

Christianity

(The Deceit)

*Is Your Belief
The True Spiritual Path*

Claude Roberts

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Dedication

Carmen Garcia, for what you've encouraged and for helping me find the way to God. Without you and the years we've shared would never have bought a fork in the road that led in two directions. This was God's plan. But like the colors of the rainbow, he blended a family together, although at times apart, his spirit kept us close.

To my Mother, who always believed that I can do anything and for having my best interest at heart, you've instilled love, kindness, expressed the importance of forgiveness and more importantly, the value of treating others as you would yourself. There was never a time where you discouraged, doubted or second-guessed. A mother's job is to protect her children and raise them in the way they should go. You've gone above and beyond, our burdens became a bridge of encouragement you built to show us that life would not always be as we expect, but by putting God first, guidance and protection will always keep the road clear.

Dr. Robert Case, Pastor: a man who exemplifies Paul's teaching of faith through their works of care, understanding and giving to those rejected by society's bigotry. "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2 24-27 (ESV). With earnest sincerity and a pure heart, you give that which others selfishly deny themselves. sharing the gift of selfless giving; you are the example all other pastors should follow.

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Christianity for today's generation has conformed to a stylish intelligent form entailing fallacy and worldly views thereby failing society and leading a fallen world further into an abyss, God's word never changes, but we're living in a nation where our inclination obscure that which is objective therefore, if it sounds good, then it must be true. For this purpose, the "psychological mass deception, seduction and public manipulation" has led this society into a trail of selfish ideals, cupidity, depression and abhorrence of others, not to mention family destruction, world separation but most concerning, indoctrinated heretical doctrines.

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Introduction

America, land of the free, seems however, we have now become a world of “democratic partiality.” Everything from our speech, actions, and course of living to cultural ideals has been stripped away. Sadly, the one recourse has been removed from our institutions, educational system and replaced with heretical practices and bias. Accordingly, there will be much denial of the truths uncovered within this book as devout followers of one religion or the other hold true to their belief as sanctity. To many, the cultural ideals they've come to know and cling to so dearly may be too much to fathom. For others that have found something to believe in, the facts you're about to discover may seem farfetched. With this in mind, this country has allowed unfamiliar traditions to set our cultural bounds of Christianity and the ways in which we define it, for a majority? It is how their religion is explained; others proclaim undeniable faith through it. So the question then, has become, what is Christianity, what makes someone a Christian, how has religion shaped this country including the way we form opinions towards it, are the beliefs we've embraced sound practices of someone's enduring fate? To find truth, or not, in unbelieving claims and bring clarity in face of controversial attribution on the validity of God's inerrant word, including its accuracy, history is visited. In the end, fallacies are refuted, revealing verity in what this world controvert.

That being the case, it comes with awareness that an innumerable amount of false practitioners, unbelievers and followers from one sect or another will amount to fortification for the purpose of categorizing this author as a Heretic. With this intention, their goal in view of not comprehending beliefs they've swallowed, is casting an unbelievers shadow over that which has been manifested. Given that I've openly admitted there's no shame of the Gospel where I'm concerned (Romans 1:16) and accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior, understanding he's the only way to God, how then, can one be classified an unbeliever? In short by identifying false practices and revealing truth you're labeled a “Heretic” (A person who has denied the faith or doesn't believe the truth then reject God and become an apostate). Sadly, there's much credence towards age old religions specifically new ones encompassing claims, interpretations, imposing views that diminishes the importance of Christ. By way of contrast, they refer to (Titus 3: 9-11) *“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.”¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹ You may be sure that such*

people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. Sadly, we're part of a nation that continue to be led astray, so, who's the heretic?

During those early years as a child, I grew up learning that Sunday was a traditional day for the Lord. Giving thanks by attending church and like a hologram not faint, picture folks dressed in their suits, chic with each man modeling pride. And the women, classy, colorful they appeared as fashionistas whose couture syncs with its bearer.

Remember the Pews? So hard your Heine hurt but when you moved or complained grandmother or some old shrew hushed you whispering, "Keep still." You see, being part of that Christian upbringing in both catholic and episcopal (Anglican) churches was really confusing for me. At the time, I was not sure about my role as a young churchgoer or belief into my teenaged years as with many of today's generation. This all became a custom for me however, does it sound familiar? Then there was Sunday school, which seemed like day care at the time, somehow that had some form of semblance. Those who taught read what sounded like fairy tale stories of Jesus Christ. But is it not called the greatest story ever told according to modern day realists? Throughout history, Christianity continues to not only be used as a loose word explaining our Christendom (Christians collectively, or the Christian world) but a particular religious' system that has turned away from the true faith and biblical understanding according to scripture. More importantly are the contending sects for a different way of teaching the bible and spreading the word in reaching a younger generation. Consequently, a wave of new and doubting followers has sprung up to follow non-doctrinal contending faiths. Even more damaging is Catholicism, the faith and system of the Catholic Church (Roman Catholic Church).

Catholics position and belief that the authority of the church lies within the hierarchy as in the Pope would be aghast if they understood this goes against God's biblical teaching. Additionally, Catholic Churches as well as many Episcopalians/Anglicans and Protestants teach and believe Baptism becomes a sacrament that regenerates. This has been a justifiable ritual for centuries especially within the realm of Catholic principles, Protestants and Post Modern churches on the other hand see it as an outward testimony of a prior inward regeneration which has long been one of the most controversial points of doctrine since the church began. However, it is contrary to biblical teaching. Being baptized symbolizes man's identification with Jesus Christ. Paul explains that "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." (1

Corinthians 12:13) That spirit being Christ, (Romans 6:4) is clear, that in Christ's death, His burial and resurrection: "we are buried with him by baptism into death," and we also should walk in newness of life."

Likewise, emerging churches that advertently claim Evangelism is everywhere. Alarmingly we are seeing huge mega churches now teaching the need for love and fellowship. Others are into positive thinking, wealth & prosperity, the charismatic movement, and New Age philosophies. Here everything is relative. They're conducting God's purpose for the church and world through storytelling, missions and sharing "journeys." Dimmed lighting and moments of thinking are encouraged, as there's no need for sound scripture. The emerging/emergent church movement in particular holds a basic post-modernistic thinking. Everything is about the 'journey' over reason, spirituality over religious obedience, images, idols and cinematic films over God's inerrant words ("Inerrancy" refers to a text that is considered accurate, truthful, and totally free of error. Any text that contains mistakes is errant), feelings over truth, you might even be seeing this slowly creeping into your church. These signs and practices are reactions to modernism, and yes, are thought to be necessary in order to actively engage our contemporary culture and in growing the church.

There also appears to be a movement for a calling of works (Missionary work) by going out into the world and helping the less fortunate, hungry and impoverished. Do we have that part right? Not exactly, Faith without works is dead, and missionary work is not what The Lord talks about. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Walking in spirit according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, being humble and accepting of God's grace. With attention to the first mention of Christians when Barnabas departed to Tarsus, to seek Saul, when he found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled (the Apostles) themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Refer to: Acts 11:26). Far contrast from what we consider Christianity today.

