

**General Topics :: Rick Warren Tells Pastors To Get Rid Of “Troublemakers”**

**Rick Warren Tells Pastors To Get Rid Of “Troublemakers”, on: 2007/12/7 8:24**

Found this to be interesting. Rick Warren considers "trouble makers" to be those in churches who raise honest, biblical questions about the entire "Purpose Driven" movement, "seeker sensitive" churches and other teachings of his.

Krispy

**Rick Warren Tells Pastor To Get Rid Of “Troublemakers”**

By David Cloud

*In the November 14 issue of his Ministry Toolbox, Rick Warren told pastors to get rid of troublemakers. He begins with the erroneous statement that the Bible "talks more about the unity of the church than it does about either heaven or hell."*

*The truth is, the Bible speaks more about heaven and hell than about unity and it speaks far more about the importance of sound doctrine and practice and separation from error than it does about unity. Warren makes no distinction between trouble that comes because of heresy and self-will and trouble that comes because of the truth.*

*God's people are nowhere instructed to blindly follow pastors or to accept a "unity" based on anything other than the truth. They have an obligation before God to "prove all things" (1 Thess. 5:21) and to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).*

*In a fashion that is one of his fearful trademarks, Warren lifts Scripture out of context to prove his point. First he uses 2 Timothy 2:23-26, which only deals with how to handle "foolish and unlearned questions" asked by those who are in the snare of the devil. It has nothing to do with legitimate biblical questions asked by sincere Christians who care about God's Word.*

*Next he uses 2 Timothy 2:14, which is a warning about striving about "words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers." Again, this is a warning about false teaching, and it has nothing whatsoever to do with sincere biblical challenges.*

*He also uses Titus 2:15, which is an exhortation to preachers to be bold in preaching the truth but which says absolutely nothing about kicking people out of the church because they love the truth.*

*He also uses Titus 3:1, which is an exhortation to be subject to the authorities that God has put in this world, but by comparing Scripture with Scripture we know that it does not entail blind submission (i.e., Acts 5:29).*

*Finally Warren uses Titus 3:10-11, which contains instruction about how to deal with heretics or false teachers who are causing division on the basis of their heresies. It has nothing whatsoever to do with those in the church who love the truth and who are sincerely trying to be faithful to the Bible.*

*Rick Warren is the heretic who is causing divisions among God's people through heresies. It is he that should be rejected. The fact that his Southern Baptist Convention keeps its mouth shut in the face of his heresies is irrefutable evidence that it is deeply compromised and is not faithful to God's Word.*

**Re: Rick Warren Tells Pastors To Get Rid Of “Troublemakers”, on: 2007/12/7 8:36**

Many thought the Apostle Paul was a trouble maker in the church. Paul went from church to church and at times he called sin sin. He even told some in the church you are acting like you are not a Christian at all. I can't read in no way how the scriptures teach that the Apostle Paul was tolerant, as the world today says Christian should be. And the world calls them trouble makers for imitating Paul. The reason they are imitating Paul is the same Spirit drives them that drove Paul. Rom 8:9-11

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the de

ad will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.  
NKJV

One instance as Christians were being converted under Paul preaching by the power of God the silversmith's income was threatened and they held a town meeting, because Paul was getting in their pocketbook, which was what they were most concerned about.

Acts 19:24-27

24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. 25 He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. 27 There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

(from New International Version)

Was Paul a trouble maker? I don't think so although he angered many.

**Re: Rick Warren Tells Pastors To Get Rid Of "Troublemakers" - posted by enid, on: 2007/12/7 8:46**

Gal 4v16, 'Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

You can tell where this thread is going to lead.

Warren supporters will charge lovers of the truth of God's word with being judgmental, causing disunity, as if unity can exist without truth, say they lack love, whatever that is supposed to mean etc.

The list is endless, but I guess you know what I mean.

