30

Quote:
-----sermonindex wrote: Brother, I was not promoting Catholicism in anyway but simply stating that as evangelicals we need to learn balance on not throwing out all of church history as Catholic. Most evangelicals do not read early christian leader writings because they think its the Catholic church and that is false. So I was just trying to encourage us not to just throw out the baby with the bathwater.

The 1600's reformation was not perfect by any means and we still have much to learn of true Church history and the ways of God.

I agree with Greg 100% here. I read this quote recently, which sums it up nicely:

Quote:
-----In the course of their efforts to rid the church of what they saw as the great clerical cheat, perpetuated by late medieval Catholicism, Protestants had destroyed the institutions which had cherished contemplation and they had no idea how to replace them.

----- Silence: A Christian History by Diarmaid MacCulloch.

There is no denying the corruption and errors of the RCC, but in amongst it all, there have been true believers of great spiritual wisdom, including *some* of the church fathers. This matches the fact that amidst the corruption and errors in Protestantism, there have been those of great spiritual wisdom, but to a much lesser extent I have found.

These believers experienced and taught infused contemplation which is not navel gazing, but the imparted righteousness of God or in other words, holiness. Sadly they are not producing writings today.

But apart from these people, there is no man who is unable to contribute some words of wisdom, including the person quoted who is a self confessed homosexual liberal Christian, and we are most foolish to discount anyone, as Tozer has been done, as being beyond the pale insofar as having something to teach us, and all we need is discernment to benefit. It has been an eye opener for me to read church history from a Catholic perspective and I recommend it.

For spirituality, I have not found anything in the Protestant church which comes near to the deep spirituality found during the 'Golden Years' of Spanish mysticism of the 15th C, which is when John of the Cross and Theresa of Avilla lived, although I confess I have not studied early church history in depth.

They used for their inspiration apart from their own experiences of 'the presence of God' a Francisco de Osuna who wrote 'The Third Spiritual Alphabet' which I am reading and which is a veritable storehouse of spiritual wisdom.

For example, he says that we must use the storehouse we have in our memory to aid us daily in our spiritual health, by recalling to mind the time when we first came to know the Lord, and the joy we felt at that time (Remember the day when you left Egypt and the house of slavery. Ex. 13.1)

General Topics :: Practicing the Presence of God

What I have witnessed amongst Catholics in general, is a respect for humans which seems to be sadly missing amongst Protestants. I have recently become acquainted with a group called lay Carmelites (non charismatic) who are devoted to the writings of John of the Cross, and have been deeply impressed by their love for others, their openness and honesty. I did not think for once that they were not true believers as they love the Lord and depend on Christ for their salvation not works. They also dislike a lot about their church and their pope.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 1:46

Quote:
-----Have you found this Secret way, does it come through quiet meditation, until it forms a habit of inwardly gazing upon God. Have you been ushered onto a new level of spiritual life, have you found yourself out of adjustment to the ways of the world, with an awareness of nothingness as you went through interior purification? But then a new power arose in you with its upsurgings and outgoings as you connected to the divine essence the light that lives within all men?

Colin, traditional mysticism does not teach that we achieve union through inwardly gazing upon God. It is about creating a space for him to act: placing out attention on heavenly things and not earthly. It is about turning from the ways of the world, to help us to empty ourselves so that God can fill us. Preparation but definitely not emptying the mind - that is dangerous..it is an emptying of our self efforts.

It is not necessary to cloister ourselves to enable this, even in the midst of chaos and noise we can set our minds apart to show Him that we are serious about getting closer to Him just as we would with another human.

What the eastern religions say is the kundelini spirit is just a fake of the real thing. They become filled with another spirit. Satan has twisted the truth to sound like the real thing, that is, Christian mysticism, to create bondage for those who have that longing for God within, and for holiness. You can be sure that where the truth is, there is counterfeit.

The big difference is that there is no talk of holiness with the fake.

The pathway to becoming Holy, following the principles of the purgative, illuminative, and unitive ways?

Yes this is the framework of the process. We are granted repentance, followed by revelation and then oneness with God. We are granted a taste of it when we first come to Him but as we go on, we see that the same method is used overall in the longer process of sanctification.

The divine light does not live in all men, only those who have been baptised in the Spirit.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 2:11

Quote:
-----The seriousness of saying that the mind is the instrument by which a man "gazes" on Christ is to miss the reality that the Holy Spirit does not dwell in the mind. Paul speaks of being renewed in our thinking, but he also speaks of being renewed in the spirit of the mind. Paul also tells us that we have the mind of Christ. It is clear that unless God Himself brings about this deeper and fully intimate experience of Christ within, we are at risk of inducing a counterfeit effect and therein lays the opportunity for demonic spirits who operate in and through the natural mind.

I agree with this. First of all we are to have the Holy Spirit joined to our spirits. It is through our spirit that we know truth and indeed if we do not have Him dwelling within, we are open to demonic spirits to take up their dwelling in us instead.

We are however, to discipline our minds and it is up to us what we choose to dwell upon, whether it is the things in life which occupy and distract us, or the things of God. 'Seek ye first the 'kingdom'.

Re: - posted by murrcoir (), on: 2014/7/19 3:07

Quote: traditional mysticism does not teach that we achieve union through inwardly gazing upon God.

So why is it said in the Pursuit of God?

Pursuit of God Chapter 7: Many have found the secret of which I speak and, without giving much thought to what is going on within them, constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God

Quote: It is about creating a space for him to act: placing out attention on heavenly things and not earthly.

That's not what the Pursuit of God says: you'll find yourself out of adjustment and it will increase as you make progress.

Pursuit of God Chapter 8: We shall find ourselves out of adjustment to the ways of the world, and increasingly so as we make progress in the holy way. We shall acquire a new viewpoint; a new and different psychology will be formed within us; a new power will begin to surprise us by its upsurgings and its outgoings.

Quote: It is about turning from the ways of the world, to help us to empty ourselves so that God can fill us. Preparation but definitely not emptying the mind - that is dangerous. It is an emptying of our self efforts.

This habit of inwardly gazing upon God it is said; will give you a new view point, a new and different psychology. As quoted above.

Quote: The big difference is that there is no talk of holiness with the fake.

Nonsense ' Every religion in this world seeks holiness through ritual practices, just look at the RCC, or the Dalai Lama (named His Holiness), in Hinduism they even have Holy cows.

The thought that jumps to mind is Nirvana meaning: to extinguish, to obliterate oneself, which is said to be more like a state of existence called enlightenment.

Quote: The divine light does not live in all men, only those who have been baptised in the Spirit.

So you have turned away from the teaching of the society of friends that would say there is a measure of Christ in every man.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 4:24

Quote:
-----Colin wrote: So why is it said in the Pursuit of God?
Pursuit of God Chapter 7: Many have found the secret of which I speak and, without giving much thought to what is going on within them, constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God

Tozer says earlier:

Quote:
-----Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things possible to do. It would be like God to make the most vital thing easy and place it within the range of possibility for the weakest and poorest of us.

I think that he is talking about the gaze of the heart here. I think that means keeping one's affection on the Lord. Tozer, I believe, had read the Christian mystics like me, but I think he might have been clearer on some points. I certainly don't see the counterfeit mysticism in his writings that we are to stop using our minds. But also I don't think that he was speaking

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g from his own experience of contemplation or ES if you like, he seems to be repeating what he read. I may be wrong but I don't think that he was renowned for teaching ES.

Quote:
-----Nonsense â€” Every religion in this world seeks holiness through ritual practices, just look at the RCC, or the Dali Lama (named His Holiness), in Hinduism they even have Holy cows.

Yes but they were not talking about biblical holiness ie a pure heart. Theirs was all about behaviour and the mind.

Quote:
-----The thought that jumps to mind is Nirvana meaning: to extinguish, to obliterate oneself, which is said to be more like a state of existence called enlightenment.