Mostly all churches present in some way shape or form misinterpret the Lord's great commission (Matthew 28: 18-21) "and Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Because of this human ministerial invasion, America has become a home seen from all spectrums as secular.

Hopefully through this book, a more open perspective will be drawn rather than emotional for your belief or doubts. More importantly, a true understanding of what it means to be a Christian. They are countless deceitful religions as they are men masking their true beliefs, and here we discover them arming you with the necessary tools, terminology, but most importantly knowledge to detect and defend against these deceiving false doctrines that continues to stifle and mislead millions caught in its web. In the conclusion, we'll define Christianity, determine what is religion versus religious, which teachings are false uncovering (the deceit) then identify not only all that is wrong within our society, but where this world went wrong pointing out the direction where this nation needs to go as God intended.

Above all, the research shared within this book is not according to my views or interpretation, neither is it a probable understanding of God's word or personal theological assessment. After my studies of World Religion for the past 15 years, numerous debates, conversations with Priests and Pastors alike from countless denominations, seminars and Bible Theology studies, this is based on the Church's principles, beliefs and teachings. Most importantly, part 1 of this series reveals the inherent, inspired word of God, not translations, neither man's thoughts. Through His (God's) Grace, I've learned that too many scholars Theologians who feel that those who never attended a seminary or Bible college/school are depraved, too sinful to fully understand the Bible on their own and therefore needs a "consensus of teachers" (Priests/pastors). Unfortunately, this sounds much like a Catholic Magisterium.

Further, "consensus" is an agreement that may or may not be true. Moreover, how does one correct an authoritative magisterium? In words applicable to all saints, Paul exhorted Timothy *the individual* to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Are we not all workmen? God said "take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things, which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Deuteronomy 4:9). Rightly, many cite Second Timothy 3:16-17 as evidence for the sufficiency of Scripture. But we may sometimes forget that preceding that portion is verse 15, which state, "from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Paul is speaking of Timothy's familiarity with the Word of God. Back then there were no exposure to a "consensus of teachers" On the contrary, Paul wrote, "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tm 1:5). According to Romans: 10:17) so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So then, are the leaders you look up to today right that the Lord has gifted individuals as teachers? In his letters to the Ephesians 4:11 Paul said: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (verse 12)? Yet in (Acts: 8:1) "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." These were ordinary believers who subsequently went everywhere preaching the word (Acts: 8:4) certainly then, they understood the Word of God.

Also, consider, in Acts 18, the case of Apollo's (who was truly "mighty when it came to the scriptures"). Although he preached the "things of the Lord," the baptism of John was all Apollo knew (verse. 25), not that the Messiah had come, lived and died on the Cross, buried, then rose again. Two disciples on the other hand, Aquila and Priscilla, took him aside and "explained unto him the way of God more perfectly (verse. 26). To end, agreed, there are those equipped to be teachers, but even teachers as God said and the world has witnessed, go astray regardless of any official consensus. Paul wrote that the saints were to "prove all things and to hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We are rest our faith in the wisdom of, but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2: 4-5). So I urge you, don't take my word for it, open your bibles and discover the truth for yourselves.

Christianity

(The Deceit)

Chapter 1

Society is made up of people like yourself, including everyone else in it, all with a relatively common perspective. So then, the question here becomes, what is your belief? We all have one. Most know of God, some have idols, others see the world for what it is, then there are those with a universal view, and followers under “inner me” perspectives, New Age mentalities, or more, emerging thoughts. Today our societal woes continue to shape traditional and cultural ideals into a worldly and non-biblical nation.

Unfortunately, more of those things are continually being stripped away by the many ordinances, resolutions, and laws forced upon us with no alternative recourse, not to mention worldly influences from all spectrums of media. Consequently, countless religious leaders, at least for those who view them as such, are contributing to outlawing true Christianity, at least in the biblical nature of God’s word and provisions. Moreover, any conceivable thought, or action of instilling the values we were established on? Over shadowed by a Post Modern nation, where everything is relative and all viewpoints are valid.

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe." Before I go any further, this is not a personal attack on anyone's religious belief or followed leader. This is merely a factual insight to the many false misguided religions, misleading teachings and beliefs that continue to lead so many on the wrong path. More importantly, a trail of deceit into a loose religious faith, moreover, a commonality called Christianity. People of this generation have conformed to stylish intelligent words of fallacy and worldly views of a falling society, if it sounds good, then it must be true.

For this purpose, the “psychological seduction” of Christianity is leading this world into a trail of sorrow, family destruction, world separation, and indoctrinated heretical doctrines.

A New Movement for Social Acceptance

ACCORDINGLY, OUR CENTRAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT have removed the vital rock in which we once stood on and replaced it with foreign cultural deficiencies. No wonder we're lost and confused about who we are as a nation, people, and most importantly, core beliefs. It seems the only time America comes together is during times of grief, disaster or loss. History from mid-first century AD has brought us into conflict between all that is "true" and what's not. Sources of those beliefs have been stripped away and replaced with triumphant adherents, at least in the eyes of followers and biased media conglomerates.

Christianity was once occupied with true orthodox interpretation of salvation and faith. However, contrarian opinions have defined new ways in presenting contradicting doctrines. Incidentally, influential figures play a confounding role of sharing prevalent false doctrines. If you were asked to name your most influential person and spiritual advisor, who would that person be? Billy Graham, Robert Schuller, Rick Warren, Joel Osteen Maybe Mehmet Oz? This may surprise you, but neither is as successful as and more influential than Oprah Winfrey! Her programs then drew audiences as high as 12.4 million daily. Why am I including Oprah? Not only because of her promotion during the final program in contribution to her social charge and what appeared to be a new found idiocracy that apparently seduced millions of viewers who not only believed, but more than likely conformed to her beliefs. As a guide for you the reader in understanding many dangers of these foreign reliance, this opening chapter introduces those abstractions because 'how artful homily can sway a desiring heart away from that which is right'.

*"People often ask me, 'what is the secret of success of the show? How have we lasted 25 years? I non-jokingly say, my team and Jesus, because nothing but the hand of God has made this possible for me." (<http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/The-Oprah-Winfrey-Show-Finale> 1/1).
"I'm talking about the same one you're talking about. I'm talking about Alpha and Omega, the Omniscient, the Omnipresent, the Ultimate Consciousness, the Source, the Force, the All of everything there is, the One and Only G-O-D"*

(<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/05/oprahs-last-show-a-recap-in-quotes/239483/>).

Aside from how great her speech sounded, if you're not clear as to exactly who this "One and Only G-O-D" is, let me clue you in. Many commentaries expressed their confusion about this deity Oprah paid homage to on that final day of broadcast. What *should* be clarified, is the "Jesus" and "God" she described? Is undoubtedly not biblical according to scripture, but it may be clear for some, especially those who share her views. True Christians on the other hand might feel otherwise. No matter how you phrase him or what he is called, (some say "if He is who He says He is") Only God of the bible is omniscient, no other so called gods concocted by humans can adjure to His sanctity. Oprah's widespread influence on spirituality is attributed to what is known as the "New Age Movement" (of which she chiefly promoted, by featuring self-called gurus like Shirley McLane, Marilyn Ferguson, to include Marianne Williamson). Specifically, Winfrey featured the highly supported psychotherapy as a solution for all of life's problems, through self-help theology and practices, all of these, Oprah dished up to her audience daily, and based on what I've seen, the courses were superb.

