



General Topics :: "The Purpose Driven Cult" - too funny!

"The Purpose Driven Cult" - too funny! - posted by mshelby (), on: 2005/12/1 11:50

(http://www.wittenburgdoor.com/archives/purpose_driven_cult.html) Visit the website here.

Man this is so funny!

Re: "The Purpose Driven Cult" - too funny! - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/12/1 14:27

Quote:
-----Noted consultant Dr. R.W. Tramin has helped hundreds of cult leaders find purpose for their organizations. The book The Purpose-Driven Cult grew out of Dr. Tramin's thousands of hours of experience as a motivational consultant for cult leaders, gurus, psychics, fringe Christian group pastors and others. Tramin Enterprises, Inc., is headquartered in the Cayman Islands, with holdings in Zurich. Dr. Tramin holds an earned Ph.D. This article was adapted from the forthcoming book The Purpose-Driven Cult

Is this for real or just a joke? pretty sad if it is for-real and people are serious about this. There is a lot of sad truths in this article.

Re: - posted by martymill (), on: 2005/12/1 14:35

Quote:
"It can be tough being a cult leader these days. The pressures of amassing a following, selecting a proper style for your appearance, purchasing property for your cult headquarters and coming up with a system of odd-ball beliefs, can get to you. That's why you need the forthcoming book The Purpose-Driven Cult: Growth and Stability Without Prosecution. Yes, The Purpose-Driven Cult is the perfect companion and guide for busy cult leaders."

This has got to be a joke!

Martin

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2005/12/1 17:14

Whats next? 'Purpose driven jokes'? :-o
But seriously, the 'purpose driven' quote must have some commercial value now after all the 'Purpose driven hypes'.

But this must be a joke! :-)

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2005/12/1 18:53

I checked out this site and it bills itself as "The World's Pretty Much Only Religious Satire Magazine."

One hardly finds satire written much anymore. Years ago "Christianity Today" magazine had a piece called "Eutychus", I think, which was a satirical piece that I enjoyed...missed it when it quit. That one was gentle, though.

Now you could have a thread on the value of satire!

ginnyrose

Re: "The Purpose Driven Cult" - too funny! - posted by Sir_Edward (), on: 2005/12/1 20:48

Very funny. But satire is so rarely done these days or done well. These guys are good. The problem is that it could be applied to a lot of 'genuine' Christianity as well.

Blessings.

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Re: "The Purpose Driven Cult" - too funny! - posted by Ernestito, on: 2005/12/2 1:44

People,

I don't think Jesus finds this funny at all. I understand why something like this would be amusing (I spent most my life creating jokes like this), but we need to be more sober minded.

Everything that the Purpose Driven Life stands for is something that God is grieved about. It is blasphemy to His name and is luring many people to follow a graven image all the way to Hell.

I believe that God is grieved over this, and yet we sit back and have a good laugh with it. God's heart is broken over His lost creation and we turn it into hot gossip and even a good satire.

I don't think God is too impressed with any of us laughing at the things that bring tears to the eyes of Jesus.

Rick Warren and his mass of followers maybe following a false god. But our lack of humility in mocking them (as if we're better than them) is an even bigger stench in the nostrils of God.

Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God.....not sit around and talk about everything that ISN'T the kingdom of God. Where is love? Where is humility? Where is anything that even remotely resembles Jesus?

We ought to examine our hearts.

ern

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2005/12/2 6:34

It rather makes one laugh as how ridiculous it is, not because its that funny or amusing.

Didn't someone state that Charles Finney wouldn't know if he had to laugh or to cry about the thing we call church today ? (Btw, can someone fix up this quote? I didn't totally recall it)

I doubt he found the church funny.

Re: - posted by Sir_Edward (), on: 2005/12/2 13:49

Ern,

I definitely hear you but my point at least in saying it should be funny is that it reminds me of a lot of the Old Testament prophets who used satire as well. Satire done right confronts the flesh of something and mocks it. Jesus does this with pharisees all the time particularly in the 'Woes'. Elijah does it on Mt. Carmel to the prophets of Baal. Jeremiah does it several times with God's own people. Chapter 7 is a good example where he tells them the irony of trusting in deliverance through the temple -- a temple that they regularly defile.

True satire is both humorous and sad. I think this piece is a good example of it.

The purpose driven cult is the purpose driven church right now. If you don't believe me then talk to one of its followers. Man, you would think you have insulted the Bible or the Pope if you say something negative about Rick Warren or his books in their presence. I think the guys at this website have not just bashed the cults but the who purpose driven thing as well. Flesh trying to do church should always be mocked -- in a weeping prophetic sort of way.