Yes that is why it is wrong, to have self destroyed but this is not what is called Illumination. Illumination is when we have the light of God within us.

Quote:
-----So you have turned away from the teaching of the society of friends that would say â€œthere is a measure of Christ in every man
â€”

I never accepted that part of their teaching in the way most of today's Quakers understand. I think that what is in all men is a gap - a longing for God rather than something positive.

Colin, it is good that you are being cautious. When one is seeking ES it pays to be cautious as there are a lot of pitfalls. But as I said, there is the truth mixed in with the error. Tozer is not a holiness teacher but he is a good teacher for those who are not yet on that path to encourage them to seek.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 6:58

Quote:
-----I agree with this. First of all we are to have the Holy Spirit joined to our spirits. It is through our spirit that we know truth and indeed if we do not have Him dwelling within, we are open to demonic spirits to take up their dwelling in us instead. Krautfrau

Brenda precisely how do we "have the Holy Spirit joined to our spirits?" Do we have a say in this process? If not then it scarcely matters to say it. Being born again is an activity of God and not an activity of men. I cannot imagine that the Holy Spirit needs instruction nor less that we need to disseminate the meaning of being born from on high as though to do so would find fault with its benefit. Of course if what we are about is another thing entirely we may find that others will be less than influenced by our flattery and more concerned with our ambitions.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/19 8:09

Quote: Tozer is not a holiness teacher but he is a good teacher for those who are not yet on that path to encourage them to seek.

He was classed a higher life teacher.

Pursuit of God Chapter 1: Following hard after God

We need not fear that in seeking God only we may narrow our lives or restrict the motions of our expanding hearts. The opposite is true. We can well afford to make God our All, to concentrate, to sacrifice the many for the One.

The author of the quaint old English classic, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, teaches us how to do this. "Lift up thine heart unto God with a meek stirring of love; and mean Himself, and none of His goods. And thereto, look thee loath to think on aught but God Himself. So that nought work in thy wit, nor in thy will, but only God Himself. This is the work of the soul that most pleaseth God.

Again, he recommends that in prayer we practice a further stripping down of everything, even of our theology. "For it sufficeth enough, a naked intent direct unto God without any other cause than Himself.

And he is all for simplicity: If we would have religion lapped and folden in one word, for that thou shouldst have better hold thereupon, take thee but a little word of one syllable: for so it is better than of two, for even the shorter it is the better it accordeth with the work of the Spirit. And such a word is this word God or this word love.

Read carefully, read what he says a few times, what is he asking us to do in prayer? That we should practice a stripping down of everything, even of our theology, while in prayer.

But he leads you further, take you one word, he is encouraging you to pray but one word while in prayer..

Good grief it's shocking...

The Cloud of Unknowing is a spiritual guidebook thought to have been written in the latter half of the 14th century by an anonymous English monk, who counsels a young student as to how to seek God.

The Cloud of Unknowing has been described as Christianity with a Zen outlook. The practical prayer advice contained in *The Cloud of Unknowing* forms a primary basis for the contemporary practice of centering prayer.

What does that centering prayer advise, to use one word while in prayer.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 8:15

Oracio writes.....

"Brother Greg, sincerely I ask, do you mean to say that the charismatic catholic movement is a legitimate movement within Christianity? For example, if there were such a group nearby would you be willing to fellowship with them as brothers and sisters without warning them to come out of the RCC? From what I understand the charismatic catholic movement still holds firmly to all the teachings of the official RCC Catechism. As such I would not deem that movement to be truly Christian in any sense."

Amen Oracio, I would concur. In its simplest of terms, Jesus tells us we cannot serve two masters we will love the one and hate the other, or a better translation, prefer the other. This has been my experience with Catholic Charismatics. Speak a single word against the doctrines of the Catholic Church and you will be dis-fellowshipped. You see, Catholic doctrine is not optional for a Catholic. The Pope, in their minds, is infallible in matters of faith and morals. He is the ultimate authority on earth, he is Christ on earth. We were warned that Satan can appear as an angel of light and if anyone comes with a different doctrine from that which we have been taught through the Scriptures, they are to be rejected. Catholicism is so far removed from Biblical doctrine it would be hard to know where to begin.bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 8:46

Surly in all this talk about Roman Catholicism we are missing a simple reality.

It is the easiest thing to condemn that which is self evidently wrong. Even a little child can do that. But the little child also knows that in people can be found both good and evil. The good the child clings to, and the evil the child shrinks back from. If a child can manage it how come such wise men as we are cannot?

I just love the way we play with words to avoid saying what we must say if our inferences are to be taken seriously. Go on someone have the courage to say it if you can.

Rome has no true believers. It's impossible because Rome is of the devil. There you go ye wise men. Now go and say it from the roof top and from St Peter's Square and from your neighbours house. If any man comes to you and says "I believe in Jesus" you can in your great wisdom declare to the heavens and all the earth "NO YOU DO NOT" because you are a Roman Catholic and we all know that Roman Catholics are of the DEVIL.

You mad men!

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/19 8:56

Greetings

I am finding more and more evangelicals who are now saying they do believe there is common ground among RCC and that fellowship with them is not an issue. This is a dangerous area to be entering into. Once we try to find common ground, compromise usually follows. There is as Frank said so much about the Catholic teachings and traditions that are not BIBLICAL...We need to be in prayer for those lost in the teaching of the RCC.

God bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 9:58

Quote:

-----by amrkelly on 2014/7/19 6:58:19: Brenda precisely how do we "have the Holy Spirit joined to our spirits?"

Being born again is an activity of God, when man consents to His working and comes to Him in repentance is my understanding.

Quote:

-----more concerned with our ambitions.

Sorry??

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 9:59

There is a show on the Catholic cable channel EWTN called The Road Home. It is a show that gives testimony to those evangelicals who have converted to Roman Catholicism.

Invariably a common denominator rises from the testimony of these evangelicals who came into the RCC. They say they read the writings of those called `the church fathers`.

Just as those who are converted out of Islam decry and warn of the foolishness of mixing faith in Christ with Islam called Chrislam. We need to heed Mary Jane and Frank who were converted out of Catholicism, their warning of mixing faith in Christ with the teachings of Rome.

Again we might do well to read Foxes Book of Martyrs and Martyrs Mirror to be reminded that the RCC put many of our brothers and sisters to death.

Another aspect of the RCC are the crusades. Many Moslems to this day remember it was Rome who called a Christian Jihad against Moslems and Jews. And the writings of the church fathers, particularly Agustine, gave rise to concept of just war. This is why it is difficult to evangelize Moslems and even Jews to this day.

My thoughts.

Blaine

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:07

Quote:
-----by MaryJane on 2014/7/19 8:56:37: I am finding more and more evangelicals who are now saying they do believe there is common ground among RCC and that fellowship with them is not an issue. This is a dangerous area to be entering into. Once we try to find common ground, compromise usually follows. There is as Frank said so much about the Catholic teachings and traditions that are not BIBLICAL...We need to be in prayer for those lost in the teaching of the RCC.

I believe that it was inevitable. As we could not reconcile on doctrine, we are now going for joint experience and charisma was the start of it. Now it is becoming false mysticism that is doing the job. The RCC is looking at Buddhism now and accepting it.

The problem is that Protestantism is plain wrong as well and does not offer anything for the true believers in the RCC. Where can they go when they see that they have to deal with ungraceful Protestants who tear each other up over doctrine? The answer is that all institutionalised religion is false and corrupt and only a remnant know the true faith in union with Christ.

He can deal with bad doctrine in a man. But when the man is without any love and has a hardened heart, so often seen today, there is not much He can do but allow that heart to grow colder.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:12

Quote:
-----by murrcoIr on 2014/7/19 8:09:33: And he is all for simplicity: If we would have religion lapped and folded in one word, for that thou shouldst have better hold thereupon, take thee but a little word of one syllable: for so it is better than of two, for even the shorter it is the better it accordeth with the work of the Spirit. And such a word is this word God or this word love.

