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## "THE GOSPEL – PLUS"

Every day we hear more bizarre stories coming from those who are purporting "new revelations", "new anointing" and "new truths". A lady recently returned from a conference with bruises. She was so thrilled that she had entered into the "real thing" in spiritual warfare and had the black and blue bruises as a witness.

II Peter 2: 1-3 warns us clearly about *"false prophets among the people... who shall privily bring in damnable heresies...many shall follow their pernicious ways..."* and this means that these false prophets are given to sensuality or that which pleases the senses (that which you can touch, see, hear, or smell) as:

"Can you feel God? His presence is now coming down like a blanket over us. Now touch Him, feel Him." A statement like this has strong power of suggestion. When you have your audience in the right mental state, they can be manipulated. They will actually believe they are "feeling God". At this point they can be blown on and a whole crowd will fall over.

Yet, you might argue, "I felt, God. I had goose bumps all over". That is precisely the reason I would have doubts. God is sovereign. He is working among His people. But, He can not and will not be manipulated by man! There are no formulas, techniques or singing of certain songs that will automatically bring down the Presence of God!

There is much talk about "a new anointing". Supposedly God is getting ready to do a "new thing"; He is raising in this specific generation a "new breed" who will do greater works than those of any other time in history. Occurrences such as light bulbs popping in an auditorium are taken to mean that the Holy Spirit was there in a powerful way.

As we hear all these things we also hear the stern warning, "touch thou not God's Anointed". In other words, do not question! Recently this warning was issued in a service I attended. A few moments later the speaker who had issued the warning walked up to a lady and said, "I feel wisdom coming from you and it is entering into me." I gasped in amazement. Yet, I was told not to question. There is no scriptural foundation for the kind of pronouncement that was just made. It was a total New Age concept. What a wonderful set-up for Satan to throw a net of deception. He is taking blind followers away from the authority of Scripture into a Plus Gospel.

However, I do not doubt the sincerity of Christians. If they have a love for the truth they will turn to the Word of God as their measuring rod. The Plus Gospel is leading the Church into unprecedented apostasy and calling it "Revival". The Gospel of Jesus Christ is straight forward. Without acknowledging you are a sinner and repenting of sin, there is no salvation. The road that leads to eternal life is very straight and very narrow and FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT. The road the Plus Gospelers are traveling gets wider and wider until it encompasses every teaching! Those are not popular words today. In the world we hear about (w)holism, interconnectedness, community and globalism. In the scriptures the emphasis is on being separate, a peculiar people, righteousness, purity and holiness before God.

*"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4).*

It is becoming increasingly difficult to live a life unto God today when all the forces of hell are bent on globalism and unity.

## **THE GOSPEL - PLUS SUCCESS**

*"...men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, SUPPOSING THAT GAIN IS GODLINESS: from such withdraw thyself" (I Tim. 6:5)*

This gospel caters to pride and self-esteem. It is based on the delusion that prosperity equals spirituality. The business world is success oriented and driven. Magazines flood the market on strategies for success. Some say the key is the packaging and others say "visualization" helped them land a multi-million dollar deal. Churches are bent on success at the expense of the pure and simple written Word of God and are accommodating the same success "tools".

Where did we get the idea that the Bible holds the key to earthly success? Christ came that we might have eternal life. Why is the Church so taken up with their pleasures here on earth? How can the world system ever possibly compare with what Christ has offered? Do the Scriptures show the way to win people to Christ is by what WE produce? Do we bring in famous and beautiful people and put them under strobe lights to perform to give the idea that we have something terrific to sell? Are we ashamed of a wounded bleeding Savior dying on a hard wooden cross? He was despised, rejected of man, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We hid...our faces from him. He didn't try to influence kings. (He called Herod a fox). He didn't get all the Jewish businessmen together for a breakfast to set up a strategy for taking the city for God. The Jesus of the Bible was a misfit in society. In human terms He was a

loser. He is a hard image to produce; package and make a palatable product for today's consumption.

Yet mega-churches that are packaging a "palatable" Christianity are springing up and growing beyond the wildest imagination. It is such a phenomenon that The Great Commission has been changed to read: "Go ye therefore and study growing churches and find out what works."<sup>1</sup> It is fast becoming a movement of, "if it works, it must be true".

