

**General Topics :: Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink****Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/6/18 10:17**

Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink

Included in the sins of pride, which God treats especially severely, are the sins of criticizing and judging. "God opposes the proud" (1 Pet. 5: 5). Even if a person believes in Jesus, if at the same time, he persists in judging others God is not for him. Then God has to be against him. But it would be terrible to have God as our opponent, to be under His wrath, which will have its full effect in the other world. That is why Jesus warns us so sharply: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged" (Matt. 7: 1,2).

Judging others will bring the wrath of God down upon us. He will be against us, because this sin is especially satanic. Judging others and accusing them is what Satan does. He is the accuser. Judging is one of the manifestations of our pride, manipulated by Satan. In great presumptuousness we sit in judgment on everything that we see or hear about others, usually without knowing the background and the motives of their behaviour or mistakes. Judging is satanic poison in our hearts, which can bring us terrible judgment, if we persist in it. Jesus tells us this clearly by addressing those who judge with the words; "You hypocrites!" (Matt. 7: 5). Jesus threatens the hypocrites, saying they will not enter His kingdom, but the kingdom of hell; they will go to the "father of lies". So the spirit of criticism, nourished by the accuser, is our greatest enemy. We have to hate it from the bottom of our hearts and not tolerate it in the slightest, unless we want to find ourselves in the kingdom of the accuser instead of with Jesus.

How can we attack this enemy? First, recognize the fact that we are full of criticism and stop trying to explain it away. We should no longer make excuses for ourselves by saying, "I have to tell others what they are doing wrong to prevent them from making a mess of things. In reality, however, we enjoy correcting others and reproaching them. Often the real source of our criticism is rebellion or annoyance, because someone did something against our wishes.

Therefore, we criticize him and accuse him. So in the light of God we have to ascertain that it is presumptuous to accuse others, to reproach them and especially to pronounce our verdicts in front of someone else. Then we will become guilty towards our neighbour, by getting others to be against him, and this could seriously harm him. When we search our consciences in our quiet time, we should ask ourselves: Where have I brought guilt upon myself by judging others and reproaching them? What has my spirit of criticism brought about? Perhaps it has even ruined people's lives. Have I harmed the souls of people at home or at work by reproaching them again and again and continually accusing them? If we--perhaps as a parent or educator--have filled our hearts with this satanic poison and sprayed it out at others, we have to admit that we are subject to God's condemnation, that we were Satan's servants.

What a terrible harvest we will reap! Our criticism will rob us of the most precious gift that Jesus has given us: forgiveness and the blotting out of our sins. Criticism provokes the wrath of God, who has forgiven us, as the parable of the unmerciful servant tells us. Although He had forgiven this servant, He delivers him to the jailers, because this servant would not forgive his fellow-servants (Matt. 18: 32-34).

So it means that we have to make every effort to get free from this spirit of criticism and whole-heartedly repent. Here we must act according to Jesus' words, "If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out!" (Mark 9: 47). That means waging an intensive battle against the satanic sin of judging others. Jesus clearly shows us the way and we have to follow it. Otherwise there will be no release. "First take the log out of your own eye!" (Matt. 7: 5). Jesus is exhorting us: Stop giving your opinions about others and accusing them, before you become quiet in the presence of God and ask Him whether you are guilty of the same sin. Our sin of criticism usually begins when we neglect to do this. We do not follow Jesus' words; we criticize immediately without first becoming silent in the presence of God and humbling ourselves under our sin which is even greater. When we come into the light of God, we will usually find out that we have the same faults, perhaps even more dominantly and many other undesirable traits in addition. Then we will see that our guilt is like a log in contrast to o

ur brother's splinter. We will be ashamed of our own sin and lose our presumptuous and indignant desire to criticize others.

Then we will be struck by what the Apostle Paul writes, "Therefore you have no excuse, O man, whoever you are, when you judge another; for in passing judgment upon him you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things." (Rom. 2: 1). And further: "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God"-and be judged for this sin (Rom. 14: 10).

So today we must choose a new way, a new place. Instead of sitting on the judgment throne above the others we must sit where we deserve to sit: in the defendant's box, where we can be judged and hear God's judgment on our sins. When we are willing to do this, God will no longer be against us and we will no longer be in the hand of the accuser. On the contrary, we will belong to our Lord Jesus, who had to let Himself be accused in five trials. He did this, although He was innocent. Shouldn't we, who are guilty, be able to take this place? If we earnestly begin to judge ourselves, we will ask people at home and at work to tell us the straight truth about ourselves. Humbled beneath this, we will be able to accept the reproaches of others, even when they are unjust. Then our lips and hearts will be silent and we will not be able to criticize others so quickly and judge them so harshly.

Jesus went the way of humble love. He humbled Himself in the dust and let Himself be judged. Now He has redeemed the members of His body to live this love, which covers up others' mistakes instead of criticizing, which forgives and tolerates instead of making reproaches, which bestows kindness instead of criticism.

This does not mean tolerating sin. But if we should ever have to pronounce judgment, we will do it quite clearly but with a humble and loving heart.

But whoever wages a war of life and death against his spirit of criticism will find that nothing sits so deeply in our Adam's nature as the spirit of criticism. It will not disappear overnight by making one commitment. "I want to let myself be judged and place my mouth in the dust." No, our blood is infected with it. There is only one Person who is stronger than our old Adam. It is Jesus Christ. His blood has greater power than the blood that we have inherited from our fathers. This blood of Jesus has complete power to free us, if we call upon it ever anew; in it there is really power to cleanse us from our sins, from the great sin of judging others, from hypocrisy, which makes us guilty and brings us into Satan's hands. In faith we must appropriate the redeeming power of this blood. This will only happen in an intensive fight against this sin, in a daily battle of faith and prayer. This includes speaking the "nevertheless" of faith in spite of the defeats we experience: "I am redeemed to love and to forgive!" Whoever is willing to endure in this battle in spite of his shortcomings, believing in Jesus' redemption, will be freed from his great sin of judging others.

Basilea Schlink

Re: Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink, criticised by brotthertom., on: 2008/6/18 16:00

Pastor Frin: I just wanted to point out a couple of things. Basilea Schlink was somewhat of an apologist for the Catholic Church, though claiming Protestantism. Until her death she was a propagator of Mary Worship and adoration.

She practiced the mystical inward style of prayer of the Roman Rite, and also the rigors of Middle age asceticism in order to attain a better resurrection. She was the founder of a Catholic order, guiseing itself as Protestant, that was an arm promoting this crooked faith in the media ; mostly Radio and television.

There is no evidence that she was ever saved, in the biblical sense, though she was a prolific writer, and religious activist until her death in 2001.

I suppose that one of the reasons she taught that a Christian should not judge, is that there was so much darkness to be unveiled in her own theology and life. She , in her unsaved religiosity, didn't want to much exposure, as the truth goes.

The neo- Catholic cult she established is called, "The Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary., and her title , was of course, Mother Basilea.

source: Phil Johnson.

A book , by a freed cult member, is available for those interested. "Charlene's personal story: A first hand account of a former "Sister of Mary."

Brother frin: We are not called to condemn, in the eternal sense. Even Manassah repented, and the brother who was tuned over to Satan by Paul and his church, repented, and thank God, we will meet him in Heaven. But if we do not discern evil, what is to prove we do not partake of it? This is the critical eye of The Holy Spirit in us , to discern good and evil .

This I have for you, You have tried those who say they are Apostles, and are not, and have found them liars!"...Jesus to the Churches in Revelation.

If we cannot discern the truth from the evil, then we are doomed.

I reject SCHLINK and her entire flowery Catholic jibberish.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2008/6/18 16:35

Quote:

-----I reject SCHLINK and her entire flowery Catholic jibberish.

Has anyone else noticed the absolute irony of this lone response to the article?

In Christ,

Ron

Re: irony?, on: 2008/6/18 18:11

I have. I thought it a dandy criticism on a person who did not like criticism, as a Christian standard of safety. Most rejected Catholic mystics don't.

Like mother; like Child. As the tree, so the fruit. Now that's not so ironic.

And for those so inclined, please study the history of the Author of the post, so defined in my response, and note some of her beliefs as defined by her lifestyle and testimonies of escaped cultists.

Re: - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/6/18 20:03

Quote:

InTheLight wrote:

Quote:

-----I reject SCHLINK and her entire flowery Catholic jibberish.

Has anyone else noticed the absolute irony of this lone response to the article?

In Christ,
Ron

I believe the irony mentioned here may well be the fact that the one who has done most of the criticizing and judging as of late here on SI would be the one who is speaking out against this woman and not the scripture basis of the article.

This is one of 50 of Basilea Schlinks articles here on SI. I have posted the link below.

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=835>

In His Love
pastorfrin

Re:, on: 2008/6/18 21:16

Christians are instructed in God's Word to judge other Christians, and are instructed not to judge the lost.

(John 7:24 KJV) Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

One of the most important and necessary functions of the true Christian walk is to be able to judge properly. **We have all heard from people that we are not to judge. Many people take offense at the fact that their actions are judged. The bottom line is that everybody judges something every day of their life.** Doctors make judgments, firemen make judgments, police officers make judgments, investors make judgments, and every other profession on earth makes judgments. When you go to the store and you buy Produce, why do you linger at the specific fruit or vegetable you want to buy? **The answer is simple, you are looking at all the fruit so you can decide on which is the best ones to buy. So we all make judgments every single day. Why then when it comes to eternal matters do we invoke the belief that**

we should not judge? Don't you think that eternal matters are more important than judging the best tomatoes or bananas?

In fact, God gave us the Bible for the PURPOSE OF JUDGING MATTERS.

(1 John 4:1 KJV) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

The word "try" in this verse carries with it the meaning of "prove, test, or scrutinize." After you test something, you will make a judgment as to whether you can accept the teaching or not. God gives us the true Gospel in the Bible and when we run into a teaching that may be questionable, we are to hold it up to the test of Scripture. If it contradicts the Scriptures, then we are to judge that teaching as a false teaching. Along with the teaching we are to name those who are promulgating the teaching so Christians will be warned not listen to those false teachings. There is definitely biblical precedence for naming names and we will look at this a little later in the article.

The word for "judge" in the Greek is the word "krino" which carries with it the meaning of "separate, decide between, approve, condemn, give judgment." As you can see it carries many different yet similar meanings. The word is used 115 times in the New Testament and always deals with judging. Now we are going to look at two types of judging, one is prohibited and one is endorsed.

The Prohibited Judgment

The judgment that we are prohibited from doing is the type of judgment which is a scathing judgment of another based on a personal bias. The Bible warns us that we are not to judge people in a manner which will denigrate them.

(James 4:11 KJV) Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

James warns us that we are not to speak evil of another brother in pronouncing judgments upon them. Instead of helping a brother who may be caught up in something sinful, we set ourselves up as a judge and then pronounce judgment on that person. The Scriptures teach that we must never do this because we, as humans, are definitely prone to the same sins. (Rom 2:1 KJV) Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. A scathing judgment on another only brings a condemnation on us because we are capable of doing the same things. We look at a person who got in trouble for stealing and we look down our noses at them but did we take a paper clip from work? Stealing is stealing! Thou shalt not steal!

Whenever we attempt to judge somebody because of personal motives, no matter what they are such as envy, jealousy, or hatred, we are judging a condemnation unto ourselves and the judgment we make will be tainted and evil. I remember in 1987 when Jimmy Swaggart was interviewed concerning the situation with Jim Bakker and Swaggart called the PTL ministry and its Heritage USA theme park "a cancer in the body of Christ." Then eleven months later Swaggart himself was crying in front of the whole world because his hidden sins were now made public. So a scathing judgment on others will always bring hurt to someone else and will bring trouble to us.

The Permitted Judgment

Just as there are judgments which are prohibited by the Scriptures, there are judgments we must make which are permitted and endorsed by the Scriptures. The primary judgment that all true believers must make is to judge the words that they are hearing. We live in a day when new teachings and new systems of theology are being developed by false teachers. The problem with these teachings is that they are combined with just enough truth to sound credible. It is incumbent upon every true Christian to try, remember 1 John 4:1, to make a judgment as to what we are hearing. We can no longer trust theologians and famous bible teachers as to the content of their message. All those who teach must be scrutinized whether they like it or not. If someone is teaching something then they need to realize they are also subject to examination of their teachings.

(1 Cor 14:32-33 KJV) And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. {33} For God is not the author of confusion

ion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

In the above verse when the Apostle Paul was giving instructions concerning the legitimacy of those who spoke in other languages at Corinth, he stated that those who are or claim to be prophets, their message is subject to the other prophets in the congregation. The other prophets were to judge that message to see if it contained truth or if it was a false message. The principle in this verse is simple. Those who teach, whether they be Pastors, Sunday School teachers, evangelists, or theologians must realize that their teachings are subject to the other believers. There is no such thing written in Scripture that we are to accept the teachings of someone simply based on who they are. I want to give a few examples of what teachings are being disseminated in Christendom today, both by those inside and outside the church.