I have not read that book and agree that what he says is eastern religion. Not all mysticism is Christian.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:15

Quote:
-----There is a show on the Catholic cable channel EWTN called The Road Home. It is a show that gives testimony to those evangelicals who have converted to Roman Catholicism.

Invariably a common denominator rises from the testimony of these evangelicals who came into the RCC. They say they read the writings of those called 'the church fathers'.

Just as those who are converted out of Islam decry and warn of the foolishness of mixing Christianity with Islam called Chrislam. We need to heed Mary Jane and Frank who were converted out of Catholicism, their warning of mixing faith in Christ with the teachings of Rome.

Again we might do well to read Foxes Book of Martyrs and Martyrs Mirror to be reminded that the RCC put many of our brothers and sisters to death.

General Topics :: Practicing the Presence of God

It is all old hat Blaine. Unless we are prepared to say that there are no true believers in the nearly one billion RCC men and women we may as well pack up our bags and go home. We are simply repeating meaningless rhetoric and if I may say, somewhat less effectually than our forefathers did.

If there is even one single man or woman who belongs to an RC Church who is a true believer in the death and resurrection of Christ, then we have a series problem, do we not? So I ask again who is prepared and willing to say that there is not one single instance of a man or woman finding Christ and being born again in the RCC? If there is just one then by what power have they believed?

Some of us live in the past with such a commitment we cannot even comprehend the day we live in. Despising falsehood and error has nothing to do with knowing who is born again, nor has recognising a brother or sister in Christ got anything to do with embracing a false teaching. It is divisive and hateful and it is the root of much misery and anger. Show me a Roman Catholic who advocates murdering protestants today. Or a Priest who believes that it is his duty to hate all others who do not embrace his traditions. When the Lord moves to deliver Rome of those who have a heart for Him it will be because destruction is coming upon her, not because there are no true believers in Rome.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:16

Quote:
-----by bearmaster on 2014/7/19 9:59:21: Again we might do well to read Foxes Book of Martyrs and Martyrs Mirror to be reminded that the RCC put many of our brothers and sisters to death.

And we might do well to read about what Protestants did to each other in Geneva. There are no clean hands here.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:38

Dear Brenda I am very aware of what the Protestant Reformers did to the Anabaptists. In some cases the Protestant and Catholic armies joined together to put the Anabaptists to death. Mainly because the Anabaptists were trying to live out the true reality of Christ during the Reformation.

As I think upon this dark time in church history it seems that the Protestant Reformers were more in agreement with the Catholics. Both groups held to church and state as one. Both groups believed that one could be born into the church giving rise to infant baptism. Both groups believed in the death penalty for heretics. Both groups believed in the concept of just war. And there are, no doubt, more areas of agreement.

One thing the Protestants and Catholics did agree on. The authority of the church fathers. So I would ask what are the differences between the Catholics and the Protestants. In my estimation they were one in heart. This is why I believe the Anabaptist were the true remnant church during the time of the Reformation. I say this because of their emphasis on a simple New Testament faith in Jesus Christ. And for that they were persecuted and martyred.

My thoughts.

Blaine

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 10:56

Andrew writes.....

"If there is even one single man or woman who belongs to an RC Church who is a true believer in the death and resurrection of Christ, then we have a series problem, do we not? "

Of course we do not. It's a false premise. You could make that argument about Mormonism or Jehovah's witness's or Phelps church in Kansas or the Ayrrian brotherhood. It's not we that have the problem, it's the genuine believer who is in Catholicism that has a problem. If anyone ever finds out that they do not believe in transubstantiation, then they will be invited to leave, or any one of the countless heretical teachings of the Catholic Church.

There is a coming great whore church which all the world will be defiled by. We see the Catholic church positioning itself to be the leader of such a universal church which will encompass Islam and Judaism and all the religions of the world. We also see a grand delusion coming over those who should know better and a growing resentment of anyone who speaks the truth about the Catholic church.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 11:03

Quote:
-----by appolus on 2014/7/19 10:56:57: If anyone ever finds out that they do not believe in transubstantiation, then they will be invited to leave, or any one of the countless heretical teachings of the Catholic Church.

No that is not true. You do not have to believe anything to attend services or join in with fellowshiping. They are most welcoming.

What they will say regarding not accepting Transubstantiation, or that you are not officially a Catholic is that you can go to the altar and cross your hands over your chest to refuse the wafer and wine, and get a blessing from the priest instead.

They are remarkably inclusive these days but of course to be a practicing member you have to accept the party line. But there is leeway with a bit of it.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/19 12:13

Greetings

The point is that if you are a practicing member of the Roman Catholic Church and have a real encounter with JESUS there is no way you are going to stay in that church continuing to practice sin against GOD by taking part in all the false teachings and traditions that go on. Taking part in such practices as praying to Mary, lifting her up as co-redeemer, praying to the dead saints, praying to for the dead, looking to the pope as infallible, earning your salvation ect. these and many other of the RCC teachings are considered sin in the BIBLE, so why would anyone who is truly following JESUS continue taking part and practicing in sin. Once someone comes to truly know JESUS, and is born again GOD will finish the work HE begins in that persons life and just as with any other sin, the desire will be to turn from it, repent, and cling to JESUS only. So I will say this, yes those who are lost in the RCC can come to JESUS, just like the gentiles of Paul's times came to JESUS even though they were involved in pagan religions at the time. Just like those early believers who turned away from idol worship those who come to know JESUS and repent of sins, will turn away from the false and pagan teachings of the RCC as well.

God bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 12:27

I found the following quotes from this little book by Lawrence troubling:

Quote:
-----"He is within in us; seek Him not elsewhere (p. 64)."

That sounds like new age philosophy to me, where everyone is encouraged to "find the Christ within you". But what about seeking to know God through His Word? During the time of Lawrence the Scriptures were readily available to the common people, as it was well over a century after the Reformation. Nowhere in this little book are we encouraged to search the Scriptures as a means of getting to know the Lord. Jesus said, "If you abide in my Word then you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"-John 8:31-32.

Quote:
-----â€œThis made me resolve to give the all for the All, so after having given myself wholly to God, to make all the satisfaction I could for my sins, I renounced, for the love of Him, everything that was not He; and I began to live as if there was none but He and I in the world (p. 26).â€œ
â€œI took a resolution to give myself up to God, as the best satisfaction I could make for my sins; and, for the love of Him, to renounce all besides (p. 29).â€œ
â€œSince entering upon the religious life, I no longer perplex myself with thoughts of virtue, or of my salvation. But having given myself wholly to God, to make what satisfaction I could for my sins . . . (p. 99).â€œ

Sounds like salvation by works. How can we â€œmake satisfactionâ€œ for our sins? This is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ alone has made satisfaction for our sins through the blood of His cross. Those quotes seem to imply we can make up for our sins so that at the end of the day our good works can outweigh our evil deeds. That is what false religion teaches.

The editor of this book writes,

Quote:
-----â€œHis one desire was that he might suffer something for the love of God, for all his sins . . . Purposely he bade the brethren to turn him on to his right side; he knew that this position gave great pain, and therefore wished to remain therefore to satisfy his burning desire to suffer (p. 104).â€œ

That is asceticism, the belief that one must physically endure suffering to get close to God, and it is a common belief in the RCC. The book of Colossians warns about that kind of false teaching that was creeping into the churches. It says in Colossians 2:20-23, â€œTherefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.â€œ

I believe this brief article really nails it when it comes to this little book:
<http://cicministry.org/commentary/issue97b.htm>

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 13:07

I believe this thread proves the importance of sound doctrine. There are many admonitions in God's Word that speak of His importance. If we make light of God's Word and sound doctrine we will be susceptible to deceiving spirits even as true believers in Christ. Brothers and sisters, may we continue to test all things in light of the word of God. May we be like the Bereans.

"Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."-Acts 17:10-11

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/7/19 13:17

amrkelly wrote: "It is the easiest thing to condemn that which is self evidently wrong. Even a little child can do that. But the little child also knows that in people can be found both good and evil. The good the child clings to, and the evil the child shrinks back from. If a child can manage it how come such wise men as we are cannot?"

I just love the way we play with words to avoid saying what we must say if our inferences are to be taken seriously. Go on someone have the courage to say it if you can.

Rome has no true believers. It's impossible because Rome is of the devil. There you go ye wise men. Now go and say it from the roof top and from St Peter's Square and from your neighbours house. If any man comes to you and says "I believe in Jesus" you can in your great wisdom declare to the heavens and all the earth "NO YOU DO NOT" because you are a Roman Catholic and we all know that Roman Catholics are of the DEVIL."

If a person can worship idols and break virtually all of the ten commandments, be joined to a harlot church and still be a

christian, then I guess a Roman Catholic can be a christian. These issues are not trivial. By the way, just believing is not enough. "Thou believest that there is one God, thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble." James 2:19 One must repent of sin and make Jesus the absolute master of their life.

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/7/19 13:25

"Yeah, the bible is okay and protestant writings are so-so, but if you REALLY want power read the catholic mystics." I've heard people say this or at least infer it. Scary.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 14:09

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 14:15

Quote:
-----"If there is even one single man or woman who belongs to an RC Church who is a true believer in the death and resurrection of Christ, then we have a series problem, do we not? "

Of course we do not. It's a false premise. You could make that argument about Mormonism or Jehovah's witness's or Phelps church in Kansas or the Ayrrian brotherhood. It's not we that have the problem, it's the genuine believer who is in Catholicism that has a problem. If anyone ever finds out that they do not believe in transubstantiation, then they will be invited to leave, or any one of the countless heretical teachings of the Catholic Church.

I have to say Frank that I am genuinely surprised by this reply of yours, especially the point about Mormonism and the other cults you have mentioned.

Brother Frank in view of your reply I am not going to respond anymore. I have to tell you Frank that if you genuinely believe that there is any correspondence between Mormonism. JW's etc and the Roman Church you have made a grave error in your thinking. Perhaps we could put it down to your seeking to make a different point than the words of themselves express. And that Brother Frank is what I extended to Colin. He too was making a different point to the one his words of themselves expressed. Though you thought to instruct me on the matter.

Your comment is to bring Christ himself into the realm of an angel and to make the gospel meaningless and false.

In Islam, Al'Masih Isa is Jesus. In Mormonism Jesus is a son of God, in the JW cult, Jesus is Michael the archangel. If you were to ask me therefore whether there were any born again believers in these three cults I would have a responsibility to say that they are all completely false because they have another Christ and not the Son of God at all therefore there can be none of His in their ranks. The very same thing could be said for the Mashiach of present day orthodox Jews. They too have in mind a different Christ, at the heart of which lies not only an inevitable rejection of true Christ, but the acceptance of another christ who does not conform to the true revelation of God in the Law, the Prophets and in finality of the testimony of Christ Himself.

Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ.

If you cannot make this distinction and understand its effect then you have no place teaching others anything about that which ails the Roman Church. You ought to especially draw back from bearing witness of the Christ you do know to those who have as much likelihood of putting their faith in Him as you have yourself. This is of course speaking about those who are of Rome. We ought not to make the mistake of failing to separate truth from error and then the gospel from another gospel. The Gospel is one thing and Christ Himself is a greater than the gospel. The gospel speaks of Christ crucified for sin as the Son of Man and Christ Himself speaks of He who was with the Father from the beginning, even the Son of God.

Mormons speak of Jesus Christ whom they call the son of God. Yet their christ is a son of God and not the Son of God. Muslims are fervent about Al'Masih Isa and know that this name, Christ Jesus, appears more times in the Qur'an than does the name of Mohammed himself. Yet this Al'Masih Isa is a prophet and is expressly denied to be the Son of God.

You may well believe that I am making a fine point because you may believe that if Rome makes ruin of the true doctrine of grace then what grace is their to be saved. Salvation does not rest on whether other men extend a true and proper comprehension of the grace of God. In finality it is the grace of God in Christ Jesus, the Son of God by whom grace first appeared to men by which men are saved, Faith through grace in Christ Jesus the Son of God.

I would invite you not to respond to this post Frank nor anyone else until you have tested what I am saying here and can be certain that pressing another point other than the one which alone leads to eternal life, is in fact a true thing to do. If we ourselves seek to lay any other foundation than Christ Jesus crucified for sin we have made ruin of the true Gospel. But if we do not comprehend that Christ is the Son of the Living God, we have no basis for a gospel at all. Rome by a reality of centuries has in its folds a true and proper understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. It is an understanding of Christ which all born again believers have by reason of the gift of the Holy Spirit, and it is the power to confirm that Jesus is both Christ and Lord, in their own consciousness.

Mormons, JW's Muslims and many others speak the same name and speak the same words in many instances as do true believers. Yet they are not true believers and of them we can say there is not amongst them one who truly comprehends Christ as He is, the Son of the Living God.

"Who do men say that I Am?"

Who do you say that I Am"

"Though art the Christ, the Son of the Living God".

That is what separates truth from error and all the rest is a matter of separating from error itself, but to separate from error without knowing who Christ truly is, is a fools gospel and a man made religion. For this reason I neither say that there are none in Rome who truly believe, for this would be to lie against the truth, nor do I say come out of her and be ye separate, except that I have first comprehended Christ Himself in my brother or Sister. Then I will say come out because a day of judgement is coming and you ought not to be a part of her sins and her abominations lest you also receive of her suffering as well.

Men can blaspheme the Son of God and they can even blaspheme the Father in heaven and there is sufficient grace. That sufficiency is better laid hold of in a laying hold of true Christ otherwise we have not laid hold of grace at all.

I take it Frank that I am of those who should know better! Brother I do know better and therefore I am not afraid to say it even though it brings me into the scope of my friends comments. Greg has been held up in this thread and another for the same reason. The Lord knows.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 19:35

Andrew writes.....

"Your comment is to bring Christ himself into the realm of an angel and to make the gospel meaningless and false."

And again.....

"Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ." And.....

"Brother Frank in view of your reply I am not going to respond anymore."

After making the statement that the Church of Rome full and properly comprehends the true Jesus I am glad you are not going to respond any more brother. I will leave your above statements to the discernment of those on the forum.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/19 23:11

Quote: I found the following quotes from this little book by Lawrence troubling:

The very name of the book, "Practice of his Presence", I find abhorrent, its name makes me shudder and makes my skin crawl.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Jos 1:9

God is with us wherever we go, that the promise he made; I remember going surfing one time in the sea of Cornwall, the sea was very rough, but for me that was good as the waves were high. I got on that surf board and swam right out there with the surfers, only to find that I was out of my depth. When I tried to catch a wave to go back in, I failed drastically and ended up in what I can only describe as a washing machine. When I eventually came to my sense and figured out which way was up to surface, I swam up there to be engulfed by the next wave, this went for a few more waves and I was tired and out of breath. So I cried out right there in the middle of this tumult. I cried out, JESUS, when the next wave came I was picked up by it and launch up the beach.

God was there with me in the tumult, he is with us wherever we may go.

I believe what he says in his word and it has become a reality to me, "for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" I don't need to "practice to his presence" as he is there with me even as I type this post. I don't need to clear my mind and meditate, for him to be there, or perform some sort of religious practice for him to be there. I don't lose him or break of contact with him, when I have to go about the mundane things in my life. Why because he has made me a promise "for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".

I develop my ear for God, on an oil rig in the North Sea. I used to pray, just as I would speak to you I would speak to God and ask God for help with my job to point out what was wrong or if I had missed anything, at first when I started, I missed the thoughts "check this" or "check that" I ignored them. Only to find that things I was prompted to check went wrong, all said was Father I thank you for speaking, I am sorry that I heard and didn't obey and moved on and persevered and learnt to hear and to obey.