In the midst of the phenomenal growth something precious is being threatened and that is:

"Orthodox historic Christianity. By focusing totally on getting numbers and meeting needs, church growth overlooks the thing that really built the body of Christ, and that is historic faith, the confession that has: united Christians for the past nineteen or so centuries...I don't think we can afford the accommodationistic tendencies of a movement that relies more on what works than on what is true..."<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, orthodox Christianity is being replaced by principles and techniques that do not have their origin in Scripture, but sadly in teachings that ring of Alice Bailey, Marilyn Ferguson, Sigmund Freud, Theodore Roszak, M. Scott Peck and other New Age false prophets. An unholy mixture has entered the church. Where did the idea come from that we need to mix Christianity with Psychology? Jesus doesn't need Freud, but Freud certainly needed Jesus!

There is a mingling that is bringing psychotherapy into the church. An advertisement for a psychotherapy magazine called *COMMON BOUNDARY* advertises that: "THE NEW FRONTIER OF PSYCHOTHERAPY IS SPIRITUALITY". In an accompanying letter it says:

"There's a revolution in the making. The field of psychotherapy is undergoing a profound transformation; you - and professionals like you - are the agents of this change."

[They claim that this magazine is] "...at the forefront of this new movement...support the integration of spiritual values and principles in the practice of psychotherapy...helping psychotherapists, pastoral counselors, and others in the healing, and helping professionals sort out the spiritual dimensions of psychotherapy and the psychological aspects of spiritual growth.

By investigating transpersonal, Jungian and humanistic psychology; pastoral counseling; consciousness-expanding disciplines such as meditation, contemplation and dreamwork; and healing tools such as biofeedback, imagery, music, etc., *COMMON BOUNDARY* clearly and painstakingly maps this emerging field...serves as a forum where author John White has discussed channeling..."

Books in Christian bookstores are carrying the same chilling themes. Advertising for *STEPS TO A NEW BEGINNING* by Drs. Minirth, Shoemaker, Fowler, Newman & Carder reads:

"Has the Four Spiritual Laws approach to evangelism worn thin for you? Try this contemporary concept! Shoemaker's proven principles of evangelism and spiritual growth [plus] the modern 12-step recovery program...combine to create powerful steps to new beginnings for searching people. This evangelism uses no memorization [old paradigm] but instead teaches you to meet each person where he or she is, and gently lead that person to meeting Christ."

October 13, 1992 *WOMEN'S DAILY* had an article about mega-churches called, "Worshipping God Big Time". There have been a number of articles appearing in well-known secular papers about these super churches. This article stated that these churches are making the church relevant to the people who would never go otherwise.

I was in Illinois recently so decided to stop by one of the churches mentioned in the article (Willow Creek Community Church). This is one of the country's fastest growing superchurches, located in Barrington, Illinois. While in the bookshop, I picked up a number of articles, tapes and booklets produced by the ministry. In their "Structure of Ministry" they had a "Statement of Faith". The statement was quite orthodox and probably could be found in many of the mainline churches' statements.

It was the Plus, however, that concerned me. An article in the *NRI TRUMPET*, March 1992 states it this way, "Little by little, Christian terminology and characteristics disappear. They are replaced by something more culturally accepted, more like the world. The pastor may even criticize the current church building and its furnishings saying 'seekers' won't want to come here..."

So, first of all the "image" must improve. One of the first things to be accomplished is to make the building look more like a corporate business center than a church. I don't particularly mind that there are no prayer books, no crosses, no vestments, no candles. But, I do mind that there is a dearth of the Word of God. Expository teaching gives way to "series" teachings. The subject matters covered by extensive tape series are basically motivational in character. In the United States today there is a national infatuation with "recovery" and "self-help". It has spawned a billion dollar industry. The bookstore I visited at Willow Creek had a strange admixture of Scripture, New Age and psychology. In the Scriptures over and over again we saw the results of the mingling with the world. It will corrupt the very soul and fiber of the Church of Jesus Christ.

We do not serve a Jesus who becomes a group therapist in the 90's. If that was so, in the 80's He was a conservative republican busy on the talk show circuit. In the 70's He must have been me - because those were the "discover yourself" years and in the 60's He had to have been a bearded hippie on the college campuses flaunting a peace symbol.