RC Sproul - Teaches that Anselm and Augustine were Christians - both were Roman Catholics - He also endorses the English Standard Version.

Harold Camping - Long time endorser of the home church now tells everyone to leave their churches - He also teaches the Lord's return in 2011 - From teaching the truths of Scripture to date setting.

Jack Van Impe - Long time fundamentalist prophecy preacher - Now endorses Roman Catholicism and glorifies Pope John Paul II. I was saved through his ministry back in 1980.

Billy Graham - Long time evangelist now teaches that people don't even have to hear the name of Christ to be saved - Believes those in false religions are saved.

These are just four examples of teachers who were once solid who have adopted false teaching while mixing just enough truth to sound credible. Then in the Reformed camp there are other teachings rearing its ugly head concerning Justification by Faith alone. These are the New Perspectives on Paul, The Federal Vision, the Auburn Avenue Confession, which claims that works must be added to justification for salvation. This makes it a Roman Catholic doctrine which is works plus faith. In the Baptist Camp there is Landmarkism which claims apostolic succession back to Christ Himself, in other words Landmark Baptist churches are the only true church.

This is why we are to judge with biblical discernment. Every teacher you hear, you must judge according to the Scriptures and don't fall into the trap of comparing their teachings with the teachings of another teacher, even though they may be right on target, your criteria for judgment is the Scriptures. Now since the modern versions endorse false teachings, we have only one true Bible whereby we can measure the teachings of men and that is the King James Bible. The Lord commanded us to make sure that our judgment be righteous judgment and that can only happen if we have the true Bible.

(Jude 1:4 KJV) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here Jude warns us that certain men have crept into the church. The phrase "crept in unawares" carries with it the meaning in Greek of "coming in stealthily." The word "stealth" means "secretly or clandestinely." This means people have come into churches with personal agendas bent on propagating their false views. Now let me widen the application, this does not mean that they only come in physically but when their teachings are introduced by the leadership or by any congregant, it is as if that author was right in the congregation. False written materials can be just as persuasive and destructive as the author standing behind the pulpit or microphone. What better way to enter a church stealthily than to have a deceived Christian place materials on the book table.

One of the subtle traps that discerning Christians will face is that when you judge a teaching, you will be accused of judging the person who invented it. Don't let that divert you or frighten you from continuing your examination of the teachings. In the Bible, those who opposed Christianity are mentioned by name.

(2 Tim 4:10 KJV) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

(2 Tim 4:14-15 KJV) Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: {15} Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

(3 John 1:9 KJV) I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth u

s not.

If you notice that Paul mentioned the names of two men, one who abandoned him and the other who did him much evil. Then we look at 3 John and John mentions a man named Diotrephes who obviously wanted to have the first place of dignity in the church would not allow anyone else in the church to “show him up.” So we see three people who did harm to Paul and John, and they are named. Now is it correct to name people who are teaching error? The answer is yes! Not to condemn or to build a hate base against them but to warn other Christians of their error so they will be removed from church office or if they are in a media ministry, then they will not receive support so that their error continues to grow. Keep in mind that error taught by one person, would only remain with that one person if Christians would not support them until they repent of the false teachings. The problem is that too many foolish Christians support these false teachers because they do not judge their teachings according to the Scriptures, and that is a bigger error. To support false teachings is akin to lining up with Satan. God does not tolerate false teachings but unfortunately many of His children do. If you notice above that both Alexander and Diotrephes refused to allow true teachings.

This is why it is so important that Christians judge the teachings that they hear. The reason why Christianity is in the confused state it is in, is because for too long Christians have trusted pastors, theologians, and Bible teachers without comparing their teachings with the Scriptures. There seems to be no accountability required for a church office or a media ministry. When a leader refuses to be accountable, then what you can do is just withhold your offerings. It is not sin to withhold support from your church or favorite ministry if they go off into false teachings. For example, if your church decides to adopt the Purpose Driven Church agenda and your Pastor will not listen to reason, then you have every right to withhold support and to be vocal about it. To say nothing about the encroaching false teachings or to continue financial support in your church is to give approbation to them.

(Rom 16:17-18 KJV) Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. {18} For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

In verse 17, we see the word “mark.” It is an interesting word in the Greek because it means “examine carefully or look at.” The Koine Greek word is also used in Classical Greek and carries with it the meaning of “examine carefully” plus it is the word used in “microscope.” Now what does one do with a microscope? They look at the smallest things to enlarge them. Now why would God use a word like this, if He did not want us to make proper judgments about heretical teachings and those who are bringing them? Notice God says, “mark them” not mark their teachings. This means that God is holding responsible those who bring false teachings even if the Christians on earth are not holding them accountable.

Summary

There are many other Scriptures which deal with the subject of judging but they do not disagree with the Scriptures used here. When a Christian refuses to judge, they are setting themselves up for a fall. It is imperative that Christians establish judgmental mindsets when it comes to bible teachings from teachers. (2 John 1:4 KJV) I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. This verse teaches us that God is glorified when His children are walking in truth. Truth walking requires judgment on the part of the child of God. The only way you can know that you are walking in truth is that you have judged your doctrine according to the Scriptures. (Eph 4:14 KJV) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

(2 Tim 4:3 KJV) 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;

2 Timothy 4:3 describes the time which we are living in. Don't be deceived by the smooth talkers and those who think they have discovered something new!

Sincerely,

Walter

Quote:

pastorfrin wrote:

Quote:

InTheLight wrote:

Quote:

-----I reject SCHLINK and her entire flowery Catholic jibberish.

Has anyone else noticed the absolute irony of this lone response to the article?

In Christ,
Ron

I believe the irony mentioned here may well be the fact that the one who has done most of the criticizing and judging as of late here on SI would be the one who is speaking out against this woman and not the scripture basis of the article.

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<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=835>

In His Love
pastorfrin

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/18 22:00

Hi everyone,

Waltern, you said,

"These are just four examples of teachers who were once solid who have adopted false teaching while mixing just enough truth to sound credible."

These are public assaults upon the reputations of these men. Are the readers here supposed to take your accusations as truth and not hear anything from those you are accusing?

Is this how God has directed you here?

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/18 22:02

Waltern, you said,

"If you notice that Paul mentioned the names of two men, one who abandoned him and the other who did him much evil."
"

Paul was writing a private letter to people who knew him and his manner of life.

Who are you to anyone here?

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/18 22:04

Paul the Apostle of Jesus Christ wrote,

"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

- 1Ti 5:19(KJV)

Is this how accusations are being handled here?

Re: Judging judgment - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/18 23:24

Quote:
-----James warns us that we are not to speak evil of another brother in pronouncing judgments upon them. Instead of helping a brother who may be caught up in something sinful, we set ourselves up as a judge and then pronounce judgment on that person.

Quote:
-----Whenever we attempt to judge somebody because of personal motives, no matter what they are such as envy, jealousy, or hatred, we are judging a condemnation unto ourselves and the judgment we make will be tainted and evil.

Quote:
-----These are just four examples of teachers who were once solid who have adopted false teaching while mixing just enough truth to sound credible.

You are contradicting yourself. Mixing motive and intention as if to purposefully deceive. There are teachers who may be wrong and there are false teachers.

I believe the core of the distinction on this matter of judging and judging with right judgment is codified in knowing the difference.

Elsewhere you made some valid observations however. (And the KJV is not one of them, though it is your penchant and *opinion*)

Re: Waltern: nice job., on: 2008/6/18 23:36

...Waltern, nice job, I know that took a lot of study,,and of course people get riled when their nice Catholic friends are berated.....but, someone has to do it.

1] I suffer not a woman to teach, or to usurp authority over a man, but to be in silence.... Does this mean anything to anyone? I know it does to most on this post. Schlink is a woman , and teaches real bad stuff.

2] Does her theology alarm anyone, that there might be a bug in the potato somewhere? I don't care if she has 500 posts on Sermonindex, she is still a heretic. She worships Mary, and ran a Nunnery all of her life. She practices Catholic mysticism , and the wicked stoical disciplines that have engulfed Catholicism in monastic bondage's to enslave a billion unsuspecting souls to believe, and possibly die. Do these facts about her Character matter?

3 When it comes to content, these principles of judgement have been addressed, and Waltern much more eloquently than I. It is silliness, and I have explained why, as well as Waltern. That is content, yet you respond with accusations, that myself, me, have been the instigator of judgement, "more than anyone" here on SI. This may be true, but if my discernment is correct, and Godly, then you should be blessed, that opposed your views, I'm sorry, but you need to ask forgiveness, and repent. Waltern, and even me, have the right to post Edifying ideas and responses, and you have no business trying to intimidate him or me, for our views. I am not intimidated, and I hope Waltern is encouraged for a solid teaching, that I enjoyed anyway.

I had no intentions of making this public, and I would like to dialogue the content, not fight the accusations.

I'm not against you, or Pastors; I reject heresy, and that is my business, isn't it?....Brotherhood..

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/18 23:45

Unnecessary brotherhood ... and others. Why pour your suspicions and accusations into each other?

Quote:

-----and of course people get riled when their nice Catholic friends are berated.....but, someone has to do it.

Perfect example. No one is intimidating any such thing. Slow down brethren and consider what you are saying ...

Re:, on: 2008/6/18 23:47

On 8/19/2007 Billy Graham was a guest at Robert Schuller's Church, the Crystal Cathedral, in Garden Grove, California. I actually watched this on television myself that day:

SCHULLER: Tell me, what do you think is the future of Christianity?

GRAHAM: Well, Christianity and being a true believer--you know, I think there's the Body of Christ. This comes from all the Christian groups around the world, outside the Christian groups. I think everybody that loves Christ, or knows Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they're members of the Body of Christ. And I don't think that we're going to see a great sweeping revival that will turn the whole world to Christ at any time. I think James answered that, the Apostle James in the first council in Jerusalem, when he said God's purpose for this age is to call out a people for His name. And that's what God is doing today, He's calling people out of the world for His name, whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world or the non-believing world, they are members of the Body of Christ because they've been called by GOD. **They may not even know the name of Jesus but they know in their hearts they need something that they don't have, and they turn to the only light that they have, and I think they are saved, and that they're going to be with us in heaven.**

SCHULLER: What, what I hear you saying that it's possible for Jesus Christ to come into human hearts and souls and lives, even if they've been born in darkness and have never had exposure to the Bible. Is that a correct interpretation of what you're saying?

GRAHAM: Yes, it is, because **I believe that I've met people in various parts of the world in tribal situations, that they have never seen a Bible or heard about a Bible, and never heard of Jesus, but they've believed in their hearts that there was a God, and they've tried to live a life that was quite apart from the surrounding community in which they lived.**

SCHULLER: I, I'm so thrilled to hear you say this. There's a wideness in God's mercy.

GRAHAM: There is. There definitely is.

xxxxxxxxxxxx

However, God's Word tells us what is required to be saved

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the father, but by me".

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

1 John 2:23 "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

Romans 5:21 "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 John 5:11 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

John 10:9. I am the door: **by me** if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15. As the Father knoweth me, even so I know the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Jesus is the only way to go into the presence of God. God is sinless and cannot allow sin in His presence because it would stain Him. For example, if you have twelve eggs that are fresh, you have a perfectly fresh dozen eggs. But if you take one out and put in a rotten egg, then you no longer have a perfectly fresh dozen eggs. You have twelve eggs but the dozen is polluted. It is the same with God. He is perfect. If anyone who is not perfect comes into His presence, His perfection is sullied. He cannot and will not allow that to happen.

The Bible tells us that the payment we must make for sin is death. If we sin we must die to pay for that sin. There is no work we can do on this earth to make up for our sins. We are doomed. Like the verse above says, we are already condemned.

The Bible says, in Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." In other words, only the death and spilling of the blood of a substitute victim will allow our sins to be forgiven. In the Old Testament they killed bulls and goats and the blood shed by the animals gave temporary forgiveness and the sacrifices had to be made over and over. But Jesus, the perfect, sinless Son of God gave his life and shed His blood for the remission of sins. He became our substitute victim. If we believe that He did that we are forgiven by the blood He shed. Jesus died on the cross, shedding His own blood for the world. But unlike the bulls and goats, Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead. He is alive today, now, this very second. His blood no longer needs to be shed. He died and shed His blood once for all and His blood never needs to be spilled again like the blood of the bulls and goats.

