

General Topics :: babylon

babylon - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/23 10:15

I find that many here are aware of How babylonic the Catholic Church is. But is that system limited to the walls of the Catholic Church?

As I ponder church history and modern problems in the Church. It seems Clear that once a group becomes organized or institutionalized they often times create a tower or a pyramid in which they exalt some above measure, The danger I see is twofold on the one hand often times the leaders, treatise, doctrines etc. take the place of God in the conscience of its followers. Hence, Often times in the course of minutes of talking with someone you can detect their exact Church or religious affiliation.

They would argue their doctrines with God if so be (as did the Jews with Jesus)

The other problem is that the tower much like a business pyramid places Men in a place that it is very difficult not to be exalted above measure and Open for the attacks of the enemy. (and if the enemy can lead that leader into error the followers will naturally follow)

whats your thoughts ??

Re: babylon - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/6/23 11:23

Quote:
-----As I ponder church history and modern problems in the Church. It seems Clear that once a group becomes organized or institutionalized they often times create a tower or a pyramid in which they exalt some above measure,

Dear Brother,

I fully disagree that once a person is in leadership in the church and esteemed in the Lord that this is babylonic. Also when the church is organized and brothers and sisters in each locality are setup to oversee and ensure of the health of the churches.

This started with Paul the Apostle who oversaw many churches not in a legalistic way but in a loving authoritative way. Also the apostle Peter clearly in 1 Peter 5 gives guidelines for shepherding the flock of God in which Jesus Christ is the head.

Yet there were heads of church areas such as James in Jerusalem. This is not babylon by any means.

Some movements where there is one who is over the entire movement of churches yet in the hearts of the people they esteem Jesus Christ as the true head, there is more liberty in the Spirit in these churches than in home churches or places where they are 100% supposedly independent but really do not practically in their hearts understand that Jesus Christ is the true head of the Church.

Of course the Catholic church after 300AD very quickly became more and more earth-bound setting up a kingdom of the earth instead of representing the kingdom of heaven. There have been true believers in that system since that time and even in the present though very few there are believers in it still.

God's ways are beyond our ways.

Re: babylon, on: 2012/6/23 11:24

In Revelation it talks about the Catholic Church, I believe, as the great harlot, but it always gets left out what it says right after that: "& her daughters". See, daughters have the same bloodline as their mother. They mix it with the blood of another man to produce offspring, but that bloodline is still there. A daughter carries on many of the characteristics, personality traits, practices, & curses of the mother. The daughters may even despise their mother and their own childhood upbringing, but repeat many of the same mistakes either knowingly or unknowingly. Some they will lessen, & others may even be worsened. The curses of the mother are passed on to the daughters, basically.

See, I believe much/most of the "Protestant/Evangelical" Churchianity is the daughters. They despised their mother's (They sprang out of the Catholic church at the time of the reformation) "paying penance", so they trashed it and adopted a mandatory payment tax system called "tithing" (an OT principle referenced, but not even taught/followed correctly as the Law states it). They got rid of baby water sprinkling baptism and adopted "the recital of the 'sinner's prayer'". They got rid of the "priest" & adopted "The Senior Pastor One Man Pulpit Show". They got rid of the pope and adopted denominational sectarianism. They got rid of "nuns" and adopted women who will dress like prostitutes with cleavage and all exposed right in the assembly of the fellowship which names the Name of Jesus! The Great Harlot is being exposed for mass pedophilia, while her daughters are being exposed daily for mass addiction to pornography, infidelity/adultery, & even some cases of child sexual abuse, etc.

Don't get me wrong, There are true brethren/sistren in these churches, but they are seeing (by God's Grace), that it is n't what God speaks of in the book of Acts, The letters of foundation church doctrine/form in Corinthians, early church history, the underground churches being used by God in countries like Iran/China/N. Korea, etc. These churches are a lot like "cribs" or "play-pens". They can be where you place a baby after its first born, but as soon as they are able/big enough/strong enough, they crawl out over the side and don't want to go back. Please Don't tell me not to "criticize the church", etc., cause I'm not. I'm discerning & showing you the difference between a building full of people calling itself "a" church, & the Fellowship of the Body of Christ that God calls "the Church in (Sardis/Laodicea/Ephesus/etc.)" in Revelation. If Christ today said, "To the Church in Dallas", he wouldn't be speaking to the First Baptist Church of downtown Dallas, or whatever "church" as we see it. He'd be speaking to all the true brethren sprinkled throughout Dallas whether in a "church" (modern church model in a building with a one-man show preaching every week), sprinkled throughout the home church fellowships in Dallas, even true brethren meeting two or three gathered together in His name looking for the real thing spoken of in the scriptures.