Recently read the book 'The Truth War' by John MacArthur, which is based on the book of Jude, which tells us to earnestly contend for the faith, not dilute it, compromise or anything else.

Seems like the strong delusion spoken of in 2 Thess 2 is here and now.

Thanks for the article.

God bless.

**Re:, on: 2007/12/7 9:11**

**2 Timothy 4:3** *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they **heap to themselves teachers**, having itching ears...*

Has there ever been a time in the last 2,000 years when the church has seen a "heap of teachers" like we see right now? Just watch TBN...

Krispy

**Re:, on: 2007/12/7 9:14**

Quote:  
-----Warren supporters will charge lovers of the truth of God's word with being judgmental, causing disunity, as if unity can exist without truth, say they lack love, whatever that is supposed to mean etc.  
-----

...yet Rick Warren is the one causing division by his heretical teachings.

But another point not to miss in all this is the glaring examples of how badly Warren mis-handles and mis-understands scripture. He handles scripture like a party clown handles balloons, creating all kinds of animals and creatures by twisting and stretching.

Krispy

**Re: Rick Warren Tells Pastors To Get Rid Of "Troublemakers" - posted by brentw (), on: 2007/12/7 9:51**

Maybe I didnt read correctly but all I read is this author blasting Warren for something he didnt reveal exactly what Warren said??

I'm not a "Warren lover" but I do live by eating the chicken and spitting out the bones  
:-D

**Re:, on: 2007/12/7 9:58**

Quote:

-----I do live by eating the chicken and spitting out the bones  
-----

As is good practice... but

let's be sure we are not dying of poison hidden in the meat we do swallow.

In Christ - Jim

**Re:, on: 2007/12/7 10:16**

I found the exact transcript of what Warren wrote. On the surface you could read this and say "yea, sounds good". But the fact is, unity is NOT talked about more than heaven and hell. As for disunity, Warren has stated in past writings and sermons that he considers those who oppose his teachings, and oppose the Purpose Driven Church movement to be "trouble makers". He has, in writing, stated that "fundies" (fundamentalists... like me) who are in a church that is trying to bring in the PDC movement and try to oppose it should be let go from the fellowship. He calls them "trouble makers".

This was discussed at length on this forum about a year ago. His exact quotes, etc.

So even tho this may look good on the surface, there is an underlying history here... those who raise questions, those who challenge are to be considered divisive.

Krispy

### **What the Bible says about handling disunity**

by Rick Warren

*There's an unseen factor in Saddleback Church's growth that most people overlook – church unity. God blesses a unified church. Many churches have tremendous potential, but they never achieve what God desires because the members spend all their time fighting with one another. All of the energy is focused inward.*

***The Bible talks more about unity of the church than it does about either heaven or hell. It's that important. Churches are made up of people, and there are no perfect people. So people get into conflict with each other. As pastors, we need to learn how to deal with those situations. Specifically, we're called to do these six things when disunity threatens our church.***

***1. Avoid situations that cause arguments. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NIV): "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful." Pastors should avoid causing arguments. As a leader you need to set the example for your whole church on this issue. When a minor argument comes along, refuse to get in the middle of it. You don't need to have an opinion on everything. Some discussions don't deserve your participation. Focus your***

*conversation on topics that matter.*

*2. Teach troublemakers to repent. 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV) says, "Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." Most pastors don't like confrontations. But we can't run from them. As the pastor, you must gently instruct those creating dissention and opposing the teaching in the church.*

*3. Warn those causing trouble that their negative words hurt others. 2 Timothy 2:14 (NIV) says, "Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words. It is of no value and only ruins those who listen." People need to know that their words have consequences.*

*4. Make a plea for harmony and unity. Paul did this in Philippians 4:2 (NIV). He said, "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord." There were two very strong willed women in the church named Euodia and Syntyche who were causing so much friction in the church that Paul's plea for them to stay united is in the Bible. Fighting in a church doesn't just affect the combatants; it influences the whole church as people start taking sides. Just like Paul did, at times, you'll need to make a plea for unity directly to those causing problems.*