Where are we headed when we try to contemporize the Church to fit the social norms of our day? Simple, into apostasy. Give the people what THEY WANT. Tickle their ears. Entertain with rock music. Bring in the best dancers - but please do not mention sin, repentance and walking holy before God!

## Inner Child

In the bookstore I found books with very strong New Age leanings as sources. One of biggest shockers was John Bradshaw's book. His face had recently decorated the front of *New Age Journal* for a very good reason. He is a crusader for the "inner child". His material is full of "relaxation techniques", "visualization" and "guided imagery". With this technique he takes people back to their early childhood as a way to "heal memories". Is this scriptural? No! No! No!

"Bradshaw, a recovering alcoholic and priest-school drop-out, draws from family-systems therapy, wherein the individual's problems are analyzed in the context of family relationship; from transactional analysis, a school of psychotherapy developed by Eric Berne (*Games People Play*); from the work of psychiatrist Erik Erickson who analyzed the human life cycle in eight developmental stages and from the explorations of psychoanalyst Alice Miller into the effects of childhood." (Detroit Free Press 3/25/91)

Bradshaw says that adult children are masking the wounded children within. In using Bradshaw and his methods, the PURE UNADULTERATED WORD OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD is being mixed with psychology.

The whole movement seems to be obsessed with the notion that finding the "inner child" will somehow give us "redemption". Relatively minor problems are exaggerated to equal major problems. Whether you were raped by a family member or spanked (or made to go to church) - all is considered "abuse". So it minimizes the serious incest problems and exaggerates minor problems and redefines thinking to the point that even an adolescent who feels that "mom and dad just don't understand" will feel entitled to put that problem first and may become obsessed with finding a figure who "really knows" how they feel deeply on the "inside". This figure many times becomes the psychotherapist or counselor who is using techniques from "authorities" who seem to have the "answers". The evidence for this has been borne out by the following examples. A dear Christian lady recently wrote about her daughter:

"I feel the need to write you about the experience we have had with our daughter . . . our only daughter \_\_\_\_\_, will be 47 this August. As a child she was a devout girl who was saved at an early age. She won kids to the Lord. She went to Moody Bible Institute and then to Michigan State. There is where her trouble began. She left the Lord, got into the radical movement of the 60's. There were months at a time we didn't hear from her. Then in 1971 she graduated from MSU and invited us to her graduation. It was one of the most heart rendering experiences to see her in her hippie attire, the place where she lived was filthy. After MSU she just kept running from one place to another. She wound up in Colorado, still a hippie. Manitou Springs was the pit of the hippies. She lost a friend with an OD and this hit her pretty hard. In the mean time we found out she was a lesbian.

She moved on to California. She had taught school, but did not have enough schooling to become a psychotherapist. She finished her education and got her PhD. In 1989 she got her name in the Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. She has always been brilliant. She started school at 6 years of age and

in 3 weeks they promoted her to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She graduated at 16. At present she has her office in Santa Rosa, California. We have no idea how many clients she has. In 1986 we went to see her for 2 weeks. She seemed very cordial and showed us around the area. For years we could not discuss spiritual things. From her conversations we could tell she was involved in New Age and she knew we didn't agree with that.

Then 3 years ago we got one of the most shocking letters that took us days to get over. She accused me of child molestation and abuse. We were the fault of her life being so messed up.

I can stand before Jesus and so can her father and vow that this is not true. This is the furthestest thoughts in our minds. Several years ago we began to read articles about how other parents being falsely accused, even those in the entertainment world accusing their parents. It seems like a common thing now. Scripture is certainly being fulfilled – Mothers against daughters, sons against fathers. It has been years now that we've heard anything from our daughter. In her letter she asked not to be contacted ever about anything and that she spit on our religion. We have never ever once given up on her. God is faithful to reclaim and save her. It is all in His time.

Signed,

A broken-hearted mother"

This letter would not have made such an impact on me if I hadn't talked to parents who have experienced the same results from Christian counselors who have worked either through a church or a private counseling office;

1.) One wonderful Christian family raised four very normal children. The eldest son, after his marriage, slowly distanced himself from his family. As relationship problems developed, he and his wife would punish the parents by not allowing them to see the grandchildren. Yet, they are calling themselves "Christians". The son and his wife arranged for all of them to meet with a "Christian Psychologist" to mediate in the problem. During the session, none of the "real issues" were allowed to be broached. Accusations were made and the session ended with the son declaring he had been abused as a child. The parents were made out the guilty parties to have inflicted this abuse. Note: The problem was a "sin problem". That was not dealt with even though this was "Christian counseling". The other three children were horrified. They had grown up in the same home and had never witnessed any abuse. Their home instead had been a loving, caring and giving home.