We are quick to identify the Catholic Church as the Great Harlot, but we are not do quick to label "Modern Protestant Evangelicalism" as her daughters. We bash another religion that ensnares people (rightfully so) & we protect the idolatrous religious system we set up in its essential image and likeness. Have most people, especially in the West, ever asked themselves, "Who are the Great Harlots many daughters"? Who could it possibly be? Who/What could for the bill? Does all the denominational sects collectively (Baptists/Methodists/Assemblies of God/Lutheran/Pentacostals/etc.) fit the bill? Is there anything/anyone else that could?

Re: jeffmar - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/23 11:27

Thankyou, Jeffmar this seems to be the realization that I am coming to, Well said!

Re: sermonindex - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/23 11:37

I understand what you are saying, and I want to be clear that I am not condemning all the people or the leaders, but we must admit something in the system seems not to work correctly, I am Reminded of Brother Dennys confession He said he was exalted to a place that no man should be and confessed how pride came in. I have been very blessed by Charity and like movements and believe very much that God is involved and I Love them to death.

but something of the pyramid system that all organizations have seems to be dangerous

Re: , on: 2012/6/23 11:54

Greg,

You aren't advocating that the Catholic Church is part of Christ's Bride are you? True, leadership is Godly, defined properly in scripture (though you don't typically ever see the Biblical Model of Biblical leaders/authority/offices/gifts in reality in the West). There are people who can come to the Lord while attending a Catholic church, but once truly enlightened by the Spirit of God (genuinely converted & filled with the Spirit of God), they see the blatant idolatry (worship of Mary, prayer to the dead expressly forbidden, priests which are abolished in the New Covenant, forbidding to marry which is addressed in the NT as heretical, a "pope" which may be the most Satanic representation of what Catholicism believes of all, etc.). I have known Many in the "Catholic Church" who once they truly got converted saw the Satanic deception and idolatry in the whole system and ran for their very lives.

Maybe I misunderstood/misread your post, but Catholicism and all of its doctrines are heretical and straight from hell.

It should not be protected but exposed. It preaches another Jesus, another Gospel, & sends untold millions (maybe Billions?) to hell. "Give no place to false teachers, nor bid them Godspeed. If you do, you become partakers in their sins". Maybe I misunderstood? Acceptance in any way of Catholicism without speaking the truth in love against it and all its hellish doctrines, has been the first steps into a long slide into total apostasy. Not saying you were/are doing that, but something I have observed over the years. That system is the fruitful spiritual sons of the same Spirit that nailed Jesus to the cross, that martyred untold numbers of believers (usually for wanting their own Bible or refusing the hellish pope/priest system), & has ensnared billions to a lie from hell. This system is not to be catered to, but exposed plainly, clearly, & prophetically. Maybe I misunderstood. It wouldn't be the first time & prolly won't be the last! :-)

Re: , on: 2012/6/23 12:09

Greg,
I went back and reread your post & am quite sure I misread/misunderstood. I thought it woulda seemed very odd based on everything else I have read from you, but have seen so much catering to this system by people I would have NEVER have thought lately, I jumped the gun! :-) like I said, prolly won't be the last time I misread/misunderstand. True, there are true brethren in such systems, but the system isn't (was never) God's design laid out in scripture, and will soon be, I believe, all but abolished. I think persecution will bring this about. Just like in China where the state church has buildings, services, Bibles (though not the freedom to preach all of it) & carry on dead lifeless religion every week. Then there's the underground, persecuted, filled with the Spirit of God, & growing powerfully. When persecution comes to the West, you'll see the same. Obviously, I have been greatly blessed by the ministry of people in this system setup, like David Wilkerson, Paul Washer, Denny Kenaston, etc. however, I believe this system has Gone as far as it can go. If God tried to put new wine in that old wineskin, it would burst. He will/is providing a new wineskin to hold the outpouring of the Spirit He will in the days ahead. It will be an amazing work of God under tremendous persecution, but beware: it will return levels of accountability like the early church days. Remember Ananias & Saphira? It sent great fear into the fellowship. Remember those who died when taking the Lord's Supper in the wrong manner? God, His Glory, & His Bride are nothing to toy with. We will see this again, I believe.