America has accepted her spiritual teachings, however, crediting her ability to make even Hindu/Buddhist concepts fit within Christianity should not, and cannot be complemented or taken seriously. This has been the course of human curiosity and acceptance. Bearing these mixes of deceitful religions, she has fed to viewers for years, for the most part, professed Christians have been largely ignorant of these teachings. Widely, women were led as recruited cultist design. As a result, the goal has effectively disabled her viewer's ability to decipher non-realism from realistic revelation. Therefore, the door to the body and authority of spiritual truth has been closed allowing mixtures of thoughts, opinions, speculations, guesses, or whatever a person "feels" regarding the nature of God to be doubted. Oprah's own "Christianity" was made evident by her as she denied God on national television making clear a new made up Christianity of Mind Sciences, New Thought, Religious and Christian Science. What you may not know is all these are an incorporation of teachings and ideas of Eastern mystical religions, nothing new.

Although they appear to bear religious names, all are opposed to Christianity as defined biblically. In defining Oprah's belief "a packaged theosophy of hidden knowledge or wisdom that offers the individual enlightenment and New Age Philosophy". Oprah's background however is Baptist which she later gave up somewhere between stardom and self-realization theories.

Quite disturbing though, was Winfrey's claim that her *"eyes were opened to the fact that "God" was bigger than the doctrines she had been taught,"* and was excited when she discovered views that taught her there were many ways to God besides through Jesus. Oprah continued by saying *"the Cross, to her, was not a matter of Jesus' reconciliation of man to God through His payment for the sins of the world, but rather a preeminent lesson in overcoming the obstacles in one's life."* *"I recall that transition period in my life when I began my search for more than Bible doctrines."* What a shocking surprise to millions of viewers who in one way or the other, adapted to worldly views of a seemingly spiritual teaching that sounds acceptable which has been put up for sale, passed escrow, and sold to the highest bidders.

Simply put, promoting the deification of self, and salvation through good works. Most interestingly, are her inviting theories and humanistic philosophies (Humanism), fashioned and extend beyond rationale. Oprah Winfrey continued, *"What if "there are many paths to what you call God? Her path might be something else, and when she gets there she might call it the Light, but her loving and her kindness and her generosity, if it brings her to the same place it brings you, it doesn't matter whether she calls it God or not."* Those are Winfrey's words as she considered her Christian view against a non-Christian woman's path to God. Sorry Oprah, thanks to yours and countless others marketing plan, Christianity has been turned into a marketable commodity and the ad strategy is "ideological thinking/works salvation." Be that as it may, "All roads do not lead to the same place." Jesus Himself said "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me" (John 14:6 (NET)).

So as to sway "the following" with her empirical drive, she took it a step further. On October 18th, 2015 seven billion people, searching for connection, redemption and meaning. Oprah Winfrey presented a seven-night event she called, "Belief," the media dubbed it a "groundbreaking television event exploring humankind's ongoing search to connect with something greater than ourselves". In Effect, journeyed to the far reaches of the world, "places cameras have rarely been", the television event took millions of viewers on a ride and searched origins of diverse faiths, to the heart of what they felt really matters. "From the epic to the intimate, webbed throughout each hour are stories of people on spiritual journeys, taking them to sacred spaces." Uniquely riddled, how can anyone not be enticed?

In light of the thousands of people Oprah Winfrey aided over the years, what she has attained and things accomplished, there's nothing but admiration in my heart. In the long run, it won't count for anything without the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and putting nothing else above Him. Every one of us are given an unimaginable gift, the opportunity to spend eternal life with God. That's mind blowing to say the least! Moreover, that isn't something man re-imagined or invented either. In fact, from the book of Genesis through Revelation, scripture explains how you can make this a reality. Meanwhile, Oprah notes, the purpose of religious faith is generally tethered to the big and imponderable questions. Sure sounds like Winfrey don't it? She then asks, "Why are we here? What does this all mean? Is there a divine order to the mystery of our lives? So finally she admits there's some Godlike nature about us that's mysterious? To explain, her quest for meaning, those questions were ventured through a variety of ways. After making a pilgrimage to Mecca where a skateboard whiz converted to Islam, down to south pacific islanders who, shoulder death-defying leaps of faith postulate it will lend to the bounty of their harvest, the television event was bent on exploring how ordinary people find meaning.

Stories even included an Evangelical believer who searched for spiritual strength when her faith was tested. Sadly, and unfortunately, she was raped. There were segments however, that did acknowledge the violence publicized in the news daily being perpetrated in the name of religion. But mostly "Belief" tackled the topic of religion in a more elevating fashion, sort of 'Refashioned exciting TV. As the show continued, "Winfrey's narration noted "Life is a "journey" we are not meant to take alone. In like manner, devoting some portions of the event to how love figures into various religions. Hence, other topics like death and dealing with tragedy followed, but there we are repetitious prompting formulated around targeted themes. To that end, clearly Oprah Winfrey leveraged her wealth and platform to disseminate her personal crusade. So that her social charge of "do good works" and self-empowerment phenomenon reaches an untapped world, the program's forthrightness to other religions may not have appeared to be such a huge deal. But "Belief" lacks credible support and dubious. However well intentioned, the program was fitting to a brand Oprah owns known as OWN.

Read more at: <http://www.oprah.com/belief/Oprah-Winfrey-Presents-Belief>

Notwithstanding, In God's revelation of Himself through His son Jesus Christ, we have come to know His attributes. Without it, we would be left to speculate, guess if you will about an infinite God.

Consequently, this is often the basis of countless religions existing today. Unfortunately, the deities, self-prosperity beliefs, word faith movements, self-realization, reincarnation, Buddha concepts, universalism, Atheists and more are products of a fallen human race. The creator of all things has declared Himself in precise detail. Mankind on the other hand, decided to mire in mythology, society is sold on this. As a result, professed biblical Christians including baby one's and pastors are being bamboozled, falling into a web of delusion. Many are being hurled, muddled if you will in their thoughts about God by counterfeit-biblical sources, specifically best-selling Christian books, current Christian television programming, in similar fashion, Oprah and her conjured up beliefs. In order that this world continue into this spiraling descent, God's holy character is vilified down to appealing ideas that usually pleases lusts of the flesh but are not scripturally sound.

Even more, contributions of misleading superficial relationships with false imaginable deities, Self-realization theories stemming from inner me perspectives, which turn into being lovers of ourselves. John, the beloved Apostle, in his epistle explains that believers love God because he first loved us. (1 John: 4:19). Have we then turned away from what we came to understand, believed? The simple gospel, that God became a Man in order to reconcile us to himself through His life, death and resurrection? He provided the gift of salvation for all mankind by paying the infinite penalty for all our sins. The end result, the Lord Jesus Christ saving us. As a reminder, Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:12-13).