*5. Rebuke with authority if necessary. Paul says in Titus 2:15-3:1, "These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good." You may need to confront the contentious person as well.*

*6. Remove them from the church if they ignore two warnings. Titus 3:10-11 says, "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." No pastor wants to do this, but at last resort you may need to remove the contentious person from the church. You've got to protect the unity of your church. If that means getting rid of troublemakers, do it.*

*The Bible teaches that as the church grows, Satan will do everything he can to cause division. Even well meaning people, even believers, can be used as tools of Satan to hurt the body of Christ. As pastors, as shepherds of God's people, it's our job to protect our congregations from Satan's greatest weapon – disunity. It's not always easy, but it's what we've been called to do.*

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/12/7 10:56**

Krispy,

You are so handy with words: you say what you mean and then stop. End of sentence. Period. When I read this post, I was wishing I could witness a meeting between you and Warren! lol And you know what mental picture comes up?

A few years ago we had two warring cats. So, one day son Jonathan picked up both of them by the scruff of the neck and told them gently "now, you be friends!" He held them close together and soon WHAM! the one cat strikes out at the other and so it began. He quickly dropped both so he would not get scratched, but those cats were after each other and did the fur fly! It really was funny...I still smile when I recall this incident. Now I do not think you would be like these cats, but the ideas promoted by these smooth talkers hide within retracted talons. And they have the potential to act like cats when faced with stiff opposition. Ever read the book "Exit Interviews" by William D. Hendricks? It details similar incidents among people in church leadership and associated ministries.

Thanks for the post, Steve.

ginnyrose

Hmmmmmm ... Rick or Paul? ... - posted by Rahman, on: 2007/12/7 11:18

... or: Is it possible to spiritually walk and chew gum at the same time? ...

moe\_mac wrote;

"Many thought the Apostle Paul was a trouble maker in the church. Paul went from church to church and at times he called sin sin. "

--- Amen ... i was just thinking about this the other day in that many a saint will say to another regarding seeing sin and/or error in their congregation, the Body, and are often told to stop focusing on such and keep their eyes on Jesus ... i can see where such advice may be good if a saint is allowing themselves to be stumbled in their own faith via what's being done, but if the saint is strong in our Lord, and in the power of His might, then such advice seems to me to say that a saint can't do two things at one time, like focus on Jesus yes and yet still be able to see the sin ... In fact my experience as been the more one focuses on Jesus the more sin and error one sees beginning with oneself first and foremost ...

i think it so amazing that our beloved Apostle Paul had such a focus on Jesus that Holy Spirit could use him to give us the laws and mandates of the governing of the Body ... i also think it amazing that many a time someone i knew personally, or myself on some occasions, was considered a trouble maker was via asking questions about questionable practices in the assembly via "what Paul says" ... Another thing i know for sure about Godly "troublemakers" is that we're not disruptive, antagonistic, gossipy or backbiters of leadership, in fact i've found in His "decency and order" to take my concerns directly to the under-shepherd, but i can also tell you of my own experience the leadership i've dealt with, tho civil because i came in humbleness of spirit, really don't like being questioned by anyone they see as laity ...

To me a Christian assembly of both leadership and laity, without the ability of the overseen to question the overseers (in a proper manner), and/or will become tossed out if their deemed a troublemaker, is not a body in unity as much as one in consent to govern and be governed by a certain set of parameters they all agree on apart from what Pauline scripture of proper Church governance would cause to cease to exist within the congregation ... This is one of the things that i think has so robbed the Power of God from His people in corporate assembly is that the unity of the Body under the Holy Spirit has been traded in to becoming collusions under the pomp, forms and fashions of men and denominations, much like trading in a Holy Ghost fired and inspired authentic unity, for a man inspired and fired collusion of pseudo unity ...