No one else has shed His blood for us, not Mohammed, not Buddha, not anyone. And not one of the founders of any religion is alive today. Only Christ, who founded Christianity, is alive today. He is the only one to shed His blood for all and then be raised from the dead, and continues to live, forever. He is the only way to get to heaven. There is no other. The Bible says so. If you have chosen to believe the Bible, it is the Bible that tells us Jesus is the only way.

Sincerely,

Walter

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:

Paul the Apostle of Jesus Christ wrote,

"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

- 1Ti 5:19(KJV)

Is this how accusations are being handled here?

Re: Consider ... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/19 0:14

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id4227&forum35&post_id&refreshGo) Billy Graham Exposed?

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id6128&forum36&post_id&refreshGo) The good and bad of Billy Graham

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/19 6:06

Brothertom,

" Is this how God has directed you here?"

Is this not a valid question here?

Are we playing games here with other men's reputations?

Did the Lord Jesus Christ give us a gun for a mouth and tell us to shoot as YOU will?

I asked you after you had publicly declared the judgment of God upon an organisation if you were speaking of yourself, or of God. I did not see where you have responded yet.

Re: Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2008/6/19 10:41

The things following the original article in this thread are are grief to me, my own post included, it was simply a nicely veiled criticism of its own, my sincere apologies.

Perhaps we can turn the discussion back to the article itself which I found to be convicting and challenging. I think Ms. Schlink tells it like it is from the Scriptures in this article.

There is a great tension between standing boldly for the truth and a love that covers others mistakes and bestows kindness. May God grant us each grace and wisdom to understand these things and walk humbly before God and man.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: Billy Graham--Apostate? Compare his words to the Bible, on: 2008/6/19 10:58

(Moderator Edit: The content of this posting has been removed. The site mentioned clearly states that their articles are not to be stored on internet sites.)

See also "Billy Graham and Rome" at the Evangelical section of the End Times Apostasy Database at the Way of Life web site -- <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/grahamrome1.htm>

Sincerely,

Walter

P.S. We are instructed to use the word of God, the Bible, to test the doctrine (teaching) of other Christians. If it does not match, if it is not in full agreement with God's Word, then it is to be rejected as false teaching, it is to be rejected as heresy. **2 Timothy 2:15-21**

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/19 18:22

Hi everyone,

Waltrn,

In one sentence you accused **four** different men here, including Billy Graham.

Is this how the Bible directs us to bring accusations against men in public?

In your last post, you made how many more **accusations** against how many more different people? Is this how God directs a man of God to charge persons publicly with guilt or apostasy or of teaching false doctrine?

How is anyone supposed to be able to sort through the multitude of quotations, accusations, and opinions being presented here?

And if they do not, what are they left with, accept the allegations **you** have made?

How is the context of the things you are alleging as statements made by individuals to be seen or understood in any of this????

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him *that which is wrong*; Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, *if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother*; Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

- Deuteronomy 19:15-19(KJV)

Re:, on: 2008/6/19 21:44

Quote:

Brothertom wrote:

...Waltern, nice job, I know that took a lot of study,,,and of course people get riled when their nice Catholic friends are berated.....but, someone has to do it.

1
Quote:----- I suffer not a woman to teach, or to usurp authority over a man, but to be in silence.... Does this mean anything to anyone? I know it does to most on this post. Schlink is a woman , and teaches real bad stuff.

.....
I reject heresy, and that is my business, isn;t it?....Brothertom..

So I guess it's safe to ascertain that you didn't read any of her article?

Quote:-----... In reality, however, we enjoy correcting others and reproaching them. Often the real source of our criticism is rebellion or annoyance, because someone did something against our wishes.

.. So today we must choose a new way, a new place. Instead of sitting on the judgment throne above the others we must sit where we deserve to sit: in the defendant's box, where we can be judged and hear God's judgment on our sins.

Re:, on: 2008/6/19 21:47

Hello ChrisJD:

It appears that you did not take the time to even read my last post. It is all about one person, Billy Graham.

When Paul was writing to Timothy, he instructed him to study the word of God, so that when other Christians spoke, he (Timothy) would be able to discern if what that person was saying was **TRUE** to God's Word, the Bible.

2 Timothy 2: 15. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18. Who Concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. **(They wrongly preached that the rapture had already occurred)** 19 . Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

According to the Book of Acts, Chapter 17 verse 11, Paul of Tarsus and Silas preached at Berea, and the inhabitants "eagerly examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so". **In other words they compared Paul's teaching to what the Bible said, and many of them believed (what Paul had to say about Doctrine).**

In Hebrews, we are told that the Word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart:

12. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

In conclusion, we are instructed to use the word of God, the Bible, to test the doctrine (teaching) of other Christians. If it does not match, if it is not in full agreement with God's Word, then it is to be rejected as false teaching, it is to be rejected as heresy.

As Christians, we are commanded to compare the words and teaching and doctrinal positions of other "Christians" (or those that say they are Christians) against the only true measure--the Holy Bible. That is exactly what I have done in my posts.

If you find fault with my post, then answer it point by point with **BIBLE SCRIPTURE that supports your view**. For example, if you think that Billy Graham is **correct in his belief and position with infant baptism** then proof-text that belief by Bible Scripture, and prove to us that the Bible teaches this fact.

This is a poem, that teaches us the use of God's Word, the Holy Bible--the ANVIL:

The Anvil--God's WORD

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then, looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye, "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed--the hammers gone.

Other thoughts about God's Word:

Everything must be decided by Scripture.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)
Welsh preacher and writer

**The vigour of our spiritual life will be
in exact proportion to the place held by
the Bible in our life and thoughts.**

George Müller (1805-1898)

Prussian-born English evangelist and founder of a Bristol orphanage

**Prove all things (BY SCRIPTURE!); hold fast that which is good.
1 Thessalonians 5:21**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Everything must be decided by Scripture!!!!

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (TEACHING), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 1 Timothy 3:16

Webster's 1828 Dictionary of the English Language provides us with the meaning of the above words by Paul the Apostle to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:16:

DOCTRINE, n.

1. In a general sense, whatever is taught. Hence, a principle or position in any science; whatever is laid down as true by an instructor or master. The doctrines of the gospel are the principles or truths taught by Christ and his apostles. The doctrines of Plato are the principles which he taught. Hence a doctrine may be true or false; it may be a mere tenet or opinion.
2. The act of teaching.
He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in his doctrine. Mark 4.
3. Learning; knowledge.
Whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Isaiah 28.
4. The truths of the gospel in general.
That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. Titus 2.
5. Instruction and confirmation in the truths of the gospel. 2 Timothy 3.

REPROOF', n.

1. The act of correcting; the act of bringing back, from error or deviation, to a just standard, as to truth, rectitude, justice or propriety; as the correction of opinions or manners.

All scripture is profitable for correction. 2 Timothy 3.

2. Retrenchment of faults or errors; amendment; as the correction of a book, or of the press.
3. That which is substituted in the place of what is wrong; as the corrections of a copy are numerous; set the corrections in the margin of a proof-sheet.
4. That which is intended to rectify, or to cure faults; punishment; discipline; chastisement; that which corrects.
Withhold not correction from the child. Proverbs 23.
5. In scriptural language, whatever tends to correct the moral conduct, and bring back from error or sin, as afflictions.
They have refused to receive correction. Jeremiah 5. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor be weary of his correction. Proverbs 3.
6. Critical notice; animadversion.
7. Abatement of noxious qualities; the counteraction of what is inconvenient or hurtful in its effects; as the correction of acidity in the stomach.
House of correction, a house where disorderly persons are confined; a bridewell.

INSTRUCTION, n.

1. The act of teaching or informing the understanding in that of which it was before ignorant; information.
2. Precepts conveying knowledge.
Receive my instruction and not silver. Prov.8.
3. Direction; order; command; mandate. The minister received instructions from his sovereign to demand a categorical answer.

RIGHTEOUSNESS, n. ri'chusness.

1. Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. Righteousness, as used in Scripture a

nd theology, in which it is chiefly used, is nearly equivalent to holiness, comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections; in short, it is true religion. 2. Applied to God, the perfection or holiness of his nature; exact rectitude; faithfulness. 3. The active and passive obedience of Christ, by which the law of God is fulfilled. Daniel 9.4. Justice; equity between man and man. Luke 1. 5. The cause of our justification. The Lord our righteousness. Jer. 23.

Sincerely,

Walter

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:

Hi everyone,

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- Deuteronomy 19:15-19(KJV)

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/19 22:22

Hi everyone,

Walter,

You said,

"As Christians, we are commanded to compare the words and teaching and doctrinal positions of other "Christians" (or those that say they are Christians) against the only true measure--the Holy Bible. That is exactly what I have done in my posts."

What you have posted here **are your selected representations** of the teachings of this man through quotations and other such.

Are we supposed to go interview the *Gastonia Gazette* (or any of the other media quoted here) and the reporters that worked there in 1967 to corroborate **your allegations**? Or to check to see if you have faithfully represented the quotations here without mis-representing what was actually said in context?

You also said,

"If you find fault with my post, then answer it point by point with BIBLE SCRIPTURE that supports your view."

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

- Dueteronomy 19:15(KJV)

Re:, on: 2008/6/19 22:48

To ChrisJD:

You posted:

"Are we supposed to go interview the Gastonia Gazette (or any of the other media quoted here) and the reporters that worked there in 1967 to corroborate your allegations? Or to check to see if you have faithfully represented the quotations here without mis-representing what was actually said in context?"

My reply:

You can believe whatever you want to believe. If you do not believe me, then prove me wrong on Billy Grahams positions that I have posted here. Why not write him a letter and get his response? Just send my post to him with your letter and see what the reply is, if any. It will only be silence! Why? **Because what I have posted here is a matter of public record that has transpired since the late 1960's.**

Sincerely,

Walter

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:
Hi everyone,

Walter,

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- Deuteronomy 19:15(KJV)

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/19 22:51

Waltem,

"Why don't write him a letter and get his response?"

Wait, you are making public accusations against this man and I should write him a letter?

What????

Re:, on: 2008/6/19 23:06

To ChrisJD & others:

The reason why so many Christians today think that they don't have a right to judge anyone is because they have been indoctrinated with the worldly teaching of "tolerance." To the world tolerance means that truth is subjective, and there is no absolute truth. This means no one has a right to tell someone else that they are wrong, because one person's opinion is just as good as someone else's. Therefore we hear such things as, "who are you to judge me, or to tell me if I am right or wrong?" According to the latest statistics (**The New Tolerance, by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, pages 173-174**) **50% of Christians youth do not believe that an objective standard of truth exists, while 53% of the adults do not believe in absolute truth; Two-thirds of the 70% of Americans who say it is important to follow the teachings of the Bible reject moral absolutes. This is why many Christians today think that no one has the right to say anything to them, because that is judging them. When you bring this attitude into the church you have to ignore the Scriptures, because they do teach that there are absolute truths. Scriptures plainly teaches that believers are not to walk around blindly, ignoring sinful behavior or false teaching; and if we do then we are in direct conflict with clear teaching of God's Word.** Christians need to take to heart the words of Peter and other apostles in Acts 5:29 when told that we are not to judge anyone, "...We ought to obey God rather than men." Christians, nor churches can afford to ignore God's Word and turn a blind eye to those who propagate the false teaching that no Christian has a right to judge another. To do so will only lead to confusion and division among the church body, and shows a contempt for God's Word. But we must also acknowledge that when it comes to judging, we need to always check our motives before we say something to another believer. If what we are doing is not based squarely upon God's Word and a love for our brother or sister in Christ, then it is best to keep our mouths shut.

Today, one of the most quoted verses that we hear thrown out by people is **Judge not, that ye be judged**" Therefore meaning, **"who are you to judge me?"** **"Don't you know that you are not supposed to judge people?"** Usually this is what comes out of a person's mouth **when confronted about their behavior, their personal beliefs, or for what they are TEACHING.** Is this really what the New Testament teaches, or is this just a smoke screen to cover-up unbiblical behavior or teachings? Let's look at what the New Testament teaches concerning a Christian's position when it comes to making judgments.

Let's start with the most often quoted passage in Matthew 7:1-5 where it says, **"1Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of t**

hy brother's eye."

If we stop with the first verse, as most people do, it would seem to teach that to judge anyone is totally wrong. The problem with this is that it pulls the verse out of the context in which it was written. By the time you get to verse 5, it is clear that Jesus is talking to hypocrites (i.e., the Jewish religious leaders) who are condemning others for not living up to their standards. The context for this section along with Luke 6:39-42 is the Sermon on the Mount, in which Christ was rejecting Phariseeism as a means by which a person could attain righteousness that would make them fit to enter the kingdom of heaven. The Pharisees claimed to have the most authoritative voice in Israel in matters pertaining to Moses' law. Therefore they demanded explicit submission to their teachings (i.e., the oral traditions)."