Re: - posted by onemite, on: 2012/6/23 12:22

Zac Poonen has a great sermon as well as articles written on this subject. One being Mystery Babylon vs, New Jerusalem, and Babylon the Great Harlot, also the series From Babylon to Jerusalem. He gives scriptures for reference.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/6/23 12:55

Quote:
-----Obviously, I have been greatly blessed by the ministry of people in this system setup, like David Wilkerson, Paul Washer, Denny Kenaston, etc. however, I believe this system has Gone as far as it can go.

Though I agree that the Chinese church is having a great move of God but if there was no persecution they would meet in more public venues just like us in the West. The difference is their dependence is fully on the Lord and the Holy Spirit and they realize that large stately church buildings are not the church, the people are.

I do not agree that these brothers are in a "system":

David Wilkerson - though pentecostal from background started a non-denominational church that is 100% unique then other pentecostal churches in some of their practices and style. It is truly a unique work of the Holy Spirit in New York.

Paul Washer - was part of a church that was in the Southern Baptist denomination but then ended up moving away from that church and they have established an independent church on the older Baptist traditions of that of Spurgeon, etc. I would say their meetings though more traditional are still led of the Holy Spirit.

Denny Kenaston - Moved away from strict fundamentalist Baptist churches and went into older Mennonite areas where God used him powerfully to establish a new wineskin with some Anabaptistic traditions or style. A very unique work of God's Holy Spirit especially as a mission work to the Amish and Old Order Mennonites.

to just strictly meet in homes does not constitute a better church by any means. This is displayed in the lack of any true

holy spirit unity or growth in home churches across North America.

And when leadership is ignored in which 1 peter 5 and other passages clearly instruct must be in place then we start to have people gathering to themselves and their own authority.

Any apostolic movement is bigger than itself and will recognize others around them.

God is always raising up new works because simply an older denomination ceases to look to Him as their trust. There is no perfect church or movement.

Even in the Chinese church there are 7-10 groupings of home church networks and each one varies slightly in practice and ideals.

Re: babylon - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/6/23 13:27

proudpapa, et.al.:

I grew up in what could be deemed a pretty closed off fellowship of churches. There was no real central leadership. Each church in the movement varied to some degree in minor doctrines. Yet all held to the central tenants of the doctrines of the movement and all supported a common Bible College that taught these doctrines. Organization consisted of each church having a certain number of votes in the business of the Bible College. Most every church was run by a board and pastors were often little more than hirelings who were sometimes under pressure from the congregants if they did not preach certain things or if their preaching strayed too far from the accepted norms.

God led me from there to a work where one man pretty much ran the show. It was a non-denominational work, connected to no other work. There was no board, and the pastor and his wife were the only ones who were viewed as elders. There was another leader who performed as an elder, though this leader was not officially recognized. In many ways this leader wielded a great amount of influence to the point of almost being the tail that wagged the dog.

We now fellowship in a church that is part of a well established, large pentecostal denomination. This denomination has a bishop over bishops who are over regions with groups of churches. But the leadership structure does not seem to effect the individual church much at all. This church is healthy and growing.

I have also had the privilege of moving among many other churches in our area. One in particular has a five man leadership team. One man seems to carry the vision primarily, but all five are in submission the one to another in decisions pertaining to the church. This place is healthy and growing.

My point in relating this is that I have found that each organizational structure has its strengths and weaknesses. However the main weakness of every structure seems to be the flesh of the men that are part of the structure. God is so marvelously longsuffering with our ideas of good organization. He seems to move powerfully among people whose hearts are completely his regardless of the particular governmental structure of the church.

Structure is a necessary framework. Paul established churches and ordained elders in every city to oversee the church in that city. He often waited until the church has rocked along on its own for a year or two before he went back to ordain these elders. I assume this allowed him to choose men who had already filtered to the top spiritually and showed signs of being capable spiritual leaders in the city. Much is said in the New Testament about leadership structure. Whole chapters are devoted to bishop/elders and to deacons. God has ordained leadership and governmental structure within the church.

But structure can vary based on the factors that press upon the individual church. House churches in China, where our concept of church buildings with ministry programs is impossible, will have a structure that is suitable to overseeing and leading those people. A large church in America with many ministry programs will have a structure that looks very different from the Chinese house church structure. A small, rural church may look different from either of these.