2.) The second family had an almost similar experience with their son. He attended an Assembly of God Church that had a "counselor" on staff. He was having some difficulties, so decided to see a "counselor" who took him back to his childhood. Again, a home that had been a close and loving Christian family was accused of child abuse. "Memories" were brought to light that had been hidden up to this point. The relationship between this young man and his parents became strained. There is no longer the joy of being together that had once been there.

The teaching on the "inner child" in many instances brings back "memories" of events that never occurred. Starting with the premise that "problems" in our lives must have had their source in our childhood; it is then proposed that only by going back to the childhood memories can we be healed. The very core of the teaching is to not take responsibility for your life, but rather determine that someone else is responsible for your behavior. There are many adults in the work-world who can not accept responsibility for their lives. If they don't get a promotion, it is someone else's fault. In everything that happens, they will justify themselves. It is no wonder we have "no-fault" insurance, "no-fault" divorce = no guilt. What an easy way to ease out of our responsibility!

Not too many months ago a serial killer stalked our area. When he was finally caught, I was fascinated by the write up in the local papers. The horrendous crimes he had perpetrated on innocent young girls were really not his fault, but the fault of his childhood. He had a messed up childhood. Yet all of his siblings seemed to have turned out all right.

Sin has become a very ugly word. In fact, so ugly, that the one who preaches sin is characterized as being "legalistic", "dogmatic" and "out of touch". "Sins of the flesh" are now referred to as "sicknesses". Because who said so? Some psychologist whose basis was in the wisdom of the world. And who is the god of this world? Satan - and no kidding, he really does exist! As a Church have we become so infused with the world that the line is so indefinable that it isn't even being drawn any more. As Christians we have the responsibility to stand for the faith. The god of this world is blinding the eyes and the hearts of men to the truth. In the following chart you will be able to see how the "unholy mixture" is gaining a foothold in the Church of Jesus Christ.

<b>SUMMARY OF JOHN BRADSHAW COMPARISON WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH</b>	
<i>"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25</i>	
<b><u>BRADSHAW'S TEACHINGS</u></b>	<b><u>BIBLICAL TRUTH</u></b>
<p>Bradshaw denies that there are eternal laws, saying that "such a worldview has been refuted many times over." He teaches that we SHOULD not have "SHOULD'S", recommending instead that you formulate "your own Ten Commandments".</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>ETERNAL LAWS</b></div> <p><i>"Your word, O Lord, is eternal. It stands firm in the heavens. All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal." Psalm 119:89,160.</i></p>
<p>Bradshaw flatly denies the teaching of original sin, claiming it is "mythical". He sees young children, as well as "shame-based" adults as being "pre-moral", i.e., lacking moral capacity. He denies the Bible's teaching that man is born with evil and selfish inclinations because of the sin of Adam and Eve.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>MAN'S NATURE - ORIGINAL SIN</b></div> <p><i>"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Psalm 51:5</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned..." Romans 5:12</i></p>

## BRADSHAW'S TEACHINGS

Bradshaw defines man's fundamental problem as "toxic shame", meaning a "rupture of the self with self" or the "rejection of the self by the self", or the "loss of selfhood". Bradshaw's "false belief system" is to say: "I am flawed and defective as a human being. I am a mistake. No one could love me as I am. I need something OUTSIDE to be whole and OK."

Bradshaw uses the term, "I AMness", and says that "my I AMness is like God's I AMness. When I truly AM, I am most like God." He urges you to discover this "I AMness", or "true self", "authentic self", "core godlikeness", "true meaning of perfection".

Bradshaw's book *Homecoming*, is based on the concept of "reclaiming" self, one developmental stage at a time. "Championing your wounded child leads to recovering his spiritual power. With his newfound spiritual power, your SELF-CREATION begins." (emphasis added)

"When push comes to shove, I'll probably save my own ass first. But you can trust yourself." Bradshaw says to tell your "inner child" that "you are the only person he will never lose, and that you will never leave him."