Jesus Christ says this about the Pharisees in Matthew 5:20, **"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Christ wasn't declaring that the Scribes and Pharisees were righteous, but was pointing out that their righteousness fell short because it was based upon the legalism of their oral traditions and not God's Word.** So no one could enter the kingdom of heaven by trying to live up to their standards. People do the same thing today when they go beyond what God has declared and set their own standards, and then expect others to live up to their standards. The fallacy of this is how can sinful man set higher standards than a totally holy and righteous God can? The nation of Israel and its leaders were blind to the God's truth, and Christ told them in this passage what they needed to do to remove their blindness in verse 5, "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." When we remove the beam of legalism from our eyes then we can begin to see what God expects of us, and then we are able to help others who are stumbling also. The point of this whole passage was a warning about judging others based upon their own standards because they would be judged according to their own standards, which they themselves could not even live up to. Jesus also reinforces this in John 7:24 where He tells the crowds not to judge according to mere appearances (their superficial understanding of Him healing a man on the Sabbath), but they were to use a righteous judgment. If this is not the case then Jesus Christ contradicted Himself in Luke 12:54-59, where he tells the people to judge for themselves what they were seeing and hearing from His ministry to see if it was right according to what was taught in the Today, one of the most quoted verses that we hear thrown out by people is "Judge not, that ye be judged." Therefore meaning, "who are you to judge me?" "Don't you know that you are not supposed to judge people?" Usually this is what comes out of a person's mouth when confronted about their behavior, their personal beliefs, or for what they are teaching. Is this really what the New Testament teaches, or is this just a smoke screen to cover-up unbiblical behavior or teachings? Let's look at what the New Testament teaches concerning a Christian's position when it comes to making judgments.

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he case then Jesus Christ contradicted Himself in Luke 12:54-59, where he tells the people to judge for themselves what they were seeing and hearing from His ministry to see if it was right according to what was taught in the Scriptures concerning the Messiah. So it is clear from just a brief look at what Jesus taught in these few verses that He wasn't teaching that all judgment was wrong, but only when it is based upon human opinions and motives, and not God's Word. With this said, now lets turn our attention to what the Bible teaches about judging.

1. Areas that we should withhold judgment on.

a. When it comes to personal convictions or preferences (non-moral issues) on which the Bible has no clear teaching then we should not judge someone who makes those choices. Romans 14:1-23 speaks about not judging another believer because of their eating preferences (vv.1-4), or how they view the significance of special days (vv.5-8). But Paul does make it clear that our opinions or convictions on these matters should not become a stumbling block to other believers, then it would become a moral issue (vv.13-23).

b. We should not judge people just by their outward appearance (John 7:24; James 2:1-4). This is superficial judgment that is often based upon how someone looks or talks, and is not based upon what they are actually doing for the Lord. The problem with this type of judgment is that it usually has its roots in legalism and not Scripture.

c. We should withhold judgment upon another Christian's service (1 Corinthians 4:1-5). The context of this passage is dealing with divisions in the church at Corinth because of factions and false teachers who all claimed superiority over the others. As a result some were criticizing Paul's ministry because they felt that he wasn't doing what they thought that he should be doing. The problem wasn't Paul's ministry or what he was teaching, but it was the attitude of some in the church. This doesn't mean that we are not to be discerning about a ministry, but that we are not supposed to condemn others because they are not doing what we think they should be doing. We need to keep in mind that some plant and some water, but ultimately it is God who causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:1-9). An example of this would be when we start thinking that we could preach or write better sermons than the preacher, or we think that we could do a better job than what someone else is doing in another area of ministry. Or that we think that a person isn't doing something in a way that we think it should be done. When you do things like this, you are in a sense looking at individuals more like chess pieces and not people chosen by God to do the best they can with what God has given them.

d. This last area tends to build off of the other areas, and that is letting our tongues express our opinions about others (James 4:11-12). When we criticize others, we are placing ourselves in the position as judge and pronouncing judgment upon them when we may not know or understand all the details of why someone is doing what they are doing. Again, let me remind everyone that these passages are addressing non-moral issues. When it comes to sin, false teaching or ministries, the Bible clearly teaches that we are to be discerning which means we need to make a judgment based upon God's Word.

2. Areas that we should make judgments on.

a. Christians are to judge disputes between members of the local body of believers so they can settle these disputes (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). This is so that the problem doesn't spill over into the non-believing world, which discredits the church's witness to the lost.

b. The local church is to judge the unrepentant sins of its members, and to take the appropriate actions. Unconfessed sin needs to be publicly judged rightly and condemned (1 Corinthians 5:3-5). When we do this, it must be done according to God's Word (see Matt. 18:15-20). The purpose of this judgment is not to condemn, but to restore the sinful believer into useful service (Galatians 6:1-5). If the sinful believer refuses to repent, then we are to break fellowship with them until they do repent (1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 3:6). Christ rebuked the church of Thyatira for not judging a woman who was a false teacher and prophetess, and who was sinning (Revelation 2:20-24).

c. We are to rightly judge the doctrinal teaching of preachers and teachers by God's Word (Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 17:10-11; 1 Corinthians 14:29; Titus 1:10-16; 3:10; Hebrews 13:7; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:20-24). Peter and John both told the Jewish leaders to judge what they were saying to see if it was true or not according to God's Word (Acts 4:19). Paul tells the Corinthians to judge what he was saying (1 Corinthians 10:15). It does need to be pointed out that we are not to listen to accusations against our pastor/leaders unless there are at least two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19-20).

d. We are to rightly judge potential Elders/Pastors and Deacons to see if they measure up to the qualifications given in the Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). The reason why many churches have the problems that they have is because they fail to obey God's Word and appoint people who are not qualified according to God's Word. This means that we have to discern or judge others by God's standards in order to be obedient to God's Word.

e. We are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:14 to "admonish the unruly." In verse 15, we are told to "see to it that no one repays another with evil for evil." So it is clear that we as believers have to be discerning about other believers. This doesn't mean that we are to go around looking for every little speck or flaw, but that when we see people doing things that are clearly unbiblical then we are to speak up and say something.

f. We are to examine or scrutinize ourselves to see if our faith is real (2 Corinthians 13:5-7). This testing is to see if we are truly saved and if we are doing right in the sight of God. We are also told to judge (scrutinize) ourselves before we partake of the Lord's Supper to see if our spiritual condition is correct (1 Corinthians 11:31).

Conclusion. The reason why so many Christians today think that they don't have a right to judge anyone is because they have been indoctrinated with the worldly teaching of "tolerance." To the world tolerance means that truth is subjective, and there is no absolute truth. This means no one has the right to tell someone else that they are wrong, because one person's opinion is just as good as someone else's. Therefore we hear such things as, "who are you to judge me, or to tell me if I am right or wrong?" According to the latest statistics (The New Tolerance, by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, pages 173-174) 50% of Christians youth do not believe that an objective standard of truth exists, while 53% of the adults do not believe in absolute truth; Two-thirds of the 70% of Americans who say it is important to follow the teachings of the Bible reject moral absolutes. This is why many Christians today think that no one has the right to say anything to them, because that is judging them. When you bring this attitude into the church you have to ignore the Scriptures, because they do teach that there are absolute truths. Scriptures plainly teaches that believers are not to walk around blindly, ignoring sinful behavior or false teaching; and if we do then we are in direct conflict with clear teaching of God's Word. Christians need to take to heart the words of Peter and other apostles in Acts 5:29 when told that we are not to judge anyone, "...We ought to obey God rather than men." **Christians, nor churches can afford to ignore God's Word and turn a blind eye to those who propagate the false teaching that no Christian has a right to judge another. To do so will only lead to confusion and division among the church body, and shows a contempt for God's Word.** But we must also acknowledge that when it comes to judging, we need to always check our motives before we say something to another believer.

Sincerely,

Walter
:-D

Re: Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/6/19 23:22

pastorfrin,

Thank you for posting this article. As I read it, I realized that I had been standing in judgment of others just a short two hours ago. How easily we are deceived about the truth of our sin. Blessedly the Lord puts others around us to bring the matter to our attention so that we may repent.

I have become painfully aware that the judgment of others does in fact bring about condemnation to the one standing in judgment - that Satan is lurking about just waiting for words to be put forth that release him to bring about sorrow and destruction to God's children.

The response to this post is a clear indication that Satan would have us to be deceived in this matter. Oh how God's heart must be grieved to see his beloved bite and tear at each others flesh.

Forgive us Father for we have sinned.

Re: Criticizing: Judging By Basilea Schlink - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/6/20 1:06

HeartSong,

You are welcome and I join with you in praying:

Quote:
-----Forgive us Father for we have sinned.

Brothers and Sisters,

Many years ago as a young A/G minister I believed what was written and taught by men of God within the A/G organization. The fact is, I was more than naïve enough to believe that all their teachings must be of God and that they were without error.

It did not take long for me to discover that they were not perfect and some of their teaching did not line up with the word of God. So what did I do? I rejected all of their teaching and looked for men who taught nothing but the truth of God's word. Guess what? I could not find any I could totally agree with. This discovery placed me in quite a dilemma, what was I to do?

As I prayed about the situation I began to hear the word listen in my spirit. This happened several times as I sought the Lord and finally it came to me; Listen to what is being said and then judge each teaching on its own individual merit. So I began to do just that, to listen first and allow the Holy Spirit through the word of God to show me truth and error from every article, sermon and teaching. The person was not judged, nor all their teaching, unless all was found to be false.

There has not been one single person that I have met over the years that I have not learned something from, If, I have taken the time to listen to them.

When we throw a blanket judgment upon someone without meeting them face to face and listening to what they have to say, we only become a part of the problem. How can anyone make a true judgment of another person on rumors, and innuendoes?

If it is impossible to meet with someone, judge each article, teaching and sermon on its own merit and you will be surprised at how much one may be blessed by taking the time to listen.

There is hardly a man or woman listed in the archives of SI who would not be judged as a false teacher if you go to the right discernment site and the Lord knows there are plenty to choose from.

Brother Tom,

No, I do not lean toward any one teacher other than the Holy Spirit and no, I do not agree with all Basilea Schlink has taught or stood for, nor do I agree with all you have brought forth since you have been on SI, does that mean I should call you a false teacher? No, I should think not, instead I read what you have to say and each time I compare it with my understanding of what the word of God says. I do this with each and everything I read and listen to. The Holy Spirit is here to teach us and show us the truth, if we take the time through the word of God to allow Him to do so.

Over the years I have found it an unpleasant but at times necessary task to warn and discipline members of our congregation and other ministers as well. Keeping in mind the scripture which admonishes us to:

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

If warning was the only reason then there is a scriptural precedence for doing so, and that is exactly what the article posted taught.

The problem is this, instead of warning, it seems way too often, criticism, judging, and belittling of the brethren is the result and the Lord will judge those who do such things.

In His Love
pastorfrin

Re: With right judgment - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/20 9:19

Walter.

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. 2Sa 12:7

I removed the content from your posting on Billy Graham as the site in question clearly states:

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These articles cannot be stored on BBS or Internet sites or sold or placed by themselves or with other material in any electronic format for sale, but may be distributed for free by e-mail or by print. They must be left intact and nothing removed or changed, including these informational headers. This is a listing for **Fundamental Baptists and other fundamentalist, Bible-believing Christians**. Our goal in this particular aspect of our ministry is not devotional but is **TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ASSIST PREACHERS IN THE PROTECTION OF THE CHURCHES IN THIS APOSTATE HOUR**.

(Italics and embolden their own.)

It is impossible not to notice when this header is above each and every article. Do not post such things here, respect their wishes.

I do not know if there is anything worse than to add embellishments to things already troublesome, even flatly wrong in an effort to over prove them. It's a cynical pragmatism and biting cynicism that makes the accuser worse and in need of rebuke for sinning the sin of bearing false witness against your neighbor. It is the effortless and ready acceptance to overlook that which paints and taints that which is true by excepting the false as exceptional.

I cannot hear what you are saying over what you are saying

Or in other words, the very point Nathan stated to David, *Thou art the man*.

It is this sort of fanfare that puts discernment ministries and other like-minded under a need for their own discerning as has been mentioned here time and again. The minute the embellishments come in, whatever truth noted, warned of, exposed, is lost and my ears will close to it. It is of the wrong spirit and often full of venom and vendetta. It is more often out to destroy, not repair, strangle rather than warn, vile and violent, not borne of grief or concern. It is pride and rebellion, *sin* but allowed to be washed out, cast behind the back and spiritually pragmatized as the ends justify the means.

The irony of proving out wrong judgment and criticism is right within it's opposites or perhaps opponents, those teaching us how to judge rightly.