I hear you but the reason I find it so funny is I find it also very so sad.

Blessings.

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Re: - posted by nowayout, on: 2005/12/2 17:55

Wow. i'm disappointed to find something so trashy on a christian website such as this. did not jesus say to "forbid them not" that those that were not against, or standing in direct opposition to me were for him? What about the fact that Paul's aid some preach Christ for contention sake and others for selfish gain but i glory that christ is preached at all.

kind of hypocritical if you ask me. why waste time responding to such tripe as that found on the website listed.

Suppose someone, like me, got saved reading the PDL only to see my "brothers and sisters" bashing it. How sad.

Re: - posted by Sir_Edward (), on: 2005/12/2 19:28

NOWayout,

Assuming genuine salvation could be reached through it. Salvation does not come through anything but the Word of God and it faithful preached. This includes:

1. We are sinners which destines us to hell.
2. Jesus provides a provision for forgiveness of sins through his sacrifice and resurrection.
3. To apply this provision of forgiveness to our lives we must
 - a. Repent
 - b. Have Faith in the work of Christ
 - c. Submit completely to the Lordship of Christ through SELF DENIAL, taking up our cross and following him.

My thoughts are that if a person gets saved through this PDL, it is going to be very likely -- though not always a 'false conversion' based on personal gain or enhancement. I have strong beliefs that such a 'salvation' will not ultimately save a person from hell.

If this is wrong I ask you then -- what are Jude and Peter doing in some of their epistles but stating that some people that look like Christians are false -- what if someone saw them who were saved during these false ministers gospel heard that and were offended. Or how about Paul who contends with the Judizers -- was he wrong to do so based on your assessment.

The idea that we should accept everything that comes down the pike because it has the label of 'Christian' defiles 1 John 4's admonition to test every spirit. It is the common -- everything is OK -- spirit of our age that must be shown for what it is -- the spirit of the world and not of Christ. Even Christ himself was confrontational with the religious leaders of his day. Truth is not a relative thing -- it is something that must be found and treated as precious and the gospel can be perverted to bring about false conversions -- PDL in my opinion does that.

The Church is described by Paul as -- "The Pillar and Support of the Truth" as such it is called to defend and guard THE truth and not change it for its purposes. It must accept it and confront all perversions and false copies of it -- it has a sacred obligation to do so. Feelings are not the issue here -- Truth is.

Re: - posted by mshelby (), on: 2005/12/3 0:03

Well, I didn't mean to touch off a firestorm. I have a sense of humor and thought the whole thing was pretty funny (in a satirical sort of way.) The only thing "purpose driven" about the whole spoof was the title and the mocked up book image. The only reason the author used those things in my opinion is because they are eye catching right now.

I don't think his piece was an indictment of PDL, but was just a way to "state the obvious" about people that get sucked into cult-like activities. If PDL resembles any of the reflections in the article - I leave that for you to ponder and do with as your conscience dictates.

As for me, I got a good laugh out of it and moved on. No permanent damage done...

On the broader point - yes it is sad that many organizations lead people astray, and I am sure it grieves the Holy Spirit when it happens. I think the author was really making this very point by using such biting humor.

Many speakers will tell you that humor is one of the best ways to communicate memorable points in your sermons. It plants a mental 'flag' at an important truth or point. Each time the hearer harkens back to that humorous moment he is reminded of the greater truth which was presented as well.

I hope that was the case here.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/12/3 0:09

I am personally not finding this funny at all. And a brother that also pm'ed me showed concern. To laugh and joke about the apostasy in Christianity is not good.

Ravenhill Rebukes Pastors

http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=6684&forum=26

I was just listening to this clip because the thread came to the top of the page and happens to be on the same page as this cult joke thread. Here is some of the text from the ravenhill clip:

"This is a crisis hour! if you are not serious, I am"

"I am not interesting in preaching in ANY church! I preached 70 years I started when I was 15! I am 85. I don't sleep 2 nights a week God has a record."

Brothers this is a "crisis" hour and we need to and want to be grieved and broken hearted over the backslidden and lukewarm church. I am not trying to come down heavy but really if you think about it, we really need to start getting serious about revival.

Re: - posted by deathdancer (), on: 2005/12/3 4:37

Christ foresaw the false talking heads long ago. He said in Isaiah 55:11 ..So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. The word of God seems to have a power of its own, irrespective of the person doing the talking. It is independent, preserved, infallible and of this fact I am very grateful. False profits cannot prevail even if they mix the truth with falsehood.