Misguided Leadership

Perfect example of Winfrey's ambiguous guidance leads us to Evangelical leader Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest California. Pastor Rick Warren's Church averages a weekly attendance of approximately 20,000 people. Mr. Warren becomes a brief focus point of this first chapter to Christianity because more than any other Evangelical (Emerging) pastor, his marketing campaign for popularity and notoriety has him on just about every major media network and forum. In addition, his most publicized book called "The Purpose Driven Life - What on earth am I here for? A book published back in 1997 and re-released for a younger generation has attracted millions.

Let us talk about that later, what I'd like to focus your attention on is his interview on national television aired Christmas morning December 25, 2012 on CBS This Morning where host Norah O'Donnell asked Popular pastor Rick Warren about his support of and defining marriage between a man and woman. She started her interview by quoting the second greatest commandment - "love thy neighbor as thyself" - then asked Warren "Why do you oppose same-sex marriage?" Warren responded by saying *"We're in a democracy, where nobody wins all the time - okay. For instance, I happen to believe life begins at conception. But that's not the law. We have a wide spectrum in America, and we have to work for the common good, and that means, sometimes, what I mean being 'co-belligerent'.*

For instance, *"I don't agree with everything that the National Organization of Women supports. But when they are opposing pornography, that objectifies a woman's body, I'm a co-belligerent with them. So, I don't happen to agree with everything that my gay friends believe, but when they want to end AIDS, I'm a co-belligerent with them."* I've wondered how many times Mr. Warren rehearsed that answer! Let me ask, how many people do you suppose know what "co-belligerent means? Well, Co-belligerence, strictly speaking, is waging a war in cooperation with another against a common enemy without a formal alliance. The term co-belligerence indicates remoteness and differences between the co-belligerent parties although jointly pursuing a common objective. In Christianity, it refers to an alliance between denominations, which are normally opposed on doctrinal grounds, for a common social goal. (Theopedia: An Encyclopedia of Christianity).

Most interestingly, Pastor Rick has flip-flopped so many times on where he really stands on this issue. See his reverse by visiting the link provided.

(<http://christiannews.net/2012/12/04/rick-warrens-regret-over-making-video-supporting-biblical-marriage-questioned-by-family-group>),

In spite of his views, problems arise with Rick Warren's remarks and stance. Evangelicals or in this case emerging church leaders like himself are spending too much of their time in attempts to reform this current culture, thereby being distracted from the mission and responsibility to the church; different from what Scripture tells us *"watch out for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I am gone fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Even from among your own group men will arise, teaching perversions of the truth to draw the disciples away after them"* (Acts 20:28-30 (NET)). In regards to co-belligerence, it's used to describe Evangelicals who are aligned with Catholics opposing abortion: called "moral evil." Unfortunately, we cannot be moral to each other because apart from God there is no such thing, we are all sinners and are naturally selfish evil humans.

With this intention, daily in our thoughts, actions and selectiveness, we sin. So basically what leaders such as Rick Warren millions look up to is saying, Women are guilty of committing the sixth commandment. But who are we to cast judgment? Romans 14:1-13 teaches us *"As for the one, who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstain pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. So then, who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in their own mind."* Now, I agree it is wrong, but how can any group or society have any cultural impact apart from Jesus Christ? Christians and church leaders alike need to focus on preaching the true word of the gospel, not practicing cultural reform.

In view of the fact that changing our laws will not change this sinful immoral culture, only a personal relationship with Christ will do that. Co-anchor Charlie Rose asked Rick Warren "you have to be tolerant of other people's views. And so, if they differ with you with respect to Christianity or with respect to some of the things you say, you are tolerant and accepting that they came to their beliefs in a genuine way, and have to be respected for that." Church pastor Warren responded by saying that *"the left has changed the meaning of the word "tolerance" to further their agenda."* He went on to state that the problem is 'tolerant' has changed its meaning, the word used to mean I may disagree with you completely, but I'm going to treat you with respect. That's what tolerance means. Today, to some people, it means you must approve of everything I do. That's not tolerance, that's approval. There's a difference between acceptance and approval. Jesus accepted everybody no matter who they were. He doesn't approve of everything I do or you do or anybody else does either.

So, you can be accepting without being approving. That's an important point." Sadly, Rick made a major error in his explanation of why Jesus came, what he did, and those he accepted. First of all, Rick Warren's cause is "Ecumenism" this mainly refers to initiatives aimed at greater Christian unity or cooperation with all denominations. This explains why he doesn't have a problem working with Buddhists, Muslims, Mormons, Catholics or any other religious sect. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, this I agree with, but as Paul himself said in (John 3:17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, ***but that the world through Him might be saved.*** Secondly, if a man walks into an assembly, or anywhere falsifying the word of truth, upholding all that is against your core beliefs and or strict valued upbringing, you're saying that Jesus is okay with that and would accept them? Hold on a minute. (2 John 1:10-11) tells us "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works." Third, of course there are those who deny God, and have other beliefs. God said there would be. But he also said, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2Corinthians 6:14). Furthermore, there will continue to be many who disagree and argue with the true Christian way, but with that, we are to "Be diligent to present yourself approved onto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, ***rightly dividing the word of truth.*** (2Timothy 2:15).

In regards to "Tolerant," here's where I agree partially to Mr. Warren's answer. Tolerance has been applied and redefined to 'all beliefs, values, even our lifestyles, and that all truth especially claims are equal' because we are living in a world built on certain values (Not Ours but of introduced foreign ways). Denying this according to world leaders and those with different views on Christianity makes a person 'intolerant', for some dismissing of their views thereby worthy of contempt. But, this argument is illogical, self-refuting, and explains why it justifies most of Anti-Christianity in everything we watch and hear in the media, not to mention children shows, including our daily lives.

With this intention, children are being raised in a society that's saying we must be accepting of all beliefs. Adults even practical Christians are promoting the concept "anything can be done through one's own thought or opinion." Two thousand twelve (2012) Presidential nominee Mitt Romney vied for the White House seat. Christians willed, voted in his favor, here is the problem many ignored, Romney is a Mormon and Mormons do not believe in the true Christ. In the hope that President Obama not in support of their non-biblical positions was then removed, by doing so, at least they stood a better chance of "outlawing Christianity altogether. Again, turns out none of this really mattered and consequently this emphasis has overtaken public education and more alarming is how it has permeated all parts of our society, even churches.

Religious leaders are not to, and should not focus their attention on building relationships with unbelievers, or those preaching another Gospel denouncing the word of our Lord and Savior, but instead being stewards of God, and bringing people closer to Him employing a better understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:8 say *"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."* The core elements of what this world was created on, and built around is today new world order. According to Rick Warren and our leaders, why can't we all just get along? Here is why, many people have different beliefs, attitudes, and selfish goals. Living in a world filled with sinful thoughts, ideals, and unforgiving ways separates us from differentiating what is biblical truth and what is not because too many are blinded. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"* (2 Timothy 4:3).

Now, regarding Warren's comment about Jesus accepting everyone! He healed, he fed, mended the broken hearted, and offered all salvation through his infinite sacrifice for our sins by dying on the cross. The scribes and Pharisee asked Jesus for a sign, he told them; *"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits eviler than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."* Jesus was clear when still speaking to the people *"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother"* Matthew 12: 43:50; Jesus did not accept those who followed other doctrines, but instead paved the way for them to repent. Neither did he preach any other gospel of acceptance for those practicing other religions and followed Satan's deceit. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).