The real issue is not the structure, but the spiritual condition of the men within the structure. We are told to lay hands on no man suddenly. This is in the context of ordination for leadership. We must never be hasty about ordaining men into leadership positions within the structure of the church. To do so can easily cause us to be bogged down in the effects of their own sinful condition.

I personally believe that in any body, local or larger, that a plurality of eldership who are carefully and prayerfully ordained and who are committed to being in submission one to another is the best governmental structure. I personally believe that pastors, evangelists, teachers, apostles, and prophets are not necessarily supposed to be the ones who serve as the CEO's of ministries, but rather are gifts in the body who do the work of teaching, training, and maturing the body so that the body can do the work of the ministry. They can fulfill the roles of eldership, but do not necessarily do so.

But my personal belief aside, I see the Holy Spirit moving in a wonderful way, people being won to the Lord and disciplined to maturity, and great fruit coming from all sorts of different systems of organization and government.

Its not the system, its the leaders within the system.

One more quick note: I am not convinced that the harlot in Rev. is necessarily the Roman Catholic church, although I do believe people from the Roman Catholic church, along with the Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, etc. will comprise the false church. I also believe that the true and living church consists of people who attend fellowships that bear the name of Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal...well, you get the idea.

Re: twayneb - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/23 13:51

Thank you twayneb, again well said very well!!

Re: sermonindex - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/6/23 13:58

I will for sure agree that David Wilkerson, Paul Washer and Denny Kenaston was and are mightily used of God and have shown what a life yielded to the Spirit can produce. I hope nothing I have said is interpreted other wise. If so I apologize!

I do not have all the answers, God is continually changing my perspectives, But something seems to me to be flawed in the system. I do not as of yet have a perfect solution or know exactly what the perfect model should look like. just questions

Re: , on: 2012/6/23 14:27

I would add that more of a plurality of leadership and preaching should be occurring in fellowships instead of one man.

To help facilitate this I would suggest no preaching on tithing but only free will offering.

The pastors should be encouraged to take up regular jobs unless the fellowship votes to have them on full time support. But only with free will offerings not tithe.

I am sure this suggestion will not wash with some.

you do not need to respond for or against on my suggestion in this thread. I offer it only as something to pray and think about.

Lets keep the peace of God and press on !!!!!

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/6/23 15:29

Quote:

-----I do not have all the answers, God is continually changing my perspectives, But something seems to me to be flawed in the system. I do not as of yet have a perfect solution or know exactly what the perfect model should look like. just questions

Yes dear brother we are all on a journey in this way. But the most important thing is being fruitful in our walks with the Lord

rd along the way. I have watched many who criticize the church or the institutions yet their own life is barren, they have not led anyone to the Lord nor are they being used of God in anyway. Yet some in these institutions might not see clearly some of the faults in their group or denomination yet they are being used of the Lord to build His kingdom.

I have found it is better to be in the latter category in the Lord's eyes. May we always be fruitful in the Lord's work (John 15).

Quote:

-----I would add that more of a plurality of leadership and preaching should be occurring in fellowships instead of one man.

Another thought also is that it is not important for us to question what is evangelical or being practiced in churches but rather but is biblical. It is easy to tear down but hard and requires the Spirit of God to build up.

Instead of labelling all denominations that currently exist in America as wrong in many ways it would be better to clarify some practices they could adopt or change that might be more biblical.

Single elder leadership was normal in many local churches in the New Testament but you also see a plurality, but even in that plurality there is always a recognition in my mind of who has more spiritual authority from the Lord.

It would be helpful to share bible truths on this in another thread to discuss this specific issue.

Re: , on: 2012/6/23 16:06

In love, I disagree- they were/are part of a system. I am not saying God did not bless His work through that system, nor am I saying that "house churches" are necessarily in and of themselves automatically more holy/Biblical. But, the Body ministry mentioned in what's to take place when believers meet together (by example in Acts & laid out clearly by Paul as foundations in the letters to the Corinthians) are not being followed in this modern "system". All the language used to describe "if one has a psalm, another a tongue, let the prophets prophesy, one at a time, not more than 3-5, & let the others judge" etc., etc. IS NOT taking place in the modern system. Don't tell me what this man did, how he was used, & how it worked out OK for this man and that. I'm not disputing God used it in form irregardless of its disregard for how He laid it out for us in His Word. Heck, there were some who didn't even know God & who did it for their own glory who were preaching alongside the disciples, & "at least the Gospel was still preached", but that doesn't make it "correct" because God even blesses and works through our making it up as we go, does it?