Re: - posted by nowayout, on: 2005/12/3 12:57

"My thoughts are that if a person gets saved through this PDL"

First of all I did not say that PDL saved them, the grace of God alone saves.

, "it is going to be very likely -- though not always a 'false conversion' based on personal gain or enhancement. "

Let the wheat grow with the tares, or else you'll destroy the wheat as well

"I have strong beliefs that such a 'salvation' will not ultimately save a person from hell."

Grace saves and grace alone. Salvation is a gift and a free one. Offered freely maintained by following Jesus.

"If this is wrong I ask you then -- what are Jude and Peter doing in some of their epistles but stating that some people that look like Christians are false -- what if someone saw them who were saved during these false ministers' gospel heard this and were offended. Or how about Paul who contends with the Judizers -- was he wrong to do so based on your assessment."

I never stated that Paul was wrong, the Judizers were teaching that we merited our way into heaven by works. My assessment was based on what Paul stated in the fact that he gloried that Christ was preached at all.

"The idea that we should accept everything that comes down the pike because it has the label of 'Christian' defiles 1 John 4's admonition to test every spirit. "

What are you testing the spirit with? Your prejudice or the Whole counsel of the word of God?

"It is the common -- everything is OK -- spirit of our age that must be shown for what it is -- the spirit of the world and not

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of Christ. Even Christ himself was confrontational with the religious leaders of his day. Truth is not a relative thing -- it is something that must be found and treated as precious and the gospel can be perverted to bring about false conversions -- PDL in my opinion does that."

“PDL in my opinion does that. “ To make that statement about sums it all up, my opinion.

The Church is described by Paul as -- "The Pillar and Support of the Truth" as such it is called to defend and guard THE truth and not change it for its purposes. It must accept it and confront all perversions and false copies of it --it has a sacred obligation to do so. Feelings are not the issue here -- Truth is."

I agree that truth is, and Jesus is truth. I am not purposing to defend PDL, just to ask the question as to why someone would go to such great lengths to purport such a thing as the website that is linked at the front of this page.

I think it was a little critical, Paul was not satirical in his delivery. He never, to the best of my knowledge, did what the website at the start of this thread does. That was my point.

The wrath and judgment of God HAS to be tempered with his love or else you get your conversions out of just as emotional response as the PDL crowd.

My last question, Sir, is this, have you read the book, or do you stand on the shoulders of giants and their opinions? Just curious. Eli

Re:, on: 2005/12/3 19:04

i didn't read the past 4 comments. but, i truly think this is disgusting. as another said

"God's heart is broken over His lost creation and we turn it into hot gossip and even a good satire."

religious satire? I don't think this is right at all. Some things are good for some reasons, but this, is disgusting.

I can't do anything but be broken for reading this. Would Christ right that? No! because that's not pleasing to the Father. :-)

Re: - posted by Sir_Edward (), on: 2005/12/4 0:26

nowayout,

Quote:
-----First of all I did not say that PDL saved them, the grace of God alone saves

But you said in your earlier post:

Quote:
----- got saved reading the PDL

maybe you should read your previous posts better. I was merely reacting to what you posted. The tare will grow with the wheat, but servants did recognize that some were tares. How did they do this? Because tares do not look like wheat and they bear no fruit like wheat.

By their fruit you will know them. I have no desire to wipe them out but I recognize them for what they are -- something that will not bear fruit in the end.

Quote:
-----Grace saves and grace alone. Salvation is a gift and a free one. Offered freely maintained by following Jesus.

Allow me a satirical moment: DUH! Having been a preacher of the gospel now for more than 20 years this is obvious to me with one addition -- 'faith without works is dead'(James) and 'by their fruit you will know them'(Jesus) -- if the servants followed what you advocating they would have never mentioned it to the owner that there were tares in the field. How dare they? Who are they to judge? :roll:

Yes Paul glorified that the gospel was preached at all but went on to say that he wished his opponents would castrate themselves. (Literally or was this satirical moment to get them to wake up? I ask you which is worse?) Ouchh! That's harsh. Hey and what about the blinding of Barjesus. That was mean. How's that for the whole council of God in his Word?

I have studied prophets in the Bible for many years - the people they are most rejected by, and the ones they themselves are harshest with, are religious people and the religious establishment.

Quote:

-----What are you testing the spirit with? Your predejuice or the Whole counsel of the word of God?

Hey, your getting pretty good at this satire and sarcasim thing yourself. Congats. I want to know how I give Biblical examples and my criticism is not based in the Word. Elijah Himself stands as the greatest example of satire in Scripture:

Quote:
-----It came about at noon, that **Elijah mocked them** and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."