So then, if the world does as God says, *"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God"* (1Corinthians 2:4-5). Accordingly, more people would not be led into a belief of contradiction with scripture or false ideology. Christianity should not be looked at as a "blind faith" because it is not. As a faithful follower and believer of Jesus Christ, Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching (2 Timothy 4:2). Regarding my mention of Warren's book earlier titled "The Purpose Driven Life - What on earth am I here for? In no way do I intend to take away from what RW good intentions may have been, but there are concerns and serious implications about content in his book which leads readers away from Gods truth and desire for all men to give up their evil ways and instead turn to him.

Here is an honest and fair overview of Rick Warren's book. I recommend you put it side by side of the bible as you should compare God's truth verses our assessment. Rick Warren's book acts as "a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable the reader to discover the answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for?" You'll find this on (p. 9). RW argues that a forty-day period is the biblical precedent for life-change (p. 10), "Why am I here?" The following five life-purposes he outlines:

1. You were planned for God's pleasure [Worship]
2. You were formed for God's family [Fellowship]
3. You were created to become like Christ [Spiritual Growth]
4. You were shaped for serving God [Spiritual Service]
5. You were made for a mission [Evangelism]

Non-Biblical Theological Perspective

FIRST, GOD DID NOT CREATE MAN FOR PLEASURE. Secondly, Fellowship is sharing ideas, interests, and fun time with each other, so the idea of Fellowship comes from a Post Modern perspective. Here all viewpoints are equally valid because society has now led to relativism, the idea that all truth is relative. Basically meaning what is right for one denomination or group is not necessarily true or right for everyone else, get it? Okay then, in Christianity, Postmodernism claims that this only applies to us Christians, and not to those who don't follow Jesus Christ; therefore, sexual morality, remarriage (Luke 16:18) has become more acceptable. Warren's third purpose completely steers away from spiritual doctrine. No one can become a God, and his assertion of becoming like Christ misses all Biblical meaning and understanding (see Mormonism and New Age Concepts). When God created man he did so in his image. **Genesis 1:26** "Then God said, *"Let us make man in our image, according to "Our likeness;" let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* Not be Gods of themselves or over others. Man cannot become like Christ, nor be like him, we were all born into sin, additionally, our hearts are naturally evil; "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (Matthew 15:19 KJV).

Spiritual growth on the other hand according to modern day preachers can be obtained through "His (Jesus) divine power that supplies us with everything we need for life and "godliness" through our knowledge of him. That by being a part of the divine nature of God and escape the corruption of this world through perseverance brotherly kindness and love; He will more than likely keep your life from being ineffective and unproductive".

Unfortunately, this imaginary concept is considered "HUMANISM." pastoral leaders such as Rick Warren try to lead their followers with "worldly" ideas that are unrealistic false promises of hope, encouragement, and an "inner-perspective" view "one's-self "Self-Realization." Another familiar phrase used is "walking in the spirit," where do they get this stuff from? Well, **2 Peter 1-11** actually. The apostle Peter outlined the steps one must follow to obtain entry into God's Kingdom. He says nothing about your spiritual growth, but instead "Fruitful Growth." Peter said, *"For if you add these things 2 Peter 1-8; 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the "knowledge" of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Truly what he's saying is, we are to be diligent and add to our faith the Knowledge required in having a better understanding of the one that paid the price for our sins "Jesus Christ." But if we fail here, Peter reminds us in verse 9 *"For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."* Spiritual comes from the Latin word "*Spiritualis*" of breathing, of wind, and used out of context when trying to preach the meaning of this particular passage. Furthermore, countless people are misled into believing they can achieve "spiritual growth" by being as Christ was. Anyone who looks at themselves as their own counsel is following the wrong Gospel. Consequently, in this case, they'll more than likely fall away from their faith at some point in time, even start hating the church when things don't go as expected or, as with many, start questioning the inspired word of God. *"There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; "The poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eye" (Romans 3:9-18 KJV).*

Actually, if you're a new follower of Jesus Christ, or even a long standing Christian, and wondering where to get started on your journey as the Emerging leaders teach, there is no number of essential steps for you to move forward. There is only one way and that's through the Savior. I'll be the first to agree "*For it is by God's grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*" (Ephesians 2:8).

Even more, the importance of knowing how much "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV), remains one of the most important essentials of acceptance in someone's faith. Repentance of one's sin then allowing and looking to him (God) for whatever our needs may be. In by doing so, *you are renewed in life*. In the same way, what if you're posed with the challenge of sacrificing your child for the sake of God, in so showing your faith, trust and belief, putting your love for Him before all else? This is what God did for us.

Above all, believing "we are shaped for serving God" as RW suggests in his fourth concept leads to "Positive Thinking" especially when you comparatively associate it with Spiritual Service. The theory of positive thinking is that your thoughts positive or negative, influences the body, mind, personality and thus health. Thus, believed that one's thoughts can even influence other people and the world around them. As a result, the success or failure is allegedly created by the power of one's mind. So are people to believe that giving back and serving others is a gift to God? Service is not faith in action, neither is it the works in which our Lord and Savior speak of. Faith without works is dead; a man is justified by works, and not by faith. This is so not what many practice today.

Catholics, Emerging Church followers, especially Lutherans have taken what James spoke and turned it into a working creed, engulfing themselves with missions, feeding the hungry and loving on others. Can this be the road to heaven and as claimed "being Christ-like?" Don't get me wrong, my personal calling from God is helping others in need because I truly care, not because my ministry calls me to get out there and serve. "*He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done*" (**Proverbs 19:17** KJV). "*If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.*" (**Proverbs 21:13** KJV) "*A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.*" (**Proverbs 22:9** KJV)

God is saying expect no reward and he will in turn grant you those things you're deserving of, Surprisingly, to you, He knows what's in your heart, and the ways in which we show partiality, condemnation of others as many churches' do, and grudging to others. Lastly, Warren writes *"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."* John 17:18, (quoted from Message Bible). *"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me."* (Acts 20:24 NCV).

Finally, Rick Warren tells his readers that God is at work in the world, and He wants you to join Him. This assignment is called **your mission**, and it is completely different from your ministry. Your ministry is your service to believers in the Body of Christ, while your mission is the service to those unbelievers in the world. God created you for both. Your life mission is both shared and specific. One part of it is a responsibility you share with every other Christian, and the other part is an assignment that is unique to you. Our English word "mission" comes from the Latin word for "sending." Being a Christian includes being sent into the world as a representative of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." There are serious implications here and you the reader should be concerned, especially if you consider yourself Christian. Not only has he quoted much of his writing from the **Message** bible translation, which should not be used because it is wrapped in paraphrases and not a Bible as the author Eugene Peterson diligently mentions, but throughout the book he misrepresents God continually.