Bradshaw's view of forgiveness is selfishly motivated and seen as an exercise whereby one "re-forms" the past and breaks ties with abusive parents.

Bradshaw counsels us to "reconnect" with our desires. He says that "the most damaged part of our wounded inner child is his will. The will is desire raised to the level of action. Desire flows from a connection with our needs."

### MAN'S BASIC PROBLEM

### TRUE SELF ...OR NEW SELF?

### RECLAIMING SELF ...OR BOUGHT AT A PRICE?

### TRUST

### FORGIVENESS

### DESIRES

## BIBLICAL TRUTH

Man's fundamental problem is separation from God due to his sin. He DOES need "something outside", Jesus Christ, to be "OK", and reconciled to God.

*"But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."* Isaiah 59:2 (See also Ephesians 4:18)

*"What a wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* Romans 7:24,25

Man is created in God's image (Genesis 1:27) but has fallen due to his sinful rebellion. God ALONE is the great "I AM" (Exodus 3:14, 15); that name is His and His alone. The Christian has a NEW SELF in Christ. (Ephesians 4:22-24; Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 5:17)

*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."* 1 Peter 1:18,19 (See also I Corinthians 6:19,20) The Christian is "bought at a price" and is a "new creation in Christ".

*"He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe."* Proverbs 28:26 (See also Jeremiah 17:5-8)  
God says that HE will "never leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5, Deuteronomy 31:16, Hebrews 13:5)

God promises to remember our sins no more, not counting them against us, and He commands us to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

The Bible teaches the Christian to "put off" the desires of the flesh (Ephesians 4:22-24), which are responsible for temptation to sin (James 1:14,15). *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."* Galatians 5:24  
HOWEVER, those who trust in Him are promised the "desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4



**SUMMARY OF JOHN BRADSHAW COMPARISON WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH (cont.)**

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25

**BRADSHAW'S TEACHINGS**

**BIBLICAL TRUTH**

"I will determine with whom I will be sexual. I have the right to determine how, when, and where I will be sexual with another person. My only guideline is respect for my own and my partner's dignity." Bradshaw condones homosexuality and other sexual sin, having forsaken the standards of God's Word.

**SEXUAL STANDARDS**

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." Ephesians 5:3

"Anytime we make someone into a guru, we diminish ourselves. Tell your inner child that you will be their guru." Many of Bradshaw's teachings encourage a WORSHIP of oneself, in place of God.

**WORSHIP**

"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised." Romans 1:25

Bradshaw asks us to "meditate on nothingness", on "just being". His meditations are New Age and reveal a pantheism that is characteristic of Hinduism rather than Christianity.

**MEDITATION**

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night." Psalm 1:1,2

Bradshaw says that he likes to ask Jesus for favors, and he sees Him as "Godlike", but nowhere does he acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God, or that He is Lord and Savior. Not once does Bradshaw mention His death and resurrection, which is the central message of the gospel.

**JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is GOD, and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 2:2)  
 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." Hebrews 1:3

Bradshaw places heavy stress on "being" over "doing". He says: "Most of our wounded inner kids were taught that it was not OK to just BE--that we could matter and have significance only if we were DOING something." He admits that "homecoming" is a "secularized" version of the Christian concept of justification by faith.

**BEING VERSUS DOING**

Salvation is the gift of God, not something that is earned by our own works. (Ephesians 2:8,9) However, note how this is FOLLOVED BY works: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

Bradshaw laments that "you may go to your death never knowing who you are."

**DEATH**

A far more serious concern is that you may go to your death never knowing who Jesus Christ is. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) To those who go to their death not knowing and believing who He is, He says: "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." (John 8:24)

(Chart used with permission from Debbie Christian)

## Wholeness

One of the small group study books I picked up at Willow Creek had all interesting group study of authors. One has a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and another, a doctorate in the field of integrating Biblical studies and Psychology. The name and emphasis of this particular study book was WHOLENESS. If you study the New Age at all you understand this is the very basic bottom line. It changes the focus from MAN THE SINNER to MAN who only needs to connect and become a whole person.

This book speaks of New Age spiritual activities as "attempts" to reconcile our physical life with our emotional and spiritual dimensions....