In my own assignment we've had quite a few so called "trouble makers" leave the congregation ... None had to be tossed out, they just finally left because Bishop has his agenda just as much of leadership in any assembly ... i know folk in this same assembly such as myself who'd like to leave, we've said our piece(s) and things go on as usual - have gotten worse actually, but we haven't left because we haven't heard from Him to do so ... And so (so far) we stay, and pray ... i thank God that i'll soon know if my staying has been of Him or of some kinda self induced weirdness, because it's hard to keep allegiance to a environment where your spiritual sustenance comes more from ravens than bread in the house of the Lord ...

So many problems in the Body, and if God doesn't come thru with a Holy Ghost fired cleansing of us we'll only get sicker ... i pray so hard this not be the case for much longer ... Help us Lord Jesus SOON - PLEASE! ---

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/12/7 11:39

Quote:  
-----6. Remove them from the church if they ignore two warnings. Titus 3:10-11 says, "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." No pastor wants to do this, but at last resort you may need to remove the contentious person from the church. You've got to protect the unity of your church. If that means getting rid of troublemakers, do it.  
-----

i think one thing that needs to be mentioned is that the word divisive in the NIV actually is the word heretic. it is not talking about just a man who disagrees with an issue or something like that, but someone who actually is teaching clear heresy. look at it for yourselves..

just a thought.  
phil

**Re: Hmmmmm ... Rick or Paul? ..., on: 2007/12/7 11:40**

Ginny... I would hope if I ever get a chance to sit down across a lunch with Rick Warren that the conversation would be warm and pleasant. Riddled with disagreement, of course, but pleasant none-the-less.

Kinda like Al Sharpton. Personally I think Al Sharpton is an idiot when it comes to some of his policies and such. However, I've seen him interviewed, etc... and found him to be a very personable man with a great sense of humor. I think I would actually enjoy spending an hour over lunch with him. I would completely disagree with most everything he stands for. .. but I think if we all look hard enough we can find something we like about anyone.

A person with a sense of humor can get a long ways with me... no matter how far apart we may be on everything else.

Krispy

**Re:, on: 2007/12/7 11:42**

Quote:  
-----i think one thing that needs to be mentioned is that the word divisive in the NIV actually is the word heretic. it is not talking about just a man who disagrees with an issue or something like that, but someone who actually is teaching clear heresy. look at it for yourselves..  
-----

I dont support the NIV in the slightest, but in this case it is correct. If you read these passages in context in the KJV, that is what it says as well... just different wording.

Krispy

**Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/12/7 12:12**

Quote:  
-----I dont support the NIV in the slightest, but in this case it is correct. If you read these passages in context in the KJV, that is what it says as well... just different wording.

Krispy  
-----

but here's the problem. this divisive/heretic of the bible was not someone who asks hard biblical questions concerning doctrine or the present teachings held by the church. but that is what some pastors have done. they have replaced the person asking hard questions and called them a divisive person and quoted this verse. but that is not the meaning of divisive (heretic) in the passage.

that is all i was trying to say. sorry if it didn't come out right..

phil

**Re: - posted by lastblast (), on: 2007/12/7 12:17**

Quote:  
-----2. Teach troublemakers to repent. 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV) says, "Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." Most pastors don't like confrontations. But we can't run from them. As the pastor, you must gently instruct those creating dissention and opposing the teaching in the church.  
-----

Boy, isn't it interesting what Mr. Warren has done with II Tim. 2:25-26. He has made it about opposing the Pastor, yet that is not at all what scripture says:

"2 Timothy 2:25-26 (Amplified Bible) 25He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth , 26And that they may come to their senses escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, to do His will."

It is clear that a "church's" teachings is not at issue here. Paul is speaking about those who oppose TRUTH---God's truth, not an individual church's teachings/practices, which may very well be opposed to the Truth.