We don't need to sit in a darkened room, cross legged chanting love, love, love repeatedly, then try in our own strength, by disciplining our thought life to focus on God all the time during the mundane things in our life, to have an awareness of a spiritual presence.

I know the "Lord your God is with you wherever you go" it's reality in my life, God does not lie, he cannot lie, he keeps his promises. He is there wherever you may go, He is our Emmanuel, he is our high tower, he is our refuge, he is our strength and he has given us everything we need to live a godly life.

So be done with this Mystic's and there romantic mystical musings as they'll lead you down an aberrant path and into hell itself.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 1:21

Quote:

-----Andrew writes.....

"Your comment is to bring Christ himself into the realm of an angel and to make the gospel meaningless and false."

And again.....

"Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ." And.....

"Brother Frank in view of your reply I am not going to respond anymore."

After making the statement that the Church of Rome full and properly comprehends the true Jesus I am glad you are not going to respond any more but other. I will leave your above statements to the discernment of those on the forum.....bro Frank

Shame on you for your spiritual arrogance! You have no authority to remove my statements Frank so what do your words mean? They mean nothing Frank and that is a fact. Moreover I put them there by my own hand and so they are visible by my own hand.

So by my own hand Frank here is what I actually said:

"If we ourselves seek to lay any other foundation than Christ Jesus crucified for sin we have made ruin of the true Gospel. But if we do not comprehend that Christ is the Son of the Living God, we have no basis for a gospel at all. Rome by a reality of centuries has in its folds a true and proper understanding of the person of Jesus Christ."

I said nothing about Rome understanding the "true Jesus". That kind of statement is new age speak. It is a deliberate distortion of words which you do often and then hide behind a cloak of righteousness. I rebuke you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for your hypocrisy.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 2:03

I have now had the chance of reading through these writings (though remember doing so quite a few years ago) and feel that Brother Lawrence and what he said is being grossly misunderstood.

His thoughts were, I feel, put together for a specific audience, and not for your average believer. I was struck by reading that he suffered from sciatica. Now, I have never suffered from this myself, thankfully, though have known periods of excruciating pain, during which times I have had to wonder how it is possible to be in such a degree of pain, yet continue to survive, as I am unable to relieve the many symptoms I have with medications due to extreme sensitivity to most everything in life, and that includes a whole pile of foodstuff. I have heard sciatica is very painful indeed, and he lived during a time when I guess people just had to put up with things too.

But it is chronic pain that gets to you (and I have that too). Year in and year out. It eventually gets to you and it numbs the brain and you just lose the will to live. I just wonder how bad it was for Brother Lawrence and feel an affinity with him, although I don't have to live in an unheated monastery which would increase the pain greatly, whilst suffering the ill health that would arise in someone incapable of taking daily exercise, having to limp around instead. On top of it all, he would be expected to keep up with his own duties and accept his trials cheerfully.

So I wonder just how those of us who stand in judgement of him would have coped with his life. By all accounts he was indeed cheerful and joyful and peaceful, hence the production of the book to record his thoughts.

'So what is your secret Brother?' he no doubt will have been asked countless times. His answer is an inspiration to those who must go through extreme levels of suffering, which invariably lead one to start to question God. It is all very well to understand that God is with us in accordance with the scriptures, but there comes a time, after year after year of it, when things get past our coping abilities, when we have to ask 'why?'

Those who have lived lives of relative ease, having health and fitness (though of course none of us escape a few problems) and financial ease, and probable support in this 'normal world' really have no idea what many go through who are given a different tune to march to, as far as undeserved suffering goes.

In these cases, when the tire meets the tarmac, one has to find a higher way of overcoming the temptations one is constantly pounded with, to avoid the thoughts that God has indeed deserted us and does not care enough to relieve our pain and suffering. Many in these extreme circumstances, after great trials of feeling alone and empty, turn to people like Brother Lawrence who did find the means to deal with it and to become over-comers, and find peace in the midst of fire.

His answer was, that when we feel that God is not there, and the heavens feel as brass, we have to act as though we can feel He is there and close to us. 'Practice the presence' in other words. Ignore what is going on around us, and look for Him in the smallest things of everyday life, and look upon our tedious duties that perhaps increase our daily sufferings, as works in His service and learn to thank Him for these mundane works until joy is found in them and pleasure in the smallest things imaginable in life, when life closes in on one and becomes like a prison cell.

Those who suffer in this way, invariably have to put up also, like Job, with the lack of empathy from those who have an easier pathway, and who chant the usual scriptures, not understanding that there is a trial we sometimes are required to go through.

o through, a crucible and a wine-press, whereby we are forced to enter another level of being, chosen for a few, where they do learn to have peace and joy in the midst of God removing His presence, which is the worst trial of all, but the process of doing so can take years of being in darkness and despair, increased in intensity by the lack of understanding and fellowship by the main body of the church who judge us as being at fault. I am sure that Bro Lawrence went through this.

Eventually many find solace in the writings of others who have been in the wine-press and found the answer in the writings of what are known as mystics which is an unfortunate word, having been contaminated as are other such 'good' words, but have now acquired a negative meaning. Such as these have been forced by circumstances to turn their eyes away from the world, and develop the 'interior' life which basically just means that they learn to see things through spiritual eyes, and see God in everything in their lives until He become their all in all and they have His voice and comfort with them wherever they go. This is it really - the real mysticism. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 2:09

Andrew

I wonder why it is that you feel that you have the role of correcting your brethren on this forum, going into great detail of where they are wrong, yet if the table is turned and someone pulls you up instead, they feel the lash of your tongue followed by often sinister barely concealed threats? You should be prepared to accept what you hand out.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 2:31

Quote:
-----I wonder why it is that you feel that you have the role of correcting your brethren on this forum, going into great detail of where they are wrong, yet if the table is turned and someone pulls you up instead, they feel the lash of your tongue followed by often sinister barely concealed threats? You should be prepared to accept what you hand out.

That is an easy question to answer Brenda. It has been given to me to do it. If I go into great detail as you have said I do and another makes a single one line constructed reply then the answer as to whether that amounts to a reasonable way to conduct oneself lays in the detail and the lack thereof.

I take it that people can read what is written.

Frank presents himself in the prophetic voice almost all of the time. Yet when he is asked if he is a prophet he declines to formally answer it. His answers are convoluted and resist proper meaning. In fact anyone who comes presenting in the prophetic voice needs to be tested and challenged. The worse that can happen is that you will discover a false prophet and not a real one. I am not saying that Frank is a false anything, least of all a false prophet. We had this discussion more than a year ago and I acknowledged then that he had never said anything which directly constituted a claim to prophetic ministry and calling. Yet following on from that acknowledgement I have seen time and again that Frank uses prophetic language to express end time events in which he posts that Rome has a full and leading role. None of which requires a prophetic anything. You only have to read one of many thousands of books to say it.

Frank consistently fails to understand and draw a proper distinction between men and women and a religious system. As it is compassion which the Lord seeks to extend to His people, this is a massive mistake and a certain evidence of not having a real understanding of either Rome or its men and women.

There are others, Blaine for instance, who call upon Frank and Mary Jane to bear witness of their coming out of Rome to counter Greg's attempts to show a balance when we speak of Rome, especially in its historical meaning. I have a ministry to Rome, and that is especially to the darkest meaning of it, and if I were to speak of what the Lord has shown me it would result in more hearty amens from the like of those brethren who appear to endlessly put Rome down, by which they mistakenly put down its people as well. Whereas I will not put Rome down as they do.

Further, in that effort the same as these may easily cause offence to men and women of Rome, fail to truly discern who is saved and who is lost, they repeat age old statements which have no more meaning in this age in which we live and thus they are about a dead work.

