

General Topics :: How do you classify this experience?

How do you classify this experience? - posted by DEADn (), on: 2016/4/24 19:24

I want to share something with the group and get your opinion on it. I have had one 'camp' take issue with me on it and I am learning that that camp may be out in left field

2 years ago I was out running. I usually listen go my ipod touch and usually to a podcast. 3/4 of the way through I heard the word 'Seduction' within me and I heard it over my ipod touch. I startled me. I prayed about it and I was led to scripture in reference to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons and there were 2 areas that came to mind during this. The church is being attacked by doctrines of demons and many are being seduced by it. Guard your heart and guard your mind and learn to discern. The other one was about groups outside of the church that have a form of Christianity but are far from it.

What happened after this is that I crossed paths with a couple of podcasts that critique sermons. From it I learned what to look for in sermons and how subtle some things are but I also learned on my own to things to watch out for. 6 months after this happened I was visited by JW's. Hence I think I just saw my last pair this weekend based on how the conversation went. 18 months worth of conversations with 2 groups.

I also found myself jumping to a few other churches because I recognized what I was hearing was not a very good Gospel message. One church was a cross between Rick Warren and Joel Osteen. Closer to Rick Warren. Another church. ..Baptist mega church...said that we had to plead the Blood of Jesus against Satan and take the war to Satan. Well, the Blood is how we are forgiven. We don't plead it against Satan like a sword. Also, doesn't the bible say to resist the devil and he must flee? draw near to God and He will draw near to you? The battle is God's. So I found myself in a confessional Reformed church. I love the preaching but I don't care for everything that is reformed but the message from the pulpit is why I attend.

I have also been helping a friend who is bound up in the Word of Faith movement. He sees it for what it is but his wife doesn't now. She also takes a feminist attitude in that men don't hear from God very well but men do hence women are more 'spiritual'. Danger zone so I have been exhorting him on what things he should do.

Now I ask you.....is this a revelation of God to me? How do you discern this according to the bible?

Re: How do you classify this experience? - posted by wayneman (), on: 2016/4/24 23:00

I had a very interesting experience with "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." A few years back I became so disillusioned with the evangelical church that I threw orthodoxy out the window, embarked on a quest to rediscover the pure apostolic doctrine, and went pretty far afield in my reading and thinking. Heretical ideas would spring into my mind, sometimes in a flash of seeming "inspiration." This happened five or six times. I would develop a new doctrine, start to write it out, but then reject it because it was incompatible with scripture.

Now get this...within the next two years each one of these doctrines popped up in the emergent church movement! They popped up in places where they had not been taught before. New doctrines.

I believe that, because I am a small group Bible teacher, seducing spirits were trying to recruit me to error. What kept me safe was the conviction that the writings of apostles and prophets carry more authority than my own ruminations. Many emergent preachers do not ascribe to that standard, and so...

Another conclusion we can draw from this experience is that strange new doctrines do not appear haphazardly. They appear at specific times for specific purposes. Lying spirits are not solo operators, they are foot soldiers in a well-organized army, and everything they do is part of a grand design.

"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." - 1 John 2:18-20 NKJV

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2016/4/25 17:41

Here is my blog which tells the story of this incident.

<http://jw-thoughts.blogspot.com/2016/04/a-revelation-voice-of-god-what-happened.html>

Quite an intriguing story you have here.

Know what I did? I didn't put it in the blog but I went out and got a book about church history to read how the church grew after the Apostles died but because I don't know much about church history. Cults love to use church history to show that the Gospel was lost and they are restoring it.

Do you think the emergent pastors are doing what they are doing in order to be relevant? I certainly think so. I often wonder if the Nazarene church I attended is going in that direction.

Please share more about your experience. I would like to know even more.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/4/25 19:04

Hi john-

We hear the term "emergent church" tossed around a lot.

I was curious how you personally would define "emergent church" without looking it up on Wikipedia or headhunter websites.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2016/4/25 21:39

I think emergent church would be defined something to the effect of being more mainstream friendly against the orderly 'old' church of Orthodoxy. Make everything pop culture friendly and that means taking away the message of sin, repentance and redemption of Jesus and redefining it as weakness and probably making church into a kind of self help meeting on Sunday's. This eventually ends in using the bible for what you can get out of it but not promoting it as the Absolute Word of God.

Emergent because it comes out of church and seeks to make it 'fan' friendly.

