

General Topics :: How to confront a sunday school teacher?

How to confront a sunday school teacher? - posted by jlosinski, on: 2007/8/4 1:56

Hello,

I need some advice on how to confront my sunday school teacher about the content of his lessons in our young adult class; he is a subscriber to the "emerging church" movement and constantly focusus on the postmodern christian school of thought (an oxymoron!). Our church is the North Pole Missionary Chapel, a holiness denomination, and though I do not fully subscribe to their convictions concerning manner of dress, I do believe that their teachings are in concordance with scripture.

The problem I have with the class substance is that some of the sermons are from one Brian McLaren, a post modern preacher who has spoken at a church pastored by an openly gay pastor, and alot of the articles we discuss come from this magazine www.relevantmagazine.com

I do not agree with this philosophy of the social gospel, and I know that our church doesn't either, however I don't think that they are aware of what is being taught. Furthermore there are alot of people in our class in their late teen/early twenties (including me at 25) and I don't want them to get the wrong influence. How do I confront him? Should I go to the head of the sunday school teachers first or confront him first?

This is really grieving me in the spirit

Love, Joe

Re: How to confront a sunday school teacher? - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/8/4 2:23

Use the Bible. Most of the "emergent/relevant/postmodern" garbage can be shot down with true interpretation of scripture. Make a list of the different articles and topics that have grieved your spirit and start a page(s) of scripture to give him. Tell him you are concerned with the fact that much of what is being discussed in class comes from very questionable sources. With scripture you can prove it faulty. Defend absolute truth, and object when you hear it being denied. This is a situation that many here on SI have, and probably still are facing. You will get good advice.

Re: How to confront a sunday school teacher? - posted by hulsey (), on: 2007/8/4 8:46

A good book to pick up would be D. A. Carson's "Becoming Conversant with the Emergent Church". Have you also talked to your pastor about your concerns?

A second action you could take is download and burn sermons from the download section here that could correct your Sunday School teacher's philosophy. A.W. Tozer, David Wilkerson, and Carter Conlon would be three that I would recommend to you.

Re: How to confront a sunday school teacher? - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/8/4 10:14

Joe,

The Scriptures say that if any man speaks, he is to do so as the oracle of God. If possible, sit down over lunch with your Sunday school teacher and exhort him to this end. For if he's preaching this stuff on a regular basis, it shows that he's not coming prepared to speak to you every Sunday as the oracle of God.

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Re: How to confront a sunday school teacher?, on: 2007/8/4 12:01

Quote:
-----Joe said: The problem I have with the class substance is that some of the sermons are from one Brian McLaren, a post modern preacher who has spoken at a church pastored by an openly gay pastor, and alot of the articles we discuss come from this magazine

Perhaps the Sunday School Teacher is not aware of this man has ministered in a church that is pastored by an openly gay man. You need to get all your facts together concerning this Brian McLaren and this openly gay pastor that Brian ministered at, and get written documents that say that he is gay so that you can present this to your Teacher.

This is how I would go about it without appearing to be arrogant. You humble yourself to the LORD in prayer asking for guidance in this situation. Amen

You ask if you can speak to your Teacher alone, and ask him/her of their convictions about the gay lifestyle. If he is for it, then there is no sense in showing him about Mr McLaren. Your next step is to go to the one higher up from him asking the same question about their conviction. If your teacher is against it then show him what Brian McLaren is all about and tell him how you feel about it. If the SS Teacher still continues to use McLaren's works then you move your case to the head of the SS department.

If the whole department rejects your findings, you may have to leave the organization or find out if the LORD wants you to stay there and be a witness.

God Bless

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/8/4 14:12

Here is a good website:

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/>

It is a tough thing to confront a teacher/pastor in a church about wrong doctrine/practice. I've had to do it once before, not something I enjoyed. All I can say is pray and God will give you what specific things are worth disputing.

Re: addressing the emergent movement - posted by roadsign (), on: 2007/8/4 14:40

Before you confront your teacher, you should do some research. You'll find some good sermons on the topic here: (<http://andynaselli.com/theology/d-a-carson-mp3s>) D A Carson - sermons

He points out that many of the leaders in the emergent church have come out of rigid evangelical backgrounds. So, as much as you feel that your church is on track, it is good to also prayerfully seek God for an evaluation of your own church environment - what in it may be influencing some to respond by leaning over to the emergent direction. And, by the way, there are some positive aspects of the movement - as you'll see Carson point out. You need to know what actually to address, not just the entire movement, which can mean just about anything. It is a very broad term. So is "postmodernism".

Have you read and evaluated some of McLaren's work - and noticed what exactly conflicts with scripture? That may be a good place to start. Certainly Carson will help you on that.

Diane

Re:, on: 2007/8/4 15:15

I had a teacher once that spoke he believed Judas went to heaven. I confronting the teacher and the statement, in class and gave the scripture to back up why I disagreed and ask him did he have one to confirm his statement. He gave none. Was I wrong?