As to why I correct you Brenda specifically well you know why so how does asking it have any other purpose that to provoke me into some foolish action of words?

If you want me off the forum ask Greg to remove me Brenda, as can Frank or anyone else. But as long as I am here I will post according to what my conscience tells me. When I make a fool of myself, as at times I do, I know before anyone else knows it and I do not remove the foolish comments to preserve myself.

So Brenda there we have it then. I have said it before Brenda and I say it again. If anyone believes that I need correction they are free in the Lord to correct me. But let it be a correction and not a snare of hypocrisy.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/20 4:06

Quote: Those who suffer in this way, invariably have to put up also, like Job, with the lack of empathy from those who have an easier pathway, and who chant the usual scriptures, not understanding that there is a trial we sometimes are required to go through, a crucible and a wine-press, whereby we are forced to enter another level of being, chosen for a few, where they do learn to have peace and joy in the midst of God removing His presence, which is the worst trial of all, but the process of doing so can take years of being in darkness and despair, increased in intensity by the lack of understanding and fellowship by the main body of the church who judge us as being at fault. I am sure that Bro Lawrence went through this.

Now now Brenda your turning all mystical on us, writing about the dark knight of the soul.

But how does that statement "God removing His presence" fit with scripture?

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Deut 31:9

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "He will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Is God a liar, will he break his promise.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 4:16

Quote:

-----Is God a liar, will he break his promise.

Colin, Of course not, but there is a trial which we find depicted in the book of Job, when God SEEMS to have deserted us, and Him hiding His face has nothing to do with any sin we have committed. We see it too when Jesus hung on the cross and cried out 'My God, my God why?'

We know that He will never leave us or desert us, mentally that is, but there is a time where it feels like He has become our enemy and does nothing to help us when we are in dire need - and it can go on for years.

It is actually a blessing, to be chosen for this pathway, but in the midst of the suffering, before one is given light on the reason and purpose of it, the depths of despair are reached, because we are desperate to find Him and we have a humble and repentant heart, yet still He is not to be found. Of course this trial is for those who have known Him intimately, not for the 'far off' ones.

Yep okay it is the dark night and made even darker when we are scorned whilst in it. But even that is to our blessing when we emerge, in the light with full glory. Allelulia!

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/20 4:48

For your information; when I stopped attending the church and I was praying letting him know why I wasn't going back, then he calling on my life and how he was going to do it.

His reply to me was "you'll be like Job"...

There is a sifting; And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. Luke 22:31-32

I don't know the reason why, but God allows it.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 5:05

These are two different types of trial. One is, as you say, when we are refusing to allow God to have His way with us, but the other is not the same.

In the first, all one has to do is repent, and go back to Nineva as it were. The other one cannot be ended like that and has to be endured until God chooses to appear in the whirlwind.

I have experienced the first, when I was rebellious regarding the conditions that God was providing in my life. I looked around and God was blessing others yet I knew that they were much less obedient than I was. I had believed that if we commit ourselves to serving Him, then our needs would be provided for, and I am not talking about wants here, I mean needs like being able to afford new shoes instead of having to wear ones that did not actually fit properly. That sort of thing.

It took a crisis for me to submit and say 'thy will not mine' in all things.

The other trial is not spoken of much as it does not seem to match with scriptures as you have pointed out. But reading Job we can see that he was actually righteous from the start and only sank into despair when God's presence left and not when his worldly gifts were removed. This trial is not about sin but it is to refine a man until he comes out as gold.

You speak of Peter and indeed Satan had him but he had sinned at the start so I think that the trial there was the first one and not the second.

Mystics write about the second type.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2014/7/20 7:06

Quote: You speak of Peter and indeed Satan had him but he had sinned at the start so I think that the trial there was the first one and not the second.

I don't see it that way, I see it as an attack on their faith "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not".

Like Job, he believed that you should not curse God in the heart, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.

It was faith that was being attacked, in Job's case you should not curse God in the heart and in the disciple case, the faith in Christ as they were about to see him crucified.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 9:23

Brother Andrew writes, and then denies writing,

"Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ."

This is an exact quote, one may simply scroll back one page and read for themselves. Just not sure where you are coming from brother denying you said this, very strange. Anyway it is, as I stated, not true. Very few, if any on this forum would agree with your statement " Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ."bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:14

"If you want me off the forum ask Greg to remove me Brenda, as can Frank or anyone else. But as long as I am here I will post according to what my conscience tells me. When I make a fool of myself, as at times I do, I know before anyone else knows it and I do not remove the foolish comments to preserve myself. "

These words are a softening from a man who may sense he had stepped over the mark. I pray that is the case amrkelly and you are willing to take the low road and humble yourself but if not I would urge you to tone down the drama and calm down. If I was in a public place gathered with other Christians and there was a disagreement and one person stood up saying "I rebuke you in the name of The Lord Jesus Christ " I would say the same thing I am saying above..."thats enough - calm down please". If it happened in my private home I would ask the person leave and go home and collect himself. This kind of behavior and rebuking of another in such a high minded manner, is completely uncalled for and reeks of spiritual arrogance.

While I am not calling for your removal, I will say to you amrkelly that you should consider removing yourself for a season and take care of your own heart. I rarely if ever hear an encouraging or edifying word from you these days. You may dismiss that and say your "calling" is prophetic...but to that I would say:
"Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

I along with Paul through the scriptures, I appeal to you and others here who have progressed beyond an edifying discussion to now fighting over Brother Lawrence or Tozer or the RCC..."Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:24

Quote:
-----"Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ."

This is an exact quote, one may simply scroll back one page and read for themselves. Just not sure where you are coming from brother denying you said this, very strange. Anyway it is, as I stated, not true. Very few, if any on this forum would agree with your statement " Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ."bro Frank

It is like breaking rock communicating sometimes.

Frank I know what I said brother because I wrote it. So why do you keep missing your own words. If this were not important it would be a pointless exercise.

Frank your own words in claiming to quote me were:

After making the statement that the Church of Rome full and properly comprehends the true Jesus I am glad you are not going to respond any more brother. I will leave your above statements to the discernment of those on the forum.....bro Frank

That isn't what I said Frank and it is in fact a complete misdirection of what I said. Whether you realise it or not your use of the words "Rome full and properly comprehends the true Jesus" is a new age saying. True Jesus is who precisely Frank? There have been many men called Jesus and the man who was released from his murder charge in favour of the death of Christ was called Jesus.

I know that you hate these instances of mine but in misquoting me Frank you have shown that you have not understood what I said in context of saying "Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ' as well as "Rome by a reality of centuries has in its folds a true and proper understanding of the person of Jesus Christ." What is difficult about you either acknowledging, or else if not, at least understanding that in the context of Islam, Mormonism and the JW cult, Rome alone knows what the meaning of the name of Christ Jesus really is. I am not speaking about a language class, I am speaking about knowing and understanding by faith that Jesus the Messiah (Mashiach) or else Christ (ho Christos) is the Son of God.

You don't have to agree with me but to wilfully refuse to see something so simple is a falsehood, and it is borne out of a desire to deny Rome at all costs and in all circumstances no matter what the consequence may be.

Frank I haven't written these things without proper qualified context. Blaine resisted and questioned Greg openly and then invited you and Mary Jane to back him up with your testimony to the truth of his claims. Greg pressed a simple point which had to do with trying to understand that the Catholic Church was in the first instance, a reference to the world wide church, what we might today call the true Church. It took more than four centuries for the Roman Catholic Church to appear and even then it took nearly 800 years to come to its most blasphemous condition. Many of the doctrines which are hated did not arise until the middle ages.

You cannot but see the rationale of these sayings but you insist on speaking against them or else ignoring them. As for my own posts I have really only made one simple point and that is this one in response to the misleading claim that Rome is the same as Mormonism and the JW cult which you made to rebut me saying:

"If there is even one single man or woman who belongs to an RC Church who is a true believer in the death and resurrection of Christ, then we have a serious problem, do we not? "

To which you replied:

"Of course we do not. It's a false premise. You could make that argument about Mormonism or Jehovah's witness's or P helps church in Kansas or the Arian brotherhood."