Well that wasn't very loving. I believe that false religion should be called false and if necessary mocked to show it for what it is -- foolishness. My opinion is based on studying the Scriptures for 26 years now -- since I was 10. I want to tell you me dear friend (yes for this is how I consider you) if you want the truth and you who preconcieved notions of love, mercy and righteousness turned upside down: Study Scripture! Keith Green says that and I concur. I have and that is why I hold the opinions I hold. The only thing I hold against these people in his site is that they **may** have the wrong spirit, but I don't know them to judge them -- so why does everyone here judge them just because they use satire? Satire and sarcasim are long standing prophetic traditions (Read Jeremiah: for as he weeps he speaks some of the most sarcastic things every spoken through a man by God)and prophets are not called to the world every often. Most are called to the people of God.

Of course this is my opinion but I assure you backed with may years of Biblical research and education. You don't have to share it.

Quote:

-----The wrath and judgment of God HAS to be tempered with his love or else you get your conversions out of just as emotional response as the PDL crowd.

I laugh at this, if anything in our culture the love and grace preaching we have had for the last 30 years needs to be tempered with wrath again. Ray Comfort says it as well that this preaching produces false conversions and I beleive it Where are these wrath preachers you think exist in abundance? In wrath we should remember mercy, but there is still wrath.

The fact is the weight is very much overbalanced in favor of cheap grace these days, wrath is hardly mentioned in the American pulpit and the holiness of God -- well we do become great liars when we sing worship songs these days don't we. 'Holiness is what I long for' Really? Were you a student of history enough ot know that the two great awakenings in the country were started by sermons by simple pastors -- ON GOD's WRATH

Listen, I have gone to Rick's large sermon library -- there is not one of his sermons I looked at (I looked at propably 50) that even mentions God's wrath at all. Everything is about a gospel that is designed for self enhancement and advancement. I have read and studied *The Purpose Driven Church* and used to impliment it. Now I regret this because I came to a realization. I came to me as a question one day in prayer:

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If a person or church is in prayer and is studying the Word and following in obedience to the holy Spirit would he lack purpose? No. This led me to another realization. Why does this purpose driven thing -- in all its forms -- then thrive in this country and Canada? Because we have become a prayerless and Biblically ignorant people. Holy Spirit lead? Whatever. How can you be led by the Spirit without prayer or looking to his Word. The only reason people buy this thing is they have no walk with God to give them purpose in the first place, they need someone else to tell them what it should be. The fact is the whole notion of the term 'purpose driven' stinks. Someone should write the **prayer** driven church. Ravenhill mentioned in one of his sermons that in every chapter in the book of Acts there is mention of the church praying. How come this is never focused on by a book? If someone did -- it would never get as popular as this purpose driven cult :-). It would appeal to the Spirit and not the flesh.

Yeah, I have read the books and visited the website and I have one conclusion -- The purpose driven church is nothing more than the materialistic mindset of our culture applied to church so we can do the outward signs of success -- bigger building, more people and more money. Baptist style, We Pentecostals have the Word of Faith but the principles and results are the same. Justified materialism and outward signs of success with the inward man being full of dead bones. Jesus called such people snakes and vipers, but we can't do that because it is not loving. :roll:

Yes -- I have considered the whole council of God and I believe very strongly that the purpose driven church preaches a false gospel and develops a philosophy of non-achieving religious ends. No wrath for the proud, grace to the humble. No pray and follow the Spirit. Yep - tare -- no fruit.

Re: - posted by nowayout, on: 2005/12/5 8:39

Ha!

Well said sir, very well said. I suppose I was playing a bit of "devil's advocate" by asking the questions that have both been asked to me and that some have wanted to ask in this forum.

I humbly repent for any accusatory statements that were made and thank you for the correction and for sharing your knowledge of the scriptures. This has given me the ability now to answer questions that others have asked.

1 statement brought it home, you called the PDL the Baptist Version of WOF. The sad truth? I can see that now. I can see where you are coming from.

Thanks for the insight I will use it as I continue my journey toward eternity.

I also gracefully bow out of SI for awhile, not that I have been a posting maniac, but I still have much to learn before attempting to interject my opinion on these matters. God Bless.

Re: Purpose Driven Cult, on: 2005/12/5 10:34

Ho! Eli,

Hope you're still going to read round here and pitch in occasionally. :-)

Re: - posted by Sir_Edward (), on: 2005/12/5 18:19

:oops: Well, that is embarrassing. Eli my friends you played devil's advocate very well. Consider a job as a posting actor. Salute and godspeed on your studies.

Blessings.