Comments welcome.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/8/4 21:06

There is nothing that annoys me more is when someone who I believe to know the Scriptures will promote a concept alien to it, even someone from my own brotherhood. It is like: "Can you not read?!!!"

To confront someone who is speaking error is a very touchy thing. You may have the best motives in mind, use the best strategy or kindness BUT if they have a big ego, you will meet with resistance - no matter whether it is done in private or public. I have done both. Actually, there are gifted teachers but when they are wrong in their declaration of Biblical truth, they do not like to be told that. A humble person will welcome reactions from his/her class. In fact we are commanded to do that. Consider Galatians 6: 6: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches." (NASB) The student is required to interact with the teacher.

My understanding of this question...

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2007/8/4 22:08

Thanks for the comments so far, they certainly help to give me a more complete picture as to what to do.

Roadsign, it is true that the emerging movement is wide and varied like any other system, but I am just worried about the foundation that it is built on-postmodernism. Part of this theory is to play word games and denounce metanarratives (meta:grand narrative:story) focusing more on an observation that language and therefore truth is cultural and subjective. When coupled with the gospel, this can pose many problems.

In addition to that I find the endorsement of many secular entertainment venues by the emerging church disturbing, due to the fact that they think they need to identify with a world that thinks that all Christians are self righteous legalists, if the shoe fits wear it.

It's kind of like the "cool older brother approach"

www.sherwoodopendoor.org

This is the church that Mr. McLaren spoke to on several occasions, if you scroll down the main page you can see the pastor and his partner. Also if you click under audio downloads and then under guest speakers, you will see Mr. McLaren.

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2007/8/4 22:13

It's tough too, because where is the point when I move from discussion to the next in the chain of command, so to speak. It could be argued that I could simply stop attending the class, but I have the rest of the classes well being in mind as well...

God give me guidance :-(

Re: - posted by intrcssr83 (), on: 2007/8/5 22:31

One book I really recommend is John MacArthur's The Truth War: Fighting for Truth in an age of Deception. It's one of the few books that I've ever been able to gobble up in a single two-hour read.

You can also listen to a

(http://audio.tms.edu/tmstrans.asp?id54&fn01_24_2006_John_MacArthur_Emerging_Church_Movement.mp3&ministry_id3&urlhttp://www.tms.edu/audio.asp) lecture he gave at The Master's Seminary where he addresses the issues of postmodernism and the Emerging Church.

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Re:, on: 2007/8/6 12:52

Quote:
-----Part of this theory is to play word games and denounce metanarratives (meta:grand narrative:story) focusing more on an observation that language and therefore truth is cultural and subjective.

Excellent observation. This movement (in general) is a counterfit type of reformation, in that it's leading people out of dead orthodoxy into even greater error.

In Christ - Jim

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2007/8/6 13:37

I am going to meet with him next sunday after church, his family and mine, I simply told him that I want to know what he believes, where his foundation is, and he is open to that.

Seems like "spirituality" is the new holiness of lifestyle.

Does the gospel need a new marketing campaign? Maybe the igospel...

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/8/6 14:44

Quote:
-----Part of this theory is to play word games and denounce metanarratives (meta:grand narrative:story) focusing more on an observation that language and therefore truth is cultural and subjective.

From my understanding a lot of post modern church's would accept (<http://www.wisegEEK.com/what-is-deconstruction.htm>) deconstructionism . In summary that means that you really can't know what the Bible means, so what ever it means to you is what it means.

Deconstruction is a philosophy applied to literary criticism, as well as to criticism of the other arts, which began to gain popularity in the 1980s. The field of deconstruction arose partially in reaction to the literary theories of structuralism. Structuralism posited that when words could be understood within the context of a society of readers, then one could point to the specific meaning of a text.

Deconstruction eschewed the concept of one possible meaning for a text, and instead suggested that meanings of a text are multiple and contradictory. Underlying a text is the subtext, a set of values that must be evaluated to see if the text is really contrary in nature and hence somewhat without meaning. Deconstruction also evaluates the way in which texts in the traditional literary canon are taught to students, suggesting that traditional "readings" of a text often ignore underlying value structures in direct opposition to what is taught.

Re:, on: 2007/8/6 15:00

I find that physical violence works best in these cases.

Just kidding... everyone can breathe now!

I agree with everyone so far. The most important thing was touched on... humble yourself before God.

Secondly, make sure you know what you are talking about. Nothing is more embarrassing than challenging a teacher and realizing that you're not as up to speed as you thought you were. Make sure you understand what he is teaching, and if it's wrong, make sure you understand thoroughly why he is wrong. This will help avoid any misunderstandings that may be happening on your part.

Thirdly... do it in love.

Fourthly... if he continues to teach this, go to you church elders... preferrably with a witness.

If this gets you no where, then leave.

Krispy

PS: North Pole, Alaska? Your teachers name would happen to be Kris-py Kringle, would he? lol...

Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2007/8/6 18:15

Quote:

-----Fourthly... if he continues to teach this, go to you church elders... preferrably with a witness.

thats what i would do

What the children get taught is of vital importance to them

PS this is funny

Quote:

-----Kris-py Kringle