All that matters now, & really ever did though we have refused to see it for some reason, is what does God's Word tell us is to be the setup, function, & nature of our meetings and our leadership? That matters more than what any man says, regardless of how great God has/hasn't used Him. I'm not advocating not having Bishops, deacons, overseers, elders, etc. as the scripture commands. Never did. I'm saying this thing we setup now has people with those titles and little else like the Biblical model laid out in the scriptures. I'm not saying some groups may not vary with some others on some interpretive minor doctrines, but that still doesn't mean the one-man show with no real Body ministry in our meetings is Biblical. It's not. It's just not. It's anti-Biblical. It's more like the Catholic Church or the Jewish synagauge than the early church and what Paul lays out in 1 Corinthians.

I'm not being critical. I'm just saying compare what we have now to what's in the scripture & every man discern for himself, "Is this a match to what's laid out in the Word of God?" they weren't suggestions or one more format to try and see if it works or not. They were inspired instructions for all ages of the church to lay foundations for the Body of Christ meeting together and sharing the ministries of Christ in our midst. Mark my words, when persecution does come, it will force this type of gathering together, we will reevaluate as a whole how we should meet according to scripture (maybe after the one man who held it all together fainted, got martyred, or walked away at the heat) & we will get back to God's original plan finally before Christ's second coming. The spirit of prophesy is the Spirit of Jesus & He is beginning that foundational work in many places now for when it does come.

Yes, the men & what's in their hearts & lives matter most supremely. Men can hide in their sins quietly rather easily in this system we have today. That's why so many love it do for their religious setup. In close, real, true fellowship where the Holy Spirit is moving in His gifts among His Body, these things are exposed, dealt with and repented of, or causal for r

removal in hopes of restoration after the destruction of the flesh. This is how God designed it and recorded it in His Word. Every deviation which ends up way off path begins with "Did God really say?". He already provided the pattern. Will we proudly fight it and use the reflective tactic of "well, no church is perfect" or "look what this man of God did within that system" or "I know a house church thing that didn't work" or whatever? I'm not even focused on where we meet, but how we meet and what happens when we do? Is it another 1 hour sermon with no real Body ministry spoken of in the Word of God, or is it dependent on the Spirit? I'm not discrediting the men, but telling you the system is flawed, has met the point of diminishing returns, & will soon be cast aside. I believe we will see it soon, God as my witness.
In Christ's Love - Jeff

Re: , on: 2012/6/23 16:25

One last observation:

I have noticed many cast away the call to return to the Lord, His Word, His foundational doctrines clearly outlined in the Word, etc by saying:

"I know many who do/say these things and don't have a solid inner-man spiritual life" or "I knew some who preached like this and then had closer sins", etc.

Question:

Does that then void the Word of God? Does the disobedience or lack of maturity in others give us the liberty to trample the Word of God? I have known people like that. I've been like that in the past. The Lord deposited a gift in me (I was out preaching on the streets, in a "church", in fellowship among brethren, etc.), but still struggled greatly with a besetting sin. I have since cast it away and the Lord gloriously delivered me from it. I have no skeletons in my spiritual closet of grievous known sin. However, I'm not perfect and do have things the Lord is continually dealing with me about.

That is true of all preachers from all persuasions in all "systems/formats", cause until Christ comes back, we are being changed from glory to glory. That's why I steer away from "well, this guy did that" or "I think this or that" & steer towards the Word of God and the Spirit of God and His calling.

True, a sinning witness is a bad witness and on dangerous ground, as anyone who teaches has stricter judgment. Still, the Word of God should speak for itself. I don't care for the method of discerning what is true by "comparing themselves by themselves", but by the Word of God. We are all imperfect, but His children are seeking to be made more like Him, being chastised/corrected when necessary, & growing. All "systems" are imperfect because the people are imperfect within them, but God's people should be seeking to "return to the old paths" and just follow the Word of God, amen?

What old paths? Those of the spiritual awakenings of early America? No. There are things that can be gleaned from that time beneficial, but we should be seeking to return to the old (original) paths laid out in God's Word. Otherwise, "each man can just do what's right in his own eyes", right? There's always a way that seems right to a man (but ends in death - spiritually if not physically), & the heart is deceitfully wicked who can know it (answer-God alone)?" we must remember He exalted His Word above His name, & that it is His love letter to us for "teaching doctrine, exhorting, correcting, reproving, encouraging, & training in righteousness."

In Christ's love - Jeff