Re:With right judgment?, on: 2008/6/20 9:44

Dear Moderator

What I posted previously was not from the site that you mentioned. The title of the website is: **"IS BILLY GRAHAM A CHRISTIAN"**---- and can be found at the following site, that has no such provision about internet posting:

<http://members.fortunecity.com/sitaram/page142.htm>

There are many sites on the internet that post the views of Billy Graham, and compare them to the Anvil, God's word.

This is the entire posting from the site, that I previously posted partially:

Is Billy Graham a Christian?

No one would believe me when I said that there are fundamentalist Christians who claim that BILLY GRAHAM is not a Christian. So here it is folks. This something posted at a website which calls into question just how "christian" Billy Graham is. Personally, I think he is a very saintly man for a TV evangelist who has led a spotlessly clean life. But here are some of the points which some fundamentalists will cite as "problems" with Billy Graham's ministry:

Billy Graham accepts degrees from Catholic colleges and says the Catholic gospel is the same as his own

Billy Graham has turned thousands of converts over to apostate churches

Billy Graham thinks the Pope is a great evangelist

Billy Graham thinks there is special power in infant baptism

Billy Graham does not believe hell is a place of literal fiery torment

Billy Graham invites Catholic bishops onto his platform to bless those who come forward at his invitations

Billy Graham praises Christ-denying modernists

Billy Graham has promoted practically every perverted Bible version to appear in the last four decades

Billy Graham's Disobedience To The Word of God

"And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord" (2 Chronicles 19:2)

We have begun sending out articles from time to time by e-mail to those who desire to receive them. Many of these are articles from the "Digging in the Walls" section of O Timothy magazine. In October we sent out the article from Volume 1 2 Issue 9 on Jerry Falwell supporting Billy Graham. That e-mail posting was in turn sent out to a Baptist news group, which is a discussion group on the Internet. **Many of the responses we received back from that public posting were very negative. In reading these, I was impressed anew at the ignorance of the average Christian (I use that term in the broadest sense) today. Many of those who responded were completely ignorant of the fact that Billy Graham has sent multitudes of converts back to the Roman Catholic Church or that he praised modernists.** These things were not done in the dark, yet many Christians are entirely ignorant of these things. Why? The average Christian "minister" today is a coward whose goal is to fit in the ecumenical scene and to make people feel good about themselves rather than to preach the truth regardless of the cost. The Bible describes these men as "dumb dogs." What good is a watch dog that will not bark? If ever there were an hour in which preachers need to lift the voice against the error which is on every side, it is today. But what do we find? Dumb dogs.

In the article on Falwell supporting Graham we mentioned a number of things of which Dr. Graham is guilty. Following is the documentation to each of these charges. I realize that most of the readers of O Timothy know these facts, but I also realize that it is not always a simple matter to put your hands upon accurate documentation. **I trust the following is helpful in giving an answer to those who challenge the veracity of those attempting today to defend the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints:**

Billy Graham accepts degrees from Catholic colleges and says the Catholic gospel is the same as his own

On Nov. 21, 1967, an honorary degree was conferred on Graham by the Catholic priests who run Belmont Abbey College, North Carolina, during an Institute for Ecumenical Dialogue. The Gastonia Gazette reported:

"After receiving the honorary degree of doctor of humane letter (D.H.L.) from the Abbey, Graham noted the significance of the occasion--" a time when Protestants and Catholics could meet together and greet each other as brothers, whereas 10 years ago they could not," he said.

"The evangelist's first sermon at a Catholic institution was at the Abbey, in 1963, and his return Tuesday was the climax to this week's Institute for Ecumenical Dialogue, a program sponsored in part by the Abbey and designed to promote understanding among Catholic and Protestant clergymen of the Gaston-Mecklenburg area.

"Graham, freshly returned from his Japanese Crusade, said he 'knew of no greater honor a North Carolina preacher, read just a few miles from here, could have than to be presented with this degree. I'm not sure but what this could start me being called "Father Graham," ' he facetiously added.

"Graham said... 'Finally, the way of salvation has not changed. I know how the ending of the book will be. The gospel that built this school and the gospel that brings me here tonight is still the way to salvation' ("Belmont Abbey Confers Honorary Degree," Paul Smith, Gazette staff reporter, The Gastonia Gazette, Gastonia, North Carolina, Nov. 22, 1967).

Billy Graham has turned thousands of converts over to apostate churches

The evidence for this is overwhelming and has been widely documented. We have documented this in our book *Flirting with Rome: Evangelical Entanglement with Roman Catholicism* (Volume 1), available from Way of Life Literature (1219 N. Harns Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277). As early as Sept. 21, 1957, Graham said in an interview with the San Francisco News, "Anyone who makes a decision at our meetings is seen later and referred to a local clergyman, Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish." In 1983, The Florida Catholic (Sept. 2, 1983) reported of the Orlando crusade: "Names of Catholics who had made decisions for Christ were provided at that meeting by Rick Marshall of the Graham organization." The report said the names of 600 people had been turned over to the Catholic Church. In 1984, at the Vancouver, British Columbia crusade, the vice-chairman of the organizing committee, David Cline of Bringhouse United Church, said, "If Catholic step forward there will be no attempt to convert them and their names will be given to the Catholic church nearest their homes" (Vancouver Sun, Oct. 5, 1984). In 1987 a Catholic priest, Donald Willette of St. Jude's Church, was a supervisor of the 6,600 counselors for the Denver crusade. Willette reported that from one service alone 500 cards of individuals were referred to St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in Englewood, a suburb of Denver (Wilson Ewin, *Evangelism: The Trojan Horse of the 1990s*). In 1989, Michael Seed, Ecumenical Advisor to (Catholic) Cardinal Hume, said of Graham's London crusade: "Those who come forward for counseling during a Mission evening in June, if they are Roman Catholic, will be directed to a Roman Catholic 'nurture-group' under Roman Catholic counselors in their home area" (John Ashbrook, *New Neutralism II*, Mentor, Ohio: Here I Stand Books, 1992, p.35). By September 1992, the Catholic archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, had set a goal to supply 6,000 of the 10,000 counselors needed for the Graham crusade. All Catholics responding to the alter call were channeled to Catholic churches. These are just a few examples of the hundreds which could be given.

Billy Graham thinks the Pope is a great evangelist

In an interview with *The Saturday Evening Post*, Jan.-Feb. 1980, Graham described the visit of John Paul II to America with these words: "The pope came as a statesman and a pastor, but I believe he also sees himself coming as an evangelist... The pope sought to speak to the spiritual hunger of our age in the same way Christians throughout the centuries have spoken to the spiritual yearnings of every age--by pointing people to Christ." *Foundation magazine*, Vol. V, Issue 5, 1984, reported that Graham made this statement about the Pope's address in Vancouver, B.C. in 1983: "I'll tell you--that was just about as straight an evangelical address as I've ever heard. It was tremendous."

Billy Graham thinks there is special power in infant baptism

In a 1961 interview with the *Lutheran Standard*, Graham said: "I do believe that something happens at the baptism of an infant... we cannot fully understand the mysteries of God, but I believe that a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism" (*Lutheran Standard*, October 27, 1961).

Billy Graham does not believe hell is a place of literal fiery torment

The Orlando (Florida) *Sentinel* for April 10, 1983, asked Billy Graham: "Surveys tell us that 85% of Americans believe in heaven, but only 65% believe in hell. Why do you think so many Americans don't accept the concept of hell?" He replied: "I think that hell essentially is separation from God forever. And that is the worst hell that I can think of. But I think people have a hard time believing God is going to allow people to burn in literal fire forever. I think the fire that is mentioned in the Bible is a burning thirst for God that can never be quenched."

"Hell is not the most popular of preaching topics. I don't like to preach on it. But I must if I am to proclaim the whole counsel of God. We must not avoid warning of it. The most outspoken messages on hell, and the most graphic references to it, came from Jesus Himself. ...Jesus used three words to describe hell. ...The third word that He used is 'fire.' Jesus used this symbol over and over. This could be literal fire, as many believe. Or IT COULD BE SYMBOLIC. ...I've often thought that this fire could possibly be a burning thirst for God that is never quenched. What a terrible fire that would be-- never to find satisfaction, joy, or fulfillment!" (*A Biblical Standard For Evangelists*, Billy Graham, A commentary on the 15 Affirmations made by participants at the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 1983, Worldwide Publications, Minneapolis, Minnesota, pages 45-47).

Billy Graham invites Catholic bishops onto his platform to bless those who come forward at his invitations

The Roman Catholic bishop of Sao Paulo, Brazil, stood beside Graham during his 1962 crusade in that city, and blessed those who came forward at the invitation. Graham said this illustrated that "something tremendous, an awakening of reform and revival within Christianity" was happening (Daily Journal, International Falls, Minnesota, Oct. 29, 1963, cited by the New York Times, Nov. 9, 1963).

Billy Graham praises Christ-denying modernists

This has been widely documented for 40 years. In Graham's San Francisco Crusade, 1959, he honored the notorious liberal Bishop James A. Pike by having him on the platform and to lead in prayer. He also appeared at Grace Cathedral with Pike. Yet Pike had written in LOOK magazine, expressing himself as not believing in the fundamentals of the faith. Pike, in a pastoral letter that was to be read in all the Episcopal Churches of his diocese, stated that "Religious myth is one of the avenues of faith and has an important place in the communication of the Gospel." He spoke of the "myth of the Garden of Eden." He said, "the virgin birth... is a myth which churchmen should be free to accept or reject..."

In Graham's 1963 Los Angeles Crusade, Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy was chairman of the crusade committee. Yet, Kennedy has denied just about every one of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. His printed endorsement is found on the jacket of Nels Ferre's book, *The Sun And The Umbrella*. In this book Ferre said, "Jesus never was nor became God." ... Ferre says the idea of Christ's pre-existence "is the nature of the grand myth which at its heart is idolatry." Ferre wrote another book entitled *The Christian Understanding Of God*. In this book he said, "We have no way of knowing, even, that Jesus was sinless." In this book he promotes the theory that Jesus may have been the son of a German soldier. Yet, Graham's campaign chairman endorsed Ferre and his book. In fact, Graham said on August 21, 1963, "Bishop Kennedy is one of the ten greatest Christian preachers in America." The first Sunday of the Crusade, Graham took ten minutes to eulogize Dr. E. Stanley Jones, who is a deluxe modernist and proves it in his book on Mahatma Gandhi (E.L. Bynum, *Why We Cannot Support The Billy Graham Crusade*, Lubbock, Texas: Plains Baptist Challenger)

Graham's attitude toward modernists is evident in his pleasant relationship with the World Council of Churches. He has attended all but two of the WCC's General Assemblies. Consider the following statements taken from the telegram sent in 1983 by Graham to Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Dr. Graham did not appear at the WCC Sixth Assembly in 1983 because of prior engagements: "Dear Philip: Your gracious and generous invitation to speak twice in Vancouver was deeply appreciated. ...I have tried to juggle my schedule but it is just too heavy at this late date for me to make the drastic changes that would be necessary for me to be in Vancouver. This will be only the second general assembly of the WCC that I have had to miss. I will certainly miss seeing you and many other old friends and fellowshiping with those from all over the world..." (FOUNDATION, Vol. IV, Issue IV, Los Osos, Calif.: Fundamental Evangelistic Association, 1983). We should note here that Philip Potter is an apostate Christian leader. He does not believe that those in non-Christian religions are lost, and he advocates violent communist movements!

These are a mere three examples of Graham's habit of honoring wicked, Bible-denying modernists.

Billy Graham has promoted practically every perverted Bible version to appear in the last four decades

In 1952 Billy Graham accepted a copy of the modernistic Revised Standard Version and told a crowd of 20,000 people: "These scholars have probably given us the most nearly perfect translation in English. While there may be room for disagreement in certain areas of the translation, yet this new version should supplement the King James Version and make Bible reading a habit throughout America" (Graham, cited by Perry Rockwood, *God's Inspired Preserved Bible*, Halifax, N.S.: People's Gospel Hour, nd., p. 15)

Graham's endorsement of the Revised Standard Version foreshadowed Evangelicalism's capitulation to the endless stream of modern versions. Graham has endorsed practically every new version to appear on the scene, no matter how flippant and unfaithful.

In his autobiography, modernist Bible paraphraser J.B. Phillips (1906-1982) stated that Billy Graham spoke highly of his work as early as 1952: "I think it was in 1952 that I received a visit from Dr. Billy Graham with his charming and intelligent wife. 'I want to thank you, Dr. Phillips,' he began, 'for Letters to Young Churches'" (J.B. Phillips, *The Price of Success*, Wheaton: Harold Shaw Pub., 1984, p. 116).