When we read what prominent New Agers say, we are in shock as we recognize what is really happening. Benjamin Creme said:

"...the Christian Churches have released into the world a view of the Christ which IS Impossible for modern people to accept; as the one and only Son of God sacrificed by a loving Father to save us from the results of our sins - a blood sacrifice, straight out of the old Jewish dispensation. We have rejected this view, left the church in our millions; because it doesn't tally with our knowledge of history of science and other religions...to my mind the churches have over-emphasized .the divinity of Christ. He is divine but in the way you and I are divine...the idea of a Christ who comes from the sky from some mythical heaven; that the clouds are going to open and He is going to come down in a long white robe; to my mind all this is ludicrous...does not tie up with our modern scientific knowledge of human psychology..." (The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom, Benjamin Creme, Tara Press)

Yes, the attack is upon the old rugged cross. 'The cross of Christ, which is so despised by the world. Our only reconciliation is at the foot of that cross, acknowledging that we have a sin problem and humbly ask for forgiveness from God and from our fellowman. If there has been the terrible sin of molestation and child abuse, there is only healing at the foot of the cross, If you have been wronged and abused, there is only healing for those memories at the foot of the same rugged cross.

Reconciliation with a "Christian Psychologist" many times involves getting the parties together and trying to join them somewhere in the middle - there must be no blame. Therefore, there is no uncovering of the sin which is the root of the problem. The sin problem is not addressed and a synthesis or mutual understanding is supposed to be the solution. When we look at the New Age we find that coming together and forming a synthesis seems to be of utmost importance to develop a holistic attitude orientation. If you do not "go with the flow" you will be labeled a "resister". The "flow" is very strong. I remember standing at the Niagara Falls looking down at that mighty roaring torrent of water. As I was standing there I felt this terrible urge to jump over the side and just go down the falls - knowing it would mean certain death. I have never had any suicidal tendencies and was quite bewildered why such a thought would cross my mind. In retrospect, I realize it was the sheer force of the falls that caused that feeling to become part of it.

Today we have more than that kind of force very active in the Church of Jesus Christ. It is almost irresistible:

"To advance into New Age thinking, Church members must rid themselves of status quo thinking. All must be aligned with the vision, its concepts and vocabulary; first in mindset, then in small diverse groups within all types of organizations, and finally amalgamated into the total overriding design...which align with a universal world view devoid of Biblical Christianity." (*NRI TRUMPET*, Greg DesVoignes, May 1992)

If you have been involved with any of these teachings, forsake them immediately at the risk of you own soul. Do not get sucked into the deception that is sweeping throughout the world. Repent! Return to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Answer!

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1 [The Ultimate Church](#), Tom Raabe, Zondervan Publishing House, 1991. pg.49

2 Ibid. pg. 11

Jewel van der Merwe

## **DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE 1992**

"I can best describe the recent DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE, 'With Joy We'll Welcome His Returning' through comparison with other conferences I have attended in the past.

The other conferences seemed to focus on experience. It was common to hear comments like, 'I didn't get anything out of the worship' and 'I didn't receive anything' or 'I just needed a word from God'. While these comments are quite harmless, the theme throughout seemed to revolve on a need to 'experience' something. Experience often determines the perception of the message and meeting. How often I had left these meetings full of renewed enthusiasm only to have it ebb away in the following days. I often cried, 'I need to be fed! I need a deeper revelation of God!'

The emphasis on experience and the absence of sound doctrine (for the sake of unity, of course) ultimately produces people who make experience into doctrine. The vacuum produced by minimizing doctrine begs to be filled. Experience becomes the focus and we are drawn to those of like minds - calling it the 'unity of the faith' rather than having faith according to the scriptures.

The DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE was a true manifestation of the unity of faith that so many seek after. In attendance were lay people, pastors and leaders representing several denominations who came together for the sake of the fundamental unchanging truth of the Holy Scriptures. There were different views present with a mixture of Pentecostals, Baptists, Church of God, Catholic and Independent denominations - however the unity of the FAITH was present. All who attended were joined by the critical need to hold fast to the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword. It divides those born of the Spirit from those born out of soulish experience. Thank God for opportunities like the Discernment Conference and the opportunity to be strengthened in the faith."

**Diane Ward**