Even more, the scriptures quoted are not in context with his relative views, it is misguided and goes far beyond misrepresentation. You see, God did not create us to serve unbelievers. This was explained earlier about our creation. Neither is your ministry a service to believers. (John 17-18 KJV) Jesus was praying for his disciples. Not that he wanted them to go out in the world and do work or serve unbelievers. Jesus was glorified in them, thereby asking his father to *keep through his name to the disciples because they believed. Verse 17: Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth. 18, as you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.* Jesus is saying to preach the true Gospel. But Rick Warren like many other mega church pastors negated the true purpose and meaning of the passage. Jesus then said in verse 19; *"and for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."* In context, the word "sanctify" in this verse means "to consecrate, or to set apart persons to God" (Ex. 28:41; 29:1, 36; 40:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Christ uses the Word and his father to do His work within us. Sanctification is not the eradication of our sins, or of "old selves" without human ideas or speculating, God takes his word and sets us apart from the world to Himself. This means that as a follower and true believer, a person's behaviors and actions are distinct from others, (at least it should be) those who do not believe and are not followers of Jesus Christ. God's word sanctifies us thru everything we do in our daily lives. Faith grows in His grace through the knowledge of His word which is truth, and as in obeying, we are sanctified by him through our acceptance of him. Jesus prayed to His Father already set apart to God.

This was the night before His death on the cross. He was dedicating Himself "that they too (his Disciples) may be truly sanctified." Jesus's death eternally separated believers to God and his kingdom. "Sanctify them in truth; Your Word is truth" Just as Jesus was set apart, so are believers. "The truth" is the "Word, and the word is truth." Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." we hear the Word, understand the truth and obey it. This changes everything about a Christian's behavior, their giving and forgiveness of others. God wants us to have a personal relationship with him. His purpose is for us to live by and in his word. This is the meaning of sanctification according to Scripture.

Concerning Warrens disturbing claim (pg. 10) *"The next 40 days will transform your life."* Sadly, enough, the book is divided into forty brief chapters he says, where readers are urged to read one chapter a day so they'll have time to think. Thinking involves the implications for your life. Then he goes on to say "The bible says, "Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think, then you will know what God wants you to do" Romans 12:2. Here again the Bible is misquoted as he takes writings from the "**Message Bible**." The Apostle Paul in all the letters he wrote, expressed his gratitude for those who would receive it in 1 Corinthians 1:4, except of course in his letter to the Galatians, who turned from the true gospel and caused him to refrain from using any opening commendations (Gal 1:6-12). Romans 1:11-12, "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established. He continues in 12 that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." Context is very important to the understanding of scripture. Knowing the analogy plays an important role in how it's interpreted.

Specifically, Warren's verse comes from Romans 12:1-2, 12 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Jesus is not saying, "you will know what he wants you to do. God wants you to renew your mind with his word because we are weak, poor in spirit, uncertain, undisciplined, unfaithful and sinful. Most importantly, God would like you to understand and apply his principles in your life. One simply cannot receive his promises and deliverance if you do not renew your mind through Jesus and with his word.

This is a basic foundational principle in order that you may live a more fruitful abundant life promised in the gospel of John. Romans 12: 2 warns us; *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* God does not want you to be 'conformed' to this world. Why is that? Who do you think the ruler of this world is, knowing there is only one God (2 Corinthians 4: 4,) *in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them, which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

That God of this world he speaks of here is the devil, the adversary the thief. Read John 10: 10a and learn what this thief does. His ministry is to steal, Kill and destroy. Don't let this world shape, mold, deceive, and control all you do, because it will eventually kill and destroy you. Those are the secret to the devil's success. Concluding on Spiritual gift, it comes from the Greek word "charisma," which means "gift of grace," a spiritual enablement with our Lord and Savior. Romans use this term to describe Christ and general blessings from God (1 Tim 6:17). Also, specific spiritual gifts given to members of the body in minister to the whole (1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11), Paul intentions here are to encompass all three. Mutual refers to Paul's genuine humility 1 Peter 5:3-4).

Warren then tells readers "The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people forty days to change" (Jonah 3:4). From a city of evil ways to one that believed in God, "So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 And he

caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, let neither man, nor beast, herd nor flock taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

As I mentioned earlier and will once more, Rick Warren is no doubt a sincere and genuine Christian leader, and his book is filled with important, practical truths; truths that many believers often times seem to either ignore or forget. For example, Warren reminds us that "time on earth is short and our fruitfulness now will count for eternity." He also emphasized in this book the importance of humility and servant hood in your life, something many customary Sunday attendees and Biblical fundamentalists should heed. He also effectively addressed the matter of temptation, and I'm assuming he means spiritual victory over everyday temptation. Although there are many positive aspects of his book, we should also keep in mind that Warren is guiding millions of readers who believe his teaching or may turn to it on a "spiritual journey." Therefore, any error, lack of Scriptural soundness, misinterpretations and misleading terminology needs to be addressed and brought to light as was done here.

Overall, an alarming number of churches publicly endorsed Warren's book. Some have hosted their 40 Days of his Purpose driven campaign, among them are the United Methodist, Nazarene, Baptist, Free Evangelical, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist, Lutheran, Assemblies of God, Calvary Chapel, Vineyard, International Pentecostal Holiness and many others. Unfortunately, countless Televangelists that have passed religious leader status by their followers such as Billy Graham, Bruce Wilkinson, Max Lucado, Franklin Graham and Lee Strobel have endorsed and recommended Rick Warren's book. So why does this book have such strong appeal among such a diverse spectrum of denominations? Apparently they've ignored its content and feel it poses no threat. Likewise, the book stays silent regarding the dangers of false doctrine and minimizes the importance of sound doctrine and differences altogether.

Intentional unspiritual guidance is never noticed if you're the common bible reader or modern day follower. Neither is there a reason to question whether or not the same spiritual journey embraced by Rick Warren's church and other leaders alike is a spiritual journey that is faithful to God's Word and thereby worthy of his calling. Overstepping a person's "free will" is not something God does. He inspires you to do things, but in the end, it is you who make choices, God never forces anyone to do anything. If you feel that something in your life is not in line with the "word of God" then act and overcome it by following true scripture, not the message Bible or a book claiming to be a guide leading one towards spiritual growth and better life. There is only one-way to that, and it's through Jesus Christ not charismatic words of men.

To put it briefly, Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life" contains sloppy Interpretation of Scripture, too much Integration of Psychological speculation and Application. Pastor Rick supplements Scripture with psychological principles which people today more so Christians have embraced in and out of the church, there's also speculations throughout his book that the reader can better analyze and understand their own human behavior. There are references to untrustworthy sources for spiritual guidance, absence of Important Spiritual truths to help anyone on a Spiritual Journey, Holiness and Separation, including Doctrinal Error Regarding Important Biblical Truths. Incidentally, the books Premise; Thesis is Inconsistent with Biblical Scripture.

The Bible is very specific and declares only one purpose for us and includes women's existence, to glorify God and accept his son as our Lord and Savior in the acknowledgement of our sins. Abiding to His law, accepting the gift that promises eternal life. "The Purpose Driven Life" seems to be a book promoting a possible guide to everyday living rather than a spiritual one. As Warren ends his book on (pg. 309, he expresses to the reader, "In this book I have passed on to you what others taught me about the purpose of life; now it's your duty to pass that on to others." First, let me put this all into perspective: (2 Tim. 2:2) reminds us *"stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our (the apostles') epistle"* (2 Thess. 2:15). The Word of God is sufficient enough to equip the believer "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

I agree, the Bible is sufficient, and of course, God does use pastors and teachers to minister and teach believers even un-believers in the truths of Scripture, but He also uses you as well. Never “put your faith in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (2 Corinthians 2:5). To emphasize, pick up the bible yourself and see if it’s true. The Purpose-Driven® Life is inconsistent. Whatever spiritual journey Warren speaks of is misleading. Acceptance of his insights suggests you’re just looking for something to believe in, a good read possibly and is thereby lost and taken in by the seduction.