Graham almost single-handedly rescued the Living Bible from oblivion. "The Living Bible might be called 'The Billy Graham Bible,' for it was he who made it the success that it is. According to Time magazine, July 24, 1972, Billy Graham ordered 50,000 copies of the Epistles, and a short time later ordered some 450,000 more, and still later ordered 600,000 special paperback versions for his autumn television crusade in 1972. From that time on, orders began to pour in" (M.L.

Moser, Jr., *The Case Against the Living Bible*, Little Rock: Challenge Press, p.9).

That was only the beginning of Graham's love affair with the Living Bible. At Amsterdam '86, Graham allowed Living Bibles International to distribute free copies of the Living Bible in 40 different languages to the 8,000 evangelists in attendance (Light of Live, Bombay, India, Sept. 1986, p.23). Graham distributed 10,000 copies of the Living Bible to people who attended his Mission England Crusade (Australian Beacon, No. 241, Aug. 1986). In 1987, Graham appeared in television ads for The Book, a condensed version of the Living Bible. He said it "reads like a novel."

In an ad which appeared in a 1991 issue of Charisma magazine, Graham said: "I read The Living Bible because in this book I have read the age-abiding truths of the scriptures with renewed interest and inspiration. The Living Bible communicates the message of Christ to our generation" (Charisma, March 1991, p. 98).

Billy Graham is also one of the men who first helped make the perverted Good News for Modern Man (Today's English Version) popular by distributing it through his Association. Graham "called it an excellent translation over nationwide television from his campaign in Anaheim, California." It was then distributed by the Grason Company of Minneapolis, the distributors of Billy Graham materials (M.L. Moser, Jr., *The Devil's Masterpiece*, Little Rock: Challenge Press, 1970, p. 80). The Good News for Modern Man replaces the word "blood" with "death" in speaking of the atonement of Jesus Christ, and corrupted practically every passage dealing with Christ's deity. The translator of the Good News for Modern Man, Robert Bratcher, does not believe that Jesus Christ is God.

Sincerely,

Walter

Quote:

crsschk wrote:
Waltern.

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. 2Sa 12:7

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(Italics and embolden their own.)

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I cannot hear what you are saying over what you are saying

Or in other words, the very point Nathan stated to David, *Thou art the man*.

It is this sort of fanfare that puts discernment ministries and other like-minded under a need for their own discerning as has been mentioned here time and again. The minute the embellishments come in, whatever truth noted, warned of, exposed, is lost and my ears will close to it. It is of the wrong spirit and often full of venom and vendetta. It is more often out to destroy, not repair, strangle rather than warn, vile and violent, not borne of grief or concern. It is pride and rebellion, *sin* but allowed to be washed out, cast behind the back and spiritually pragmatized as the ends justify the means.

The irony of proving out wrong judgment and criticism is right within it's opposites or perhaps opponents, those teaching us how to judge rightly.

Re:, on: 2008/6/20 14:53

From Walter:

Like I have said previously, there are many sites on the internet that address Mr. Billy Graham. This is another site that documents his views in relation to God's Word, and is excellent. The author suggests sending his material to others, as I will do here:

http://www.inplainsite.org/html/billy_graham.html

William Franklin Graham, Jr. born on November 7, 1918, an ordained Southern Baptist and founder of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), has been, arguably, the best known, best loved and most influential evangelical for the approximately 50 years he has been in the public forum. For many of those years he has remained, according to polls, one of the 10 most admired men in the United States.

Billy Graham has been a spiritual adviser to several U.S. presidents, and according to Time Magazine "served as the nation's spiritual counselor". In fact George W. Bush credits the Reverend for helping him with his personal conversion.

"Eisenhower and Kennedy began the tradition of consulting the evangelist, but Johnson, Nixon and Ford intensified the fashion that concluded with Bush's naming him "America's pastor."

<http://www.time.com/time/time100/heroes/profile/graham01.html>

There is little doubt as to Graham's far-reaching influence...

"Graham's magazine, Decision, reaches 1.7 million people, his column appears in more than 100 newspapers, his radio program is on 700 stations worldwide, and several of his books have been best-sellers. (Angels, published in 1975, sold one million copies in just 90 days.) Graham has reportedly preached to over 200 million people and once claimed that precisely 2,874,082 of them have stepped forward to "accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior" (11/15/93, Time magazine)".

Time Magazine made the following statement which admirably sums up one aspect of the life and ministry of the most renowned evangelist of them all, a side that is all too often lacking in today's so called Christian leaders..

"... there have been no scandals, financial or sexual, to darken Graham's mission. His sincerity, transparent and convincing, cannot be denied. He is an icon essential to a country in which, for two centuries now, religion has been not the opiate but the poetry of the people.

However Billy Graham is not getting any younger and has been plagued by several health problems. He has all but retired.

At the age of 87, probably at the end of his life and in poor health, Billy Graham no longer appears in public. He and his wife, Ruth, have retired to their house a small mountain in Montreat, N.C, which they have lived in for 50 years spending "his days talking to his friends, reading newspapers, seeing visitors almost every day, and spending time with his wife, Ruth, and family".

His last crusade, in June 2005, in New York city was attended by a reported 250,000 people over three days, which was the first time I sat up and really paid any real attention to Billy Graham. I have obviously been aware of him for many years. I had read a couple of his books, heard him on television once or twice and was aware that he was about to conduct his last crusade. **But He had never really made any serious inroads into my consciousness until the day that Bill and Hillary shared the podium with him in New York at what was supposed to be his last Christian crusade. (I do not share others enthusiasm for the word, which carries unpleasant connotations).**

In acknowledging his "special guests" Graham said "They're a great couple," and then recalled a remark he'd once made about the Clintons when they were in the White House. "I felt when he left the Presidency he should be an evangelist, because he has all the gifts--and he'd leave his wife to run the country."

Bill and Hilary Clinton? Was he kidding or was I hearing things? Since this is not meant to be a critique of the Clintons, I will forgo the sordid details. Suffice to say Bill Clinton dragged the Presidency to its lowest level since Watergate, abusing his position as president, lying countless times, perjuring himself under oath, betraying his wife and disgracing his office. Not exactly the epitome of a fine upstanding citizen, leave alone living up the holiness Christians are called to.

I began to do a little digging and one of the first articles I read about the Crusade on the Fox News site, said...
"Religious experts say Graham has garnered such a following and made such a mark on the world in large part because he managed to reach out not only to other, non-Evangelical Christians but also to people of different faiths. He's a person who transcends the categories we try to inflict on people in theology," said Harvey Cox, a professor of divinity at Harvard University. "Certainly he belongs within the Evangelical camp, but he's an exemplary Christian figure as a statesman. He has never been exclusivist in his views."

In fact, he's always made a point of including Christians of all denominations in the planning of his mass events, in spite of harsh criticism by some of his colleagues for doing it. And because of his ability to cross over lines that divide, New York is a particularly fitting place for his last crusade.

"Here in New York, not only is there a mixture of ethnic backgrounds, but a mixture of problems," Graham said this week. "But I think in this country we are still together as Americans. We're proud of that. Thank God we have the freedoms we do. Thank God for all these people."

Surely Fox News was just being Fox News and I could discount much of what they say...
However in an article entitled Pilgrim's Progress (in the August 14, 2006 issue of Newsweek) Billy Graham made these rather damning statements on Page 2 and 3 respectively...
"There are many things that I don't understand," he says. He does not believe that Christians need to take every verse of the Bible literally; "sincere Christians," he says, "can disagree about the details of Scripture and theology—absolutely."

"I'm not a literalist in the sense that every single jot and tittle is from the Lord," Graham says. "This is a little difference in my thinking through the years." He has, then, moved from seeing every word of Scripture as literally accurate to believing that parts of the Bible are figurative—a journey that began in 1949, when a friend challenged his belief in inerrancy during a conference in southern California's San Bernardino Mountains.
A discordant note was beginning to sound, which this section of the article on Page 5 did nothing to quiet...

"A unifying theme of Graham's new thinking is humility. He is sure and certain of his faith in Jesus as the way to salvation. When asked whether he believes heaven will be closed to good Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or secular people, though, Graham says: "Those are decisions only the Lord will make. It would be foolish for me to speculate on who will be there and who won't ... I don't want to speculate about all that. I believe the love of God is absolute. He said he gave his son for the whole world, and I think he loves everybody regardless of what label they have." Such an ecumenical spirit may upset some Christian hard-liners, but in Graham's view, only God knows who is going to be saved: "As an evangelist for more than six decades, Mr. Graham has faithfully proclaimed the Bible's Gospel message that Jesus is the only way to Heaven," says Graham spokesman A. Larry Ross. "However, salvation is the work of Almighty God, and only he knows what is in each human heart."

But what is really alarming is that the comments in the Newsweek article do not seem to be a temporary aberration, the result, perhaps, of a mind clouded by age and illness, but rather represent a long standing view. Over 25 years ago Billy Graham was quoted as saying..
"I used to believe that pagans in far countries were lost if they did not have the gospel of Christ preached to them.. I no longer believe that." (I Can't Play God Any More. McCall's, January, 1978).

Just as his liking for the Clintons was reflected in early 1997 in his book Just As I Am.
"The previous day, President Clinton called and asked me to stop by the White House. We ended up spending much of the afternoon together, talking not only about the past and current events, but also about the Bible and what it says about God's plan for our lives. It was a warm fellowship with a man who has not always won the approval of his fellow Christians but who has in his heart a desire to serve God and do His will". (Page 656).

USA Today had this to say

Today, as many fundamentalists and traditionalists refuse to share podiums with people who don't share their exact vision of salvation, Graham opens his events to Christians of every stripe. More than 1,300 Protestant and Catholic churches are sponsoring the June 24-26 event in Flushing Meadow. (Cathy Lynn Grossman . The gospel of Billy Graham: Inclusion).

I am afraid that I am one of those fundamentalists who take the instructions in the Word of God seriously and wish so called 'Christian' leaders would do so as well. As I type, the name Rick Warren springs to mind, being one of those so called Christians who shares podiums with and endorses books by seemingly anyone, without regard to their beliefs. But there again I should not be surprised as Warren's theology itself falls short in any number of areas. Since I do not wish to digress from the topic at hand I invite the reader to read it for himself.

Turning to the Christian sites I read the following statement which admirably sums up the questions that were now rearing their ugly heads...

"Former President Bush called Graham "America's pastor." Harry Truman called him a "counterfeit" and publicity seeker. Pat Boone considers him "the greatest man since Jesus." Still another says Graham "has done more harm to the cause of Christ than any other living man." Who's correct?"

So the question to be asked is:

Has he done untold good or untold harm to the cause of Christ than any other living man?

Consider the seriousness of the article. Newsweek is one of the most widely read news magazines in the world and will draw more attention than all the one-liners buried on page 26 of a Christian magazine put together.

And how should we judge the speaker?

"...as conservative evangelicals, we must be consistent in our criticism of those who error from biblical truth. Were the comments Graham made to come from the mouths of a confessing liberal, we would unequivocally denounce those statements without apology. Yet for some reason when someone of such high repute (and I sincerely mean that - Graham is one of the most well-respected and honorable men no doubt), we tend to let them say whatever they want without public criticism. This is a tragic but truthful reality. We must be honest, transparent, and up front, even when it means admonishing someone much holier than I/we would ever be."

The Connections..

Peale and Schuller

Two of Billy Graham's endorsements concern me very much. And again, since this is not a critique of these two men, I have kept the details to a minimum. But it has to be said that they are probably two of the most apostate men in the 'Christian' world.

1) Norman Vincent Peale

"I don't know anyone who has done more for the kingdom of God than Norman and Ruth Peale, or have meant any more in my life -- the encouragement they have given me" .

Another day we had lunch with Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife, Ruth; his preaching on 'the power of positive thinking' had made him familiar to millions. Mrs. Peale did a magnificent job heading up the women's prayer groups for the Crusade, and Dr. Peale was warmly supportive of the meetings. Although our emphasis in preaching differed, I found him a deeply committed believer with a genuine concern that men and women give their lives to Christ. (Just As I Am, Page 315)

Yet in a television interview with Phil Donahue in 1984, Peale said:

"It's not necessary to be born again. You have your way to God; I have mine. I found eternal peace in a Shinto shrine...I've been to Shinto shrines; and God is everywhere."

An amazing statement from a man Billy Graham calls "a deeply committed believer". I have no idea what Peale's Bible says. but mine quite definitely has Jesus making the statement

"...Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Following are a few points from an article by the Watchman Examiner.

"Peale called the virgin birth 'some theological idea' of no importance to salvation (Family Weekly, April 15, 1984, Cover Story).

On March 28, 1980, Dr. Peale was the featured speaker at an 85th birthday dinner honoring Mormon prophet speaker Spencer W. Kimball. The official Mormon newspaper reported that Brigham Young University bestowed an honorary degree on Dr. Peale (Church News, February 9, 1980, p. 11).