I disregarded the comment about the Phelps congregation and the Arian Brotherhood because they are so hateful that it seems to matter little what they believe. On the other hand the Mormons and the JW Cult are made up of overwhelmingly decent men and women who hold to conservative values. Thus in their case the name of Christ carries some weight to others. I was showing you Frank that the christ they name is not Christ at all, whereas Roman Catholics, who are also of ten decent and respectable people, who value and embrace conservative values, actually do know who Christ really is.

You missed it all Frank because you are too busy peddling a historical message which carries no meaning anymore.

You are free to say what you please, but I am free to say that it is wrong. So I write to try and show that one can find a proper balance in these things, or at least see that the RCC, despite all of its errors and blasphemies still holds a core and central understanding of who Christ really is in keeping with the Law, the Prophets and Christ Himself.

It's not difficult Frank. So why make it so difficult?

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:31

Quote:
-----These words are a softening from a man who may sense he had stepped over the mark. I pray that is the case amrkelly and you are willing to take the low road and humble yourself but if not I would urge you to tone down the drama and calm down.

My advise would be to call for my removal and spare me the patronising comments.

You have no idea what I am doing or why.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:31

This will be the last time I respond to you bother Andrew on this point as we are now in the realm of the bizarre. Here below is a copy and past of what you said, with the previous paragraph and the following paragraph, then I will take the advice of brother Awakened with the words of Paul West from a long time ago " play the ball and not the man." I love you brother and my prayers are with you. Here is what you wrote after being offended by my putting the Catholic Church in the same category as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses who do not have a proper view of who Jesus is, the beginning of all cults.....

"In Islam, Al'Masih Isa is Jesus. In Mormonism Jesus is a son of God, in the JW cult, Jesus is Michael the archangel. If you were to ask me therefore whether there were any born again believers in these three cults I would have a responsibility to say that they are all completely false because they have another Christ and not the Son of God at all therefore there can be none of His in their ranks. The very same thing could be said for the Mashiach of present day orthodox Jews. They too have in mind a different Christ, at the heart of which lies not only an inevitable rejection of true Christ, but the acceptance of another christ who does not conform to the true revelation of God in the Law, the Prophets and in finality of the testimony of Christ Himself.

Rome on the other hand is fully and properly comprehending of true Christ.

If you cannot make this distinction and understand its effect then you have no place teaching others anything about that which ails the Roman Church. You ought to especially draw back from bearing witness of the Christ you do know to those who have as much likelihood of putting their faith in Him as you have yourself. This is of course speaking about those who are of Rome. We ought not to make the mistake of failing to separate truth from error and then the gospel from another gospel. The Gospel is one thing and Christ Himself is a greater than the gospel. The gospel speaks of Christ crucified for sin as the Son of Man and Christ Himself speaks of He who was with the Father from the beginning, even the Son of God."

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:41

What offends me Frank is wilful and deliberate ignorance and a false self righteous rhetoric. I am the only person on this forum with the courage to say it knowing that it means the inevitable queue of self righteous haggglers.

There is nothing bizarre about it at all. It's really very simple. I would rather be rejected completely than have to do with such self righteous and ill informed men as I see in this place and I really do not care in the least part what you think of me or whether you love me or not. Save you insincere garbage for someone else Frank. It is wasted on me.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/20 10:47

by amrkelly on 2014/7/20 7:41:03

What offends me Frank is wilful and deliberate ignorance and a false self righteous rhetoric. I am the only person on this forum with the courage to say it knowing that it means the inevitable queue of self righteous haggglers.

There is nothing bizarre about it at all. It's really very simple. I would rather be rejected completely than have to do with such self righteous and ill informed men as I see in this place and I really do not care in the least part what you think of me or whether you love me or not. Save you insincere garbage for someone else Frank. It is wasted on me.

Is this really the heart JESUS would have for us to speaking with one another. I understand the topic is a difficult one and there are differing points of view but surely we can speak to one another in love and not resort to this kind of speech.

God bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 10:55

Quote:
-----Is this really the heart JESUS would have for us to speaking with one another. I understand the topic is a difficult one and there are differing points of view but surely we can speak to one another in love and not resort to this kind of speech.

MaryJane, thank you for your concerns but there is really no answer to your question and I accept that things will be as they will be. I intended to say what I said and I remain in that mind. I am not one for turning back and feigning a religious rhetoric simply to appease the wilful foolishness of others. Please do not concern yourself with this man. I have no concerns with yourself and so there is peace between us.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/20 12:21

appolus writes:

Quote:
-----In it's simplest of terms, Jesus tells us we cannot serve two masters we will love the one and hate the other, or a better translation, prefer the other. This has been my experience with Catholic Charsimatics. Speak a single word against the doctrines of the Catholic Church and you will be dis-fellowshipped. You see, Catholic doctrine is not optional for a Catholic. The Pope, in their minds, is infallible in matters of faith and morals. He is the ultimate authority on earth, he is Christ on earth. We were warned that Satan can appear as an angel of light and if anyone comes with a different doctrine from that which we have been taught through the Scriptures, they are to be rejected. Catholicism is so far removed from Biblical doctrine it would be hard to know where to begin.bro Frank

Yes, I too have had that kind of experience in trying to reason with Catholics concerning some of those serious aberrations. I remember one time I met a young lady who seemed to be a pretty devout Catholic. From all the things she was sharing with me it seemed to me that she may truly know the Lord. But once I started trying to share certain concerns with her the walls immediately went up and she couldn't see any validity in anything I was sharing, concerning things like praying to Mary and the saints, relics, etc. Eventually she invited me to one of her meetings and I invited her to an evangelistic event put up by the church I was attending, and I did go to her meeting and she did come to the evangelistic event. She may have told some of her group ahead of time that I was coming because it seemed some were giving me weird looks. Especially when I didn't go along with their singing and praying to Mary, or their veneration of a crucifix they had in the front for people to approach and pray to and kiss. Needless to say I was deeply grieved in my spirit and regretted attending that meeting.

I believe the Phelps group is a valid example of how groups can believe in the Trinity and yet be a cult. Believing in the deity of Christ is not enough, for even the demons believe and tremble at His name.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 13:48

Hi Maryjane,

There is an ancient hatred for all those who stand upon the truth. Look back down through the corridors of the last 1800 years and see how millions of our brothers and sisters fared when they dared to challenge one of the most evil, if not the most evil institutions the world has ever known. There is a ferocity in the evil that is released when Catholicism is seriously challenged. The saints of all centuries have felt it, the reformers felt it, and I say this, we shall feel it again. Yet, praise God, in every century there have been, by the grace of God, lovers of the truth who were willing to stand upon it no matter how strong the winds of hatred blew against them. God always has His people just as He has them today and I praise Him for it.

When I first came to Jesus, for two years I shared Jesus on a Catholic web page. You cannot believe the hatred that was poured out, so much so that one woman recognized this was evil and actually came to Jesus because she witnessed it. He spewing out of evil for one who was simply sharing the truth. I had the privilege to meet her when she came to Kansas for a Christian conference. She is not the only Catholic I have personally witnessed to that I have seen set free by the power of God and by His Truth. He who the Son sets free is free indeed. I would that every Catholic would be set free from the bondage of its wickedness.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 13:57

Yes the demons do believe and tremble at His name. But what is it they believe? When we are done proving that which does not need to be proven. namely the errors of the RCC, when do you suppose we will get around to representing the word of God properly and soundly?

The demons believe that God is one! That is what James says. If the allusion is always to prove Roman Catholics cannot be true Christians by such means we are become false. The oneness of God is not a basis for salvation and never has been. It is a basis for fearing God, which is the beginning of wisdom. It is the prophetic word of Moses given before the deliverance of the Law of God. It is the very reason to fear God, because he is one. Moreover Christ did not die for the demons.