Note that when a Christian leader like Rick Warren reduces the importance of well-founded Biblical interpretation, they convince the reader the Bible says whatever he the writer may have said as in this case. Secondly, anyone who argues or disagrees with Warren’s interpretation becomes either a hater or bad talker because interpretation in today’s society has become relative and irrelevant. Warren specifically states in his book to the reader that focusing on “Interpretations” of Scripture results in division (p. 162). Therefore, any criticism towards The Purpose-Driven Life for faulty interpretation of Scripture will be labeled “divisive.” Lastly, not only is this a defensive fault, but blasphemous and leading the flock astray. Any serious discerning Christian or believer should be concerned and question Rick Warren’s purpose. The book is not consistent and does not teach the faithful words of God. As such it should never be taken as a biblical standard for a spiritual journey and everyday living.

Emerging movement, what is it, who are they?

Christianity in many ways has become fanciful amongst this new generation. For this reason, culture restructured an appealing reinvention that’s relevant to society. Because this new traditional generation seems to ignore relevance of scripture, a restoration, authentic and vintage period is in order, so as to not change the message, but instead introduce prodigious mediums making it more accommodating and receptive to the world. While offering new ways of experiencing God, many are rethinking what it means to be Christian and they’re being guided with a purpose-driven cause.

OPPPOSITE TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PURPOSE AND IDENTITY, Emerging Church leaders like Rob Bell, Brian McLaren, Rick Warren, Tony Campolo, John Burke, Mark Driscoll, Doug Pagitt, Dan Kimball, Tony Jones, Dallas Willard and in between all of them Karen Ward to name just a few, have all either deny the true meaning of what they teach to now call themselves Evangelical (*note: Evangelical faith focuses on the “good news” of salvation offered to all through Jesus Christ. Their core theological convictions provide “unity” in the midst of our diversity. According to the National Association of Evangelicals*). Make no mistake, these are not only some of the top Emerging leaders in the world with large followings, but their teachings are unaligned. For the most part, you’re just a regular church-goer who listens to or reads the bible occasionally if at all, many cases you claim “I like the church because they don’t care who you are and accepts anyone” and I think we all agree on one thing, their words and common sense approach to the Bible make sense. (Non-denominational) common response heard far too many times. Unfortunately, if you’re an attendee seeking something new, different and believe in any of the listed leaders, consider yourself part of the deceit. Here’s why, you’ve engineered a new way of experiencing God called “evangelizing”. But during the process of doing so, whether by conversion or preaching aspect, God’s contextual revealing word fashioned for your delight has become meaningless.

Emerging Church is a broad and by far the most controversial misunderstood (as the leaders and followers would put it) movement, they use culturally sensitive catered charismatic approaches in reaching people like yourself called (postmodern, un-churched population, or non-denominational), with the Christian message purposely entwined. An example of these churches includes the use of props such as candles, statues and incense. Others start with uplifting popish current styled music played by bands to get you excited. Most common are poems, open microphone, (movies) videos, sharing each other’s stories, quoting other writers works from books who themselves are heretical. Emerging services are sometimes informal, while others are more formal seeking to reach those who are lost by focusing on relationships, there’s an influx of marriages within the church and developing a "journey of life" that is expressed through "narrative" of learning or commonly intuitive life groups. Surprisingly your “well respected pastor” uses these terminologies in describing religious experiences.

That is to say you've probably heard the term *"imagine or reimagine," "tribe," "story of Jesus," "your journey" "deconstruction," self-esteem, Oikos (actually a Greek yogurt and a Greek word meaning house, household or family), realization, reflection, uniquely, other words like becoming, Christian conversation, coherantism, contextual, growing, missional, myth, narrative, story, story of god, story of Jesus.* Sometimes there's an ambiguous feeling within and new found desire to experience God, sharing in the lives of others as they go on their "journey" in finding God in their own way. Some Emerging Churches focus on environmental matters or issues while few concentrate on those that are local. Many affix to causes like Human Trafficking, feeding the homeless, giving clothing and free laundry services. Most recurrent however and more times than none they downplay doctrine, reinterpret creeds, and de-emphasize traditions. Obviously, experiencing such praxis, you may have become deprived, confused, making it difficult to identify not being concerned about the veracity of emerging practices.

Likewise, Seeker-sensitive churches are sometimes lax doctrinally, where they present the gospel in a loose way, but still hold to orthodox theology. These Churches attempt to meet people's needs by creating programs. Instead, Emerging Churches accomplish it by investing their time in the lives of people, appealing to their sensitive nature. Seeker churches target ages are those in their thirties and up, whereby Emerging tend to reach a younger generation, those in their teens to thirties. Comparatively, both are somewhat similar and are now attracting an older generation, so just how do you distinguish between the two? Generally, Emerging churches and those slowly introducing the practice within their congregation are reaching those who are lost in this post- modern culture. All is relative no matter what you or someone else thinks, it doesn't matter, "God is love" therefore we must all love each other no matter the gender.

Moreover, attracting many others in their search for something different or more fun thereby rejecting doctrinal absolutes, and, of course, proclaim to be emerging, but steer away by calling themselves Evangelical, mostly by promoting community. Through and by design, Emerging churches do not encourage opening of bibles during their services, but may at times do so. Whereby others may desire to "reanalyze the Bible" against the context into which it was written often occurs. Perfect example of this goes back to Rick Warren's teaching and remarks of God loving everyone.

Emerging Church followers should take note of this including those attending. Many times “frame of reference” are used un-aligning the text; this always leads to not only misunderstanding, but major errors, misinforming believers. For instance, the phrase "God is love" (1 John 4:7-16), *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love not that we have loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”*

Notably, many conclude that “God” loves everything and everyone with such a sensual type of love. To the contrary, let’s put this into literal and grammatical context here, “love” is referring to “*agape*” type of love, the essence of which was sacrificed for the benefit of others, not a sentimental love. Historical context is crucial as well, why? Because John’s letters addressed believers back in the first century church, as he instructed them not exactly on God’s love per say, but how to identify true believers from those who are false prophets. Now “true love” the sacrificial kind, is the mark of true believers (v. 7), for those who do not love, do not belong to God (v. 8), God loved us before we loved Him, not the other way around (v. 9-10), and these are the reasons why we should love each other, thereby, proving we are His children (v. 11-12).

In regards to the phrase "God is love" in context of Scripture, to keep us from coming to a false consensus, which is common that God is only love, or His love is always greater than other attributes, he possesses, simply not the case. He’s faithful and trustworthy to his word of everlasting life, graceful and merciful, omnipotent and omnipresent. Today’s Society continues to accept that which is false and throw out those things that are true.