Included on the same page was a transcription of a radio address Peale made on April 27, 1975, when Dr. Peale "received a blessing" from Prophet Kimball. In this radio address Peale said that he had been struggling with a difficulty for several weeks. While speaking in Salt Lake City he was invited "to be received by the President of the Church." After lauding the "righteous" Mormon church, Peale said, "I met with these men of God... these three

e dedicated Christian leaders (Mormon first presidency) I felt he was so spiritual." Peale then related how the three leaders laid hands on him and prayed. Peale stated "Sir, He is here, I feel His presence," (emphasis mine).

Dr. Peale himself credits his theology of positive thinking to Ernest Holmes, founder of New Age/Occultic Church of Religious Science (Ernest Holmes, *The First Religious Scientist*, James Reid, p. 14). In fact, Peale borrowed the phrase "positive thinking" from Charles Fillmore, founder of the New Age Unity School of Christianity (*Positive Imaging*, p. 77). Peale consistently operates with New Age doctrine and practices, emphasizing the creative power of thought and that consciousness is true reality and aligning your consciousness by meditation or affirmation, will automatically bring what you desire. (http://www.watchman.org/rektop/peale.htm)

2) Robert Schuller

An endorsement of Robert Schuller by Billy Graham appears on the back cover of Robert Schuller's 1985 edition of *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation* (first published in 1982) along with the endorsement of W. Clement Stone who is on Schuller's international board of directors. Billy Graham also

“...advised Schuller, back in 1969, to start his "Hour of Power" television show. In 1972, Graham made Schuller a leader in his Anaheim Crusade, saying, "There is no one in all the world I love in Christ more than I do Bob Schuller. ... He has done some of the greatest things for the Kingdom of God of any man in our generation" (David Beale, *S.B.C. House on the Sand*, p. 144).

Graham made a personal appearance on Schuller's 1000th anniversary program (aired 4/2/89), relating how he had encouraged Schuller 20 years earlier when he said,

"Bob, why don't you think of telecasting your services."

”

Schuller reinterprets the doctrines of the Word of God to conform with his self-esteem philosophy. His Christ is a Jesus who provides men with self-esteem. Schuller's gospel is the replacement of negative self concepts with positive ones. To Schuller, sin is merely the lack of self-esteem. To Schuller, the greatest evil is to call men sinners in a Biblical fashion and thereby injure their self-esteem. Schuller is a universalist who believes that all people are the children of God. His goal is to help each person understand and enjoy this "fact." Bottom line, Schuller's message is that there is no need for one to recognize his own personal sin, no need for repentance, and no need for the crucifixion of self. In fact, concerning the latter point, Schuller teaches just the opposite philosophy -- that self is to be exalted -- which is no thing less than an outright denial of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Schuller's Crystal Cathedral has hosted workshops for *A Course In Miracles*, a blatantly New Age human-potential course along with other New Age teachers, some on his Hour of Power television program. As recently as 2003 he plugged psychiatrist Jerry Jampolsky as having “found” God, neglecting to mention that Jampolsky found "God" through *A Course In Miracles*, or that Jampolsky's book, *Love is Letting Go of Fear*, is completely based on the teachings of *A Course In Miracles*. On the dedication page of his book he thanks the authors of *A Course In Miracles* stating that his book was based on their work.

The Catholic Connection

This site has a large section on Catholicism. Few people to day are willing to go as far as to classify Catholicism as a cult but when the word cult is defined, Catholicism fits the bill.. perfectly.

Yet Billy Graham had this to say:

“I’ve found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics, for instance....We only differ on some matters of later church tradition” (I Can’t Play God Any More, McCall’s, Jan. 1978. p. 158).

And

“This past week I preached in a great Catholic Cathedral a funeral sermon for a close friend of mine who was a Catholic, and they had several bishops and archbishops to participate, and as I sat there going through the funeral Mass, that was a very beautiful thing and certainly straight and clear in the gospel, I believe, there was a wonderful little priest that would tell me when to stand and when to kneel and what to do.” (Billy Graham, *Church League of America*, p. 84. October 21, 1973).

Most people do not seem to realize that the Church teaches that the Mass is a real and true sacrifice, that a prime function of the Catholic priesthood is to offer sacrifice, that an altar is a place of sacrifice, and that the word host is from the Latin word hostia, meaning sacrificial victim. All of which was reiterated by Vatican II. (See The Catholic Mass)

“Hence the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, is at the same time and inseparably: a sacrifice in which the sacrifice of

the cross is perpetuated; a memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, who said 'do this in memory of me' (Lk. 22:19) ... In the Mass, therefore, the sacrifice and sacred meal belong to the same mystery, so much so that they are linked by the closest bond. For in the sacrifice of the Mass Our Lord is immolated when 'he begins to be present sacramentally as the spiritual food of the faithful under the appearances of bread and wine.' ... For in it Christ perpetuates in an unbloody manner the sacrifice offered on the cross, offering himself to the Father for the world's salvation through the ministry of priests" (Vatican II, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery, Introduction, C 1,2, p. 108). (Cited In Billy Graham And Rome - PART 6 By David Cloud. Way Of Life)

Just As I Am

Billy Graham's autobiography, "Just As I Am," (Harper San Francisco. April 30, 1997) published in 1997, achieved a "triple crown," appearing simultaneously on the three top best-seller lists in one week. The Editorial Review of Just as I am on Amazon.com says this..

"In this memoir, Graham looks back at age 78 on his lifetime of personal relationships, ministry, leadership, and experiences. He chronicles such events and stories as his boyhood in North Carolina, his first steps in ministry, details of evangelistic trips and revivals, and meetings with world and local leaders. There are 35 pages of photos, four pages outlining all his crusades from 1947 to 1996, a list of all his books, and a 15-page index of names and places. Graham concludes his memoir with a look at the lessons he has learned in the course of his work. His honesty in describing the toll that his travels placed on his family and his ready willingness to credit the many who added to his journey make this both a heart warming and memorable reflection...." Leroy Hommerding, Citrus Cty. Lib. System, Beverly Hills, Fla.

All of which I am sure are true, however Just as I Am also contains some exceptionally unsettling statements.

For example

"He would also call on the local Catholic bishop or other clerics to acquaint them with Crusade plans and invite them to the meetings; they would usually appoint a priest to attend and report back. This was years before Vatican II's openness to Protestants, but we were concerned to let the Catholic bishops see that my goal was not to get people to leave their church; rather, I wanted them to commit their lives to Christ." (Page 163, emphasis added)

***Willis Haymaker was the front man who would go into cities and make all the arrangements necessary to for the crusades.**

My goal, I always made clear, was not to preach against Catholic beliefs or to proselytize people who were already committed to Christ within the Catholic Church. Rather, it was to proclaim the Gospel to all those who had never truly committed their lives to Christ. (Page 357) (emphasis added)

I was grateful for the statement one U.S. Catholic newspaper made as it reviewed our first South American trip: 'Never once, at least in our memory, has attacked the Catholic Church. . . . (Page 368. Parenthesis in original)

We also suspected, with some justification, that some of the hard-line Communist officials hoped to use an American Protestant evangelist to weaken the strong authority of the Roman Catholic Church. If so, it was a naive hope; I would not have done or said anything that might be taken as anti-Catholic. (Page 482. Referring to a Trip to Poland). (emphasis added)

In a January 1997 interview with Midwest Today, (January 1997) called A Conversation With Billy Graham one question and answer was ..

Q. You talked about emphasizing more the love and mercy of God in the later years of your ministry. Can you tell us a little bit about how that applies to people of other faiths?

A. Well, you know when I was growing up and after I came to Christ in the beginning of my life and went to school, I didn't know much about Catholics; I didn't know much about Lutherans; and people who were more ritualistic in their worship

Through the years I have been thrown with them and have a great many friends in the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, when we go to a city now nearly all of the Roman Catholic churches support it. When we went to Minneapolis for the crusade -- St. Paul, which is next door joined with Minneapolis, it's largely Catholic and Minneapolis is largely Lutheran -- they all supported the crusade, which wouldn't have happened 25 years ago. But it does today.

The same is true with the Eastern Orthodox churches, because when I went to Russia, long before Communism fell, I was the guest of the Orthodox church.

Bishop Fulton L. Sheen

"One whom I have yet to mention - and with whom I felt a special affinity - was Roman Catholic preacher Bishop Fulton L. Sheen". (Just As I Am. Page 692).

In regard to the first time Billy Graham met the Bishop (on a train from Washington to New York) he said ..

“I was in my pajamas, but I was delighted to see him and invited him in. We talked about our ministries and our common commitment to evangelism, and I told him how grateful I was for his ministry and his focus on Christ”. (Just As I Am Pages 692-693) (Emphasis Added)

In Fulton Sheen’s book *Treasure in Clay*, he said that one of his spiritual secrets was to offer Mass every Saturday “in honor of the Blessed Mother to solicit her protection of my priesthood.” Sheen devoted an entire chapter of his biography to Mary, “The Woman I Love.” He said,

“When I was ordained, I took a resolution to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist every Saturday to the Blessed Mother ... All this makes me very certain that when I go before the Judgment Seat of Christ, He will say to me in His Mercy: ‘I heard My Mother speak of you.’ During my life I have made about thirty pilgrimages to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and about ten to her shrine in Fatima” (Fulton J. Sheen, *Treasure in Clay*, p. 317. Quoted in Billy Graham *And Rome* - Part 2. Way of Life Literature).

Pope John Paul

Graham narrates his first visit with the pope describing their relationship as cordial.

“When we left Hungary, we set off on a brief trip to the Vatican. Years before, I had visited the city-state as a tourist, but on this trip I was to be received by Pope John Paul II, my first visit with a pope. As I was ushered into his quarters, Pope John Paul II greeted me, and we shook hands warmly. I found him extremely cordial and very interested in our ministry, especially in his homeland. After only a few minutes, I felt as if we had known each other for many years.

He also expressed great delight at the small gift I had brought him, a woodcarving of a shepherd with his sheep, done by a North Carolina craftsman. We recalled together Jesus’ words in John 10:14,16. . . . In turn the pope gave me a medallion commemorating his papacy and several magnificently bound volumes”. (Just As I Am Pages 488-489)

And further

“I was asked by Pope John Paul II to participate with him during that same time period in an unprecedented ecumenical service of worship during his visit to Columbia, South Carolina. It was not to be a Mass but a service of Scripture, prayer, and preaching. I was to speak on the subject of the family”.

“I was looking forward to that event, especially since the pope and I had a cordial relationship”

In the above mentioned interview with *Midwest Today*, (in January 1997) called *A Conversation With Billy Graham* he was asked

Q. You’ve had an audience with Pope John Paul II?

A. The first time I dined with him, we were sitting across the table, and he reached out and touched my hand and said, “We are brothers.”

So whatever happened to “contending for the faith”??

Billy Graham Believes The Late Pope John Paul Went To Heaven

Billy Graham said the late Pope was “the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world in the last 100 years.”

Larry King: “There is no question in your mind that he is with God now?”

Graham: “Oh, no. There may be a question about my own, but I don’t think Cardinal Wojtyla, or the Pope -- I think he’s with the Lord, because he believed. He believed in the cross. That was his focus throughout his ministry, the cross, no matter if you were talking to him from personal issue or an ethical problem, he felt that there was the answer to all of our problems, the cross and the resurrection. And he was a strong believer.”

In the words of David Cloud

“This is a most amazing statement by the man who is considered the world’s foremost evangelist. Graham expresses less than certainty about his own salvation but complete certainty about the Pope’s, even though he preached a false gospel of grace mixed with works and sacraments and put his trust in Mary as his intercessor. Graham should know that John Paul II did not believe in the cross in any scriptural sense. Rather he believed in the cross PLUS baptism PLUS the mass PLUS confession to a priest PLUS the saints, and above all PLUS Mary. “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Rom. 11:6). “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Gal. 1:6)”. (David W. Cloud. <http://www.wayofflife.org/fbns/fbns/fbns15.html>)

In view of the above comments it is hardly surprising that Billy Graham’s meetings and crusades were not only endorsed and partially sponsored by Catholic Churches but that the names of hundred of converts were turned over to Catholic churches. This has been extensively documented by Way of Life Literature, and shows an enduring pattern over many years.. Some examples are

Sept. 21, 1957, Graham said in an interview with the San Francisco News, "Anyone who makes a decision at our meetings is seen later and referred to a local clergyman, Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish.

In 1983, The Florida Catholic (Sept. 2, 1983) reported of the Orlando crusade: "Names of Catholics who had made decisions for Christ were provided at that meeting by Rick Marshall of the Graham organization." The report said the names of 600 people had been turned over to the Catholic Church.