Roman Catholics believe a great deal more than that there is one God, so to use this verse to support or elude to the idea that somehow it corresponds with notions of the Trinity or to an understanding of Who Christ truly is, and in the context of that to His death and resurrection is false.

How we try to deny that others believe, even though we are not their judge, and in truth we have no knowledge whether they believe or not. Only the Lord knows who are His.

As Mr Phelps is become the beacon of hope in this defamation of the benefit and effect of the death and resection of Christ to those who believe in Him, I conclude that Mr Phelps hope was in Christ. The fact that he effectively started a cult is irrelevant. Being a cult is no basis for eternal damnation, it is unbelief. We all know however that there is a desire to hang the man and by the hand of the most righteous shall he indeed hang. Hang the man and watch him dance sufficient for the cause. Thereafter we will all be grateful for the obedience of those who are not minded to hang and in it we will call them brother. I would rather hang personally.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 15:09

"Is this really the heart JESUS would have for us to speaking with one another. I understand the topic is a difficult one and there are differing points of view but surely we can speak to one another in love and not resort to this kind of speech."

Thank you for saying this sister and of course this is why I shared those scriptures on this thread, because there actually IS an answer to your question! This is NOT the heart of Jesus and we all need to remember that it is not all about us ...this is a public forum and we must be respectful to one another and season our words with grace so that we are a good testimony to visitors. If that is not something that we are willing to submit to then it is better to shut our mouths and stop talking.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 15:53

Quote:
-----Thank you for saying this sister and of course this is why I shared those scriptures on this thread, because there actually IS an answer to your question! This is NOT the heart of Jesus and we all need to remember that it is not all about us ...this is a public forum and we must be respectful to one another and season our words with grace so that we are a good testimony to visitors. If that is not something that we are willing to submit to then it is better to shut our mouths and stop talking.

You are correct Mark there is an answer to MaryJane's question. But it not one I would extend to a sister. I feel sure you will take my meaning well.

The most hateful and cruel people I have known without exception have been those who take the name of Christ. I have often wondered why. When asked in the right frame of mind, namely when the one being asked thinks you are for them, the answer is always the sweetest answer imaginable. The same when asked in a challenge will almost always answer with indignity. Simply observe from a distance and you will see how quickly the same as these will condemn others out of hand. Were it not for the fact that I know Christ lives, I would have set myself apart from most Christians permanently many years ago. It is only because of the Lord that I persist.

And here we are then where all it takes is for a man to say the word "garbage" and he immediately becomes a devil and a hateful man. The Lord Himself spoke more harshly than I have ever done in this place. I could show you the passages but I know you have no interest in these things. You are too wise and too knowledgeable to consider that you actually have

no idea who I am or what I am like or in fact anything about me at all. You judge me on the basis of a few plain words and disregard reams of sound wisdom.

You made a decision to comment on this thread and direct your comments to me personally, now in your superiority you presume to speak about me and yet to do so in disregard of me as a person. To you I spoke plainly and straight forwardly and I do that in every post. Many christians are hypocrites and fools. Whether you like to hear it or not the evidence is easily gathered.

You speak about seasoning our words with grace in order that we might be a good testimony to visitors. The history of the churches is ample evidence of the many who have been stumbled by outwards shows of righteousness and propriety, but in the end proved to be inwardly corrupt. Those who stumble at these things do so because they understand very well what hypocrisy is, even if in time they learn to bear with it. The whole of the contention on this thread so far as I am concerned, which is to say, that which directly involves myself, has to do with a single point. It is the overwhelming need of christians to judge and condemn millions of men and women whose lives are for the most part so full of misery and suffering that they are disinclined to be so hypocritical as we superior well informed men and women are. We condemn on doctrinal grounds and neglect the most basic reality of the mercy of God.

This is not the dark ages. We are not contending for the word of God with our very lives. The bible is not hidden it is in full view. Every week I post into Islamic countries around the world in Arabic and I do so without the remotest possibility of either being harmed or even tested. We are not contending against wickedness which will lay hold of us and tear our bodies into pieces. The only thing we have to contend with is the inclinations of the flesh to be lazy and unwilling to write the articles and make the post.

Frank thinks that being hated in an internet chatroom is persecution. I have news for Frank because persecution is what is happening in Syria and Iraq right now. Of those christians we say pray for our brethren. Yet their tradition is as corrupt and as idolatrous as that of Rome. But we say they speak Aramaic the language which Jesus spoke and so we imagine that they must somehow be special and therefore true believers. We judge things superficially and in doing so we become hypocrites. Yet many of them could well be true believers.

Please don't tell me to keep my mouth shut Mark by means of a proxy comment. Whether you can see it or not that is a prime example of hypocrisy. You do not say it to me, but you say it to another about me. I think that it would be better for the visitors of this site to see reality Mark and not a version of it, convoluted into self righteous words which amount to no more than whitewashing the tomb full of dead mens bones. Unlike you Mark I do not need the company of men. So whatever happens to me I can walk with it and be at peace. It is for that reason that I have said anyone can ask for me to be thrown off the site anytime they want. Not as you imagined because I had realised that I had stepped too far. Mark I did not step far enough and had we been face to face you would have known it in clearer words than those I wrote on here.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/20 16:17

He who the Son sets free is free indeed. I would that every Catholic would be set free from the bondage of its wickedness.....bro Frank

I pray for this as well. I pray that eyes would be opened, and those lost in the catholic church would see that, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

God bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 17:04

Andrew,

With respect brother. I urge you to review the SI guidelines.

This is a public forum with rules that require us to be civil toward one another. Even in our disagreements.

For that matter I will review them myself.

Just a thought, bro.

Blaine

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 17:10

Quote:

-----Andrew,

With respect brother. I urge you to review the SI guidelines.

This is a public forum with rules that require us to be civil toward one another. Even in our disagreements.

For that matter I will review them myself.

Just a thought, bro.

Blaine

Perhaps you would be so good and tell me precisely which rules I have broken Blaine. Or more beneficially what I have said which amounts to a breaking of the rules. Are we children that we cannot speak plainly? Lets get this over with. As an Englishman I could make civility look like a thug. Civility is a garment which can be put on and taken off. How do you suggest you tell someone they are an hypocrite? Or ought we not to do that? Civility is for serpents Blaine if it means dancing around with endless convolutions of words and pretences.

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 17:16

Brother, with respect, just review the guidelines. Do it in the presence of the Holy Spirit. He may or may not convict you.

I just reread the guidelines and I am convicted.

Blaine

Re: , on: 2014/7/20 17:30

Quote:

-----Brother, with respect, just review the guidelines. Do it in the presence of the Holy Spirit. He may or may not convict you.

I just reread the guidelines and I am convicted.

Blaine

Blaine I will leave things at that I can see I am wasting my time.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/20 17:36

Brethren,

We are closing the thread at this time and feel it is appropriate. There has been profitable questions raised that go past the mainstream views of certain larger topics in Christendom. In that sense there is a profitability that some questions have been raised.

A large issue is also being able to discuss things without being so flagrant with one's opinion that others are hurt. Many are at fault in this way. The one's that will walk away benefited from any discussion including this one is the one that is teachable and willing to learn from even the least.

As it stands we have brother Lawrence's book on the website in audio and video. We are glad that it will be a benefit to many and feel others have benefited from the work in the past. We simply ask saints to use biblical and spiritual discernment in anything they use or read and also have great grace towards the way people word spiritual experiences and to be slow to call something new age or a false spirit etc.

Not because it was mentioned but we do bring up the community rules many times especially on a closed thread. Our discussions are read by thousands of others in Christianity world-wide and also by unbelievers. Let us keep that in mind and show grace and love in the end to anyone you disagree with.

SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles

http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=44556&forum=13

this thread is locked.