Getting rid of doctrine because it divides! And besides, it doesn't really express love! I mean really? "How can this world show love when all we know is narrow-mindedness and so many are dogmatic about doctrine?" We hear God is love in so many venues, but we should take the message of God's love, "in His love." Jesus did say, "Go into the world and preach the gospel." What's for certain is He did not say go into all-the world and love one another. (Mark 12: 30-31) *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all-your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" There is no commandment greater than these.*" There cannot be one without the other.

Emerging leaders took this commandment and made it into a fashion discipleship of followers loving on one another. For most people the meaning is very clear. But let us come to the true understanding and practical application of Christ's words to the scribe. To love thy neighbor as thyself taken at face value as millions have would be for me to treat others with kindness that they might be kind to me. God said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." (Jeremiah 17:9). Here's food for thought, "love without God only brings sorrow." Yes, he commands love, but "in the will" not through emotions. Love is a commitment to God. Wherefore liking one and not the other as God said, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen (1 John 4:20). In other words, liking one, but hating another, this is a trait many claiming Christianity carry today. All things considered, members and leaders of this Emerging movement place high values in social activism and works.

These churches are seeking the post-Christendom approach through missions, renouncing the imperialistic approach to cultural imposition and language; they're making 'truth claims' adding humility, respect; overcoming public and private dichotomy. We are seeing the movement of a fallen society to one which is in unity with many; a transition of maintenance and control, to an institution about the false movement and cause. There has been a growing commission and social conscience by men to go out into the world and love on those around us. Particularly, a cultural shift perceived by indoctrinating beliefs of what sounds good and appealing to a world filled with self-greed, hate and selfishness. Subsequently we accept Ecumenical (unity) dialogue advocating and embracing the Christian Theology in the church's effort that you can be like Christ (one with him).

Sadly, accepting narrative approaches to Scripture, thereby systematically inserting the process of “exegesis” (the critical explanation or interpretation of text, especially of scripture) in orthodox theology. What this all means is that in your progress as a follower of the Emerging church towards truth and a better relationship with God deserves a new way of presenting the Bible. There should be a better understanding for new believers and others by creating conceived experiences via testimonies, sharing of meals, giving to the less fortunate, communal practices, and “study groups.” Emerging churches have created of course for you; an environment where your opinions would normally be rejected in the conservative fundamental church. There are no absolutes regarding salvation or conduct. As such, you can attempt to buy your salvation by participating in community service, global justice, and hospitality in your efforts to share the Lord’s grace. Back in 2006 at an “Emerging Church forum” John Franke stated, *“The church of Christ is not the goal of the Gospel, just the instrument of the extension of God’s mission.”* Without a doubt, at that point, he along with other Emerging church leaders were either lost themselves or truly Satan’s workers.

First of all, God is the body of the church, and he is the reason for its existence. Secondly, their focus of a place in heaven through missioned loving, arts, unity and community service does not favor God’s acceptance.

Do you experience or feel any of the following?

- I. Being part of an institution that feels more like a sorority or family?
- II. Church accepts you in their community within (interpersonal groups).
- III. There is a fellowship amongst people. You feel one with each other and one with Christ.
- IV. Connect strongly with the 'body of Christ' like a communion of spiritual life, hope and caring for others by going out into the world and sharing.
- V. Church holds the principle of unity within its members, which dwells in Christ and in you.
- VI. An outward means of grace, (outward experience & sacraments, scripture) are secondary; but at the same time there is an interior union within you of God affected by grace?

Then you're not too far off from the Catholic and Protestant perspective. Additionally, music, art, short films and movies embody the element of "worship". Hey, more like a heavenly spiritual tourism getaway right? All this leads to social discipleship of following Christ. Sorry to say this has nothing to do with "being born again" or "Christianity." Although there is no harm in keeping up with technology, interestingly groups are emerging out of Emergent generations making "synoptic gospels of Christ" via Facebook, twitter, other online social venues and new-based technologies by publishing their day's events for the world to view. Through other forms like blogs and centralized communication like church websites, community boards and more, other secular cultures are embracing this Emerging "contextual theology." Post modernism has undoubtedly arrived feeding those who are starved for entertainment, images, relationships and stories.

But appealing to a younger generation of youth's and culture means re-inventing the bible including the way it is presented. All Scripture *is* given **by inspiration** of **God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16). Not surprising, this generation has fallen away and embodied un-idealistic practices and needs to be reconciled with God. Subjective, your desires, personal perspective, story, in other words, how you feel about Christ are the things planted in the minds of emerging disciples. Now, you might say that I'm just misrepresenting or misunderstand these up and coming evangelical churches, but re-shaping theology and God's word to suit today's culture? Not Christianity.

Brian McLaren once said "*I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion.* It may be advisable in many circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu or Jewish contexts rather than resolving the paradox via pronouncements on the eternal destiny of people more convinced by or loyal to other religions than ours, we simply move on. To help Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and everyone else experience life to the fullest in the way of Jesus (while learning it better myself), I would gladly become one of them whoever they are, to whatever degree I can, to embrace them, to join them, to enter into their world without judgment but with saving love as mine has been entered by the Lord."

McLaren talks of transformation here and being Christ himself. Look, we cannot become Gods. And even though it appears we control our destiny, a house divided is one that falls. Specifically, our life experiences as Christians are to follow God's commandments. But there is a fault, The Lord himself said "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Learn what better? Bearing the burdens, he bared for "all our sins"? Oh wait, Brian speaks of the great things Jesus did for those who were poor and sick. Aside from becoming "followers of Jesus," one of the first things a person must do is accept and enter the Christian life putting your faith in Christ that you may "live by faith." I implore you to open your bibles, if you never got around to it, get one, find or borrow it from a family member, friend, college colleague or classmate, open it and read how Paul exhorts us, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him*" (Col: 2:6).

We can do nothing as sinners or "learn it better ourselves" for our own salvation. Looking to Christ through worthiness and dependence to be saved is the only way because it is by his gift of Grace that he lives through us. By and large, there's nothing more powerful than God working in our lives, which becomes evident through your character and Christ likeness. (Gal: 5:22-23) "But the fruit of spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." In conclusion, free yourself from the "appealing Christianity" that has guaranteed you success and popularity. Too often we see celebrities, politicians, and programs enticing multitudes with false beliefs that are contrary to a true Christian life; "Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds" (James: 1:2). Likewise, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man, God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10: 13).

In avoiding these truths, the emerging church continues to have success with their "user friendly" Gospel approach. True scripture is based from the bible. The emerging movement needs to learn and stick to the essentials. The end result becomes heretical when you continue to teach and mislead your followers in believing life journeys, missions, loving on one another and rejecting doctrinal absolutes. Being arrogant and failing to admit error will only lead one into a short lived life of no value to God due to your denial(s). One final thought, it may not be "magnanimous" in the eyes of those who are in collusion with the Emerging church and its leaders to object and bring their truths to light. Many might say they're brethren's in Christ. We should encourage and pray for biblical discernment from all that preach or claim to be Christians

and in this case the movement. (Hebrews 2:1) *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard lest any time we should let them slip.”*

End of Chapter Preview