In 1984, at the Vancouver, British Columbia crusade, the vice-chairman of the organizing committee, David Cline of Brighthouse United Church, said, "If Catholic step forward there will be no attempt to convert them and their names will be given to the Catholic church nearest their homes" (Vancouver Sun, Oct. 5, 1984).

In 1987 a Catholic priest, Donald Willette of St. Jude's Church, was a supervisor of the counselors for the Denver crusade. Willette reported that from one service alone 500 cards of individuals were referred to St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in Englewood, a suburb of Denver (Wilson Ewin, Evangelism: The Trojan Horse of the 1990s).

In 1989, Michael Seed, Ecumenical Advisor to (Catholic) Cardinal Hume, said of Graham's London crusade: "Those who come forward for counseling during a Mission evening in June, if they are Roman Catholic, will be directed to a Roman Catholic 'nurture-group' under Roman Catholic counselors in their home area" (John Ashbrook, New Neutralism II, p. 35).

By September 1992, the Catholic archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, had set a goal to supply many of counselors needed for the Graham crusade. All Catholics responding to the altar call were channeled to Catholic churches.

June 27-30, 2002: Billy Graham's crusade in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 27-30, 2002, included full participation of the Roman Catholic Church. In preparation for the crusade, five Catholic parishes -- Our Lady of Lourdes in Westwood, Our Lady of the Rosary in Greenhills, Our Lady of the Rosary and Guardian Angels in Cincinnati, and Trinity Center in Dayton -- presented week-long courses to prepare Catholic counselors to deal with those who came forward in response to Graham's invitations. According to Curtis Kneblak, assistant director of evangelization for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Dayton, invitations were sent out to 9,000 Catholics to request their participation in this training, and hundreds responded. Priest Charles Bowes told his parish that the Graham mission was a "golden opportunity to evangelize Catholics and to help our parish..." (The Catholic Telegraph, May 10, 2002).

November 2004 : The Billy Graham organization preparing for the November 2004 crusade in Los Angeles, California, promised the Roman Catholic archdiocese that Catholics will not be "proselytized." A letter from Cardinal Roger Mahony, dated October 6, 2004, and posted at the archdiocese web site, stated: "When the Crusade was held in other locations, many Catholics responded to Dr. Graham's message and came forward for Christ. Crusade officials expect the same for the Los Angeles area. These officials have assured me that, IN KEEPING WITH DR. GRAHAM'S BELIEF AND POLICY, THERE WILL BE NO PROSELYTIZING, AND THAT ANYONE IDENTIFYING HIM OR HERSELF AS CATHOLIC WILL BE REFERRED TO US for reintegration into the life of the Catholic Church. We must be ready to welcome them." {Billy Graham's Disobedience To The Word Of God. <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/fbns/fbns15.html> }

The Mormons

In a January 1997 interview with Larry King, Graham said that he has wonderful fellowship with Rome, is comfortable with the Vatican, and agrees with the Pope on almost everything. (emphasis added)

KING: What do you think of the other ... like Mormonism? Catholicism? Other faiths within the Christian concept?

GRAHAM: Oh, I think I have a wonderful fellowship with all of them.

KING: You're comfortable with Salt Lake City. You're comfortable with the Vatican?

GRAHAM: I am very comfortable with the Vatican. I have been to see the Pope several times. In fact, the night that he was inaugurated, made Pope, I was preaching in his cathedral in Krakow. I was his guest ... when he was over here ... in Columbia, South Carolina ... he invited me on the platform to speak with him. I would give one talk, and he would give the other ... but I was two-thirds of the way to China...

KING: You like this Pope?

GRAHAM: I like him very much. ... He and I agree on almost everything.

In an interview with Larry King on June 16th 2005, King asked..

KING: Are you forgiving of the infirmities of other people?

GRAHAM: Absolutely. I am. I mean, I . . .

KING: Isn't that hard?

GRAHAM: . . . try to forgive. I never hold a grudge. In fact, many people say that I never get angry. I don't think I get angry. But maybe I do sometimes, but I keep it. I don't explode to anybody.

KING: Do you feel the same about other faiths?

GRAHAM: Absolutely.

KING: Buddhism?

GRAHAM: I love them all, and welcome them all, and love to be with them, and friends with all of them. For example, I just talked to a man in New York City, he was a Mormon.

KING: My father-in-law.

GRAHAM: Your father-in-law. And I've loved the Mormons for years, and yet there is a big divide between the Mormons and some of the other groups. But I have great friends among the Mormons. And the same among the Catholics. Of course, I loved Pope John Paul II and watched the whole process of his suffering, his dying and the tremendous -- my daughter went to represent me . . .

KING: I know. You were on with us the night he died.

GRAHAM: That's right. Thank you.

KING: But what about those faiths -- the Mormons and the others that you mentioned -- believe in Christ. They believe they will meet Christ. What about those like the Jews, the Muslims, who don't believe as you believe.

GRAHAM: That's in God's hands. I can't be their judge.

KING: You don't judge them?

GRAHAM: No. No, I don't say you're going to hell, and you're, oh, I don't.

{<http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/fbns/fbns15.html>}

(See Christian Exclusivism Explained and Defended)

Homosexuality

At San Francisco Crusade, 1997 Billy Graham stated:

“There are other sins. Why do we jump on that sin as though it’s the greatest sin?...What I want to preach about in San Francisco is the love of God. People need to know that God loves them no matter what their ethnic background or sexual orientation. I have so many gay friends, and we remain friends” (“Graham Welcomes Gays at San Francisco,” Christian News, Oct. 20, 1997, p. 7).

While it is absolutely true that homosexuality is not the “greatest sin”, it is equally true that there are umpteen Biblical passages against homosexuality, starting with Leviticus 18:22. To claim one has gay friends and do nothing to try and save them is not being a friend. It is condoning behaviour which the Bible says is unacceptable, a sin that will commit the doer to hell. **Baptism**

In an interview with Patricia Rice of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on October 10, 1999, Billy Graham said..

“Baptism is very important because Jesus taught that we are to believe and to be baptized. But that is up to the individual and the church that they feel led to go to. The churches have different teachings on that. I know that in the Lutheran or the Episcopal or Catholic Church it is a very strong point, and in the Baptist church. But there are some churches that would not insist on baptism. So, I give them the freedom to teach what they want. I am not a professor. I am not a theologian. I’m a simple proclaimer. I’m announcing the news that God loves you and that you can be forgiven of your sins. And you can go to heaven. My job from God is not to do all these other things. I am not a pastor of a church. That’s not my responsibility. My responsibility is to preach the gospel to everyone and let them choose their own church, whether it is catholic or protestant or orthodox or whatever it is”.

Also

“I do believe that something happens at the baptism of an infant...We cannot fully understand the mysteries of God, but I believe a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism. If you want to call that baptismal regeneration, that’s all right with me” (A Lutheran Looks at Billy Graham, Oct. 10, 1961, p. 12).

The Alpha Course

An article which appeared originally in International Alpha News (March 2000 but is now in the Alpha archives is entitled (<http://alpha.org/runningacourse/news/2000/03/billygraham.htm>)

“Billy Graham has invited Alpha leader Nicky Gumbel to speak at a major conference he is organising in Amsterdam, Netherlands, this July”.

And goes on to say

“Mr Gumbel has been asked to speak at a workshop on the Alpha course at the conference, to be attended by 10,000 evangelists from around the world. Mr Graham wrote, “Your experience and expertise as a leader will be a great asset to the conference, and participants will gain invaluable knowledge and insight from the content of the workshop.””

America

“...asked whether God has forsaken America, Graham's answer is fast and firm: "Noooo!" His reply stands on faith.

"The Lord said, 'I will never forsake you.' No matter how sinful we are, how bad we are, God loves us. At least from my point of view, I believe he sent his son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us because he loves us and he doesn't have any termination to that love." (USA Today.. The gospel of Billy Graham: Inclusion. Cathy Lynn Grossman). The promise in Hebrews of never forsaking us is sandwiched between being content with the things we have and not fearing what man can do to us. It is in the larger context of an exhortation to Christian and can not possibly apply to an apostate nation that America has become. On the contrary The Bible teaches that when a nation under judgment refuses to repent, it will ultimately reach a point where God will deliver it from judgment to wrath from discipline to doom.

The Templeton prize

Billy Graham was awarded and accepted the Templeton prize in 1982 (Bill Bright won it in 1996 and Charles Colson in 1993), Sir John Templeton, after whom the award is named, happens to serve on the Parliament of World Religions Board of Trustees and has been closely linked to the Rockefeller family fortune. Along with being the donor of the Templeton Prize, Sir John established The Templeton Foundation in 1987. The foundation serves as an umbrella for a wide assortment of interfaith activities, currently funding more than 150 projects, studies, award programs and publications worldwide. (John Templeton Foundation, "General Information" (<http://www.templeton.org/about.asp#4>)).

The first Templeton Prize, awarded in 1973, went to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. 34 Recipients since that time have included Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India and Oxford Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics (1975); Leon Joseph Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels and a pioneer in the Charismatic Renewal Movement (1976); Nikkyo Niwano, A Japanese Buddhist leader (1979); Rev. Professor Stanley L. Jaki, a Benedictine monk and Professor of Astrophysics at Seton Hall University (1987); Dr. Inamullah Khan, Founder and Secretary-General of the Modern World Muslim Congress and a Vice President of the World Constitution and Parliament Association, (1988); Baba Amte, a wealthy Hindu lawyer/humanitarian (1990); The Rt. Hon. Lord Jakobovits, former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth (1991); and Pandurang Shastri Athavale, founder and leader of the Bhagavad Gita-based self-study known as Swadhyaya - which incorporates self-worship (1997).

See More on The Templeton Award

http://www.inplainsite.org/html/new_age_parliament.html#Templeton

http://www.inplainsite.org/html/rick_warren_new_age.html#Templeton%20Foundation

http://www.inplainsite.org/html/parliament_world_religions.html

Amsterdam

While I am no fan of John MacArthur, he rightly asks the question

“How can you have the Amsterdam meeting over there; that great convocation of evangelists sponsored by the Billy Graham organization; the opening prayer was by a Roman Catholic and one of the messages by Archbishop of Canterbury who denies that Jesus rose from the dead? How do you embrace all of that and call it Christianity?”

“George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, is another example of the ecumenical confusion at Amsterdam 2000. Carey is the head of the Anglican and Episcopal churches, and as such he is in close fellowship with every sort of heresy and moral abomination. There are thousands of homosexual Anglicans, many of whom boldly march in public to demand their "rights." There are many homosexual "clergy" within the Anglican denominations. Many Anglican clergy deny and question the virgin birth, vicarious atonement, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Carey has no business speaking to a group of evangelists who claim to be faithful to the Bible, yet he was one of the key speakers at Amsterdam. It is not surprising that Carey said that he recognizes "all Trinitarian bodies of Christ are legitimate expressions of Christ's body." That means that he believes the Roman Catholic Church is a true church of Jesus Christ. He went on to say that Evangelicals and Catholics, "have so much in common," and he encouraged ecumenical dialogue. To the contrary, the Apostle Paul said that all who preach a false gospel are cursed of God (Galatians 1), and this is true regardless of whether or not they believe in the doctrine of the Trinity". (Ecumenical Confusion And Deception At Graham Conference. <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/ecumenicalconfusion.htm>)

Conclusion:

“I applaud Graham for his integrity through the years, his passion to preach, and his humility which has exuded from his interactions with other people. By far, he is one of the most respected men in the world. Yet, all that does not excuse him from his recent comments nor does it eclipse the glaring problems with his theology and methodology. I know it sounds like I am coming down hard, but I believe there are certain issues and certain times when it is necessary. As I have stated, my admiration for him on the areas I mentioned still stand while I stro

ngly disagree with him on some of the most essential, non-negotiable matters of the Christian faith. This is one case where moderation simple won't stand".

I could not have said it better myself, however the above statement does not go far enough. Billy Graham has of ten been pointed to as one of the leading influences on the New Ecumenism... Which is a sad commentary on America's Pastor".

Billy Graham has put a stamp of approval on the false gospel preached by the Roman Catholic church. When he ..includes Catholics in his evangelistic crusades and sends inquirers to Catholic churches, those looking on are made to think that Roman Catholicism must be true Christianity. When evangelical leaders fellowship with Rome, a climate is created whereby it is very difficult to preach that Catholics need to be saved and leave their false "church." Ecumenical evangelicals break down the walls between truth and error and muddy the waters of gospel work"

Sincerely,

Walter

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/20 16:05

Quote:

-----What I posted previously was not from the site that you mentioned

It was verbatim and directly attributable to the same site that you linked at bottom.

The rest of this is now a hijacking of the thread because of your selfish agenda. We will allow you the benefit of having the last words seeing that you can hear no others.

Thread locked.