Quote:  
----- As pastors, as shepherds of God's people, it's our job to protect our congregations from Satan's greatest weapon -- disunity.  
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Disunity is not only Satan's weapon, it is also something the Lord uses to purge the unclean from the clean, to reveal Truth in the midst of deception. God did it throughout the OT through His prophets and He is still doing it today through His servants(pastors, laypeople, and even the unsaved who can even see some of the inconsistencies in the Christian Church). The truth is that there can be no true unity in the Body of Christ if we are walking in opposition to Jesus Christ.

**Re:, on: 2007/12/8 9:18**

This PDL or CGM is an epidemic in church across America and pastors are bending their knee to this "heresy". Pastors subscribe to this method to stroke their own ego's, when I hear this type of non sense coming from these pastors, I often would like to send them the sermon Ten Shekels and a shirt. The end to their means is themselves not the Lord.

I meet with my pastor after my family decided to leave and his own words, "We need to be culturally relevant to our community" here is an example on how the church is relevant:

Quote:  
-----"If you prefer a worship band over the choir and a smaller worship environment, our Venue service offers a live praise band, coffee, and a live Hi-Definition broadcast of Pastor Tom's message on a 16' screen - all in a laid back atmosphere. another quote  
Quote:  
-----"People don't come to church to watch TV, they come for a live experience."  
-----

1 Cor. 9:22 " ...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

This verse is the catalyst they use, to give them all the reason to do what they feel is relevant. This was the same verse my pastor used with me to describe why they do the things they do. If that is the case, then everything else should be acceptable.

mike



**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/12/8 18:49**

I was about to write that one can spend so much time lamenting this trend in modern Christianity that we lose focus of our own mission. Then I was reminded of one reason why godly people get so upset - including me. We are so hurt, so appalled when we see our own loved ones snuckered into this whorl of deception...and they are loving it!!! I have prayed already that God would give them a vision of hell sometime, but I have not heard that happening, either. I would guess even that would not convince them.

Takes a lot of faith sometimes when we see TRUTH assailed as not being consistent.

ginnyrose

**Re: Rick Warren and his Friends., on: 2007/12/10 0:26**

I think the biggest shock was finding out, Rick Warren was a member of the CFR and Oxford Analytica.

Oy, ma ma mia, that's Major!

I don't know why that was a bigger shock to me than his P.E.A.C.E. plan being tied to the U.N. and him having Hillary to his Church -- but it was.

I must be a "trouble-maker". :-?

**Re: - posted by wildhorse86, on: 2007/12/10 0:53**

Interesting that you mention the peace plan. It is a good theory, on paper - one church connecting with another to help people. I know there is more to it than that, but the above seems pretty reasonable even for Warren.

However, I felt uneasy about the whole PEACE plan deal, I don't know why -- and it is interesting because our Young Adult congregation, that I am a part of, were looking into it and praying for God to guide us in it. I haven't heard mention of it for 5 months or so. No one seems to jump on board with it.

A lot of people(excluding myself and others) got all hyped about it, and then the hype fizzled down and nothing has happened.

Michael

**Re:, on: 2007/12/11 17:06**

I have been through the 40 days of purpose class twice and it has some good stuff in it. God does have a purpose for each one of us. It is reported that Rick Warren has given 90% of his income off his book sales back to the church, which is much much money. But when he begins to compromise with the world and is letting the world speak to what is suppose to be the regenerated church, instead of reaching the lost, with the gospel of a regeneration in the heart, he lost me. I definitely could not knowingly attend any church service where the Pastor knew about such, let alone allowed and invited such a worldly speaker that promoted UNGODLY stuff and was still allowed to speak about any subject, good or bad, unless the speech was about repentance of their sins. If it happened at the local body where I attend next Sunday and I don't think it will, I would walk out of the service and search for one that held fast to the WORD and truth. So I guess I'm a troublemaker too. Of course yall already knew that didn't you.