What do you think? I gauge this simply because of what it sounds like against what the Church is about. It only seems logical. I don't know who the pastors are of the Emergent church though.

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2016/4/25 23:48

We could define the emergent church as "hipster church." The pastor dresses casual-chic and has a Mac on the pulpit (I mean podium). The worship team is a rock ensemble with an ear-splitting sound system, fog machine, light show, multi media extravaganza, dancing ladies, etc. Most importantly, the Message must be intellectually respectable, in-touch and "relevant."

We know from 1 Corinthians 1-2 that if we preach "Christ and Him crucified" we will not be relevant and respectable in the eyes of the world. That is the fatal flaw of the McChurch: if we want to be perceived as hip, educated and culturally witty, we have to avoid preaching "Christ and Him crucified," "for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing."

Which brings me back to my story. One of the "heretical ideas" I had was to challenge the doctrine of atonement. The usual objections: It is unjust to punish the just for the sins of the unjust...What kind of God requires human sacrifice?...Why can't God just pardon sinners like a president pardons criminals?...etc. I came out of this blasphemous thought-experiment with the conviction that the mystery of salvation is far deeper than I ever imagined; so deep that only the Spirit Himself can reveal it to us. Human reasoning is powerless in the shadow of the Cross.

Well, less than a year later, big-name emergent preachers started denouncing the doctrine of the atonement. They call

ed it "a vile doctrine" and "an obstacle to moving forward."

What a perfect example of the wisdom of man: "Let's subtract the sacrifice of Christ from the gospel so we can make Christianity relevant!"

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2016/4/26 0:11

I should clarify that for the purposes of this discussion I am talking about the very worst elements of the emergent church and am not trying to paint the whole movement with one brush stroke. But this self-consciousness about appearing smart and cool and not-stodgy could be the downfall of the whole movement. We should not care too much about what the world thinks of us.

Re: , on: 2016/4/26 0:46

Good examples of what comes out of the emergent church movement are books like "Velvet Elvis" and "The Shack". If you want your blood vessels to explode just skim through these books and you will discover a fantasy world, laced with doctrines of demons. Many who follow down these roads turn to universalism and embrace gay christianity and everything else in between.

I was part of a church many years ago when Velvet Elvis was released and watched as this poison made its way through the body. The false teaching ripped through the youth first and the church members began to explore more and more false doctrine.

Eventually many of the young people fell away from the Lord.

The leadership of that church btw, never addressed the issue and has since suffered several scandals. It would seem that Ichabod is now written over her door.

Re: , on: 2016/4/26 0:54

I think it is good to warn people about this movement as well as the "IF Gathering" movement for women which seems to be partly led by leading emergent church writers and Catholics who are already pushing emergent theology in the mainline denominations which seem to be receiving them with open arms. I have been saying for years that the Counter-Reformation has continued to morph into different movements and expressions through the centuries as Rome has very long range plans for bringing protestants "home to Rome". We have seen the ecumenical movement where leading Christian leaders along with Catholic clergy signed the "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" and "Evangelicals and Catholics Together II", documents and then together they signed the "Manhattan Declaration".

For a list of the signees with explanation of these documents:
<http://www.seekgod.ca/ect.htm>

Explanation "Evangelicals and Catholics Together"
<http://www.gty.org/resources/articles/A149/Evangelicals-and-Catholics-Together>

Explanation of the Manhattan Declaration:
<http://www.gty.org/resources/articles/A390/The-Manhattan-Declaration>

Now, we have the Emergent Church, which continues the mixture from Rome.

If you have any doubts about the Links between the Emergent Church and Rome, please read, "The Emergent Church Markets Catholicism"
<http://www.bereanbeacon.org/new-blog/2015/10/5/the-emergent-church-markets-catholicism>

Catholic Mysticism and the Emergent Movement
<http://www.bereanbeacon.org/new-blog/2015/10/17/catholic-mysticism-and-the-emerging-church>

Other articles on the Emergent Church and the Ecumenical movement: <http://www.bereanbeacon.org/#/new-page-82/>

There is so much mixture along with leading evangelical leaders supporting these strange doctrines that it is becoming more apparent to people why the Lord is calling His people out of these places.

Re: , on: 2016/4/26 1:47

Yeah, amen.

Strange doctrines indeed. If I am remembering correctly, There's an excellent documentary online (I think with Elliot Nes ch called "The Real Roots of the Emerging Church) on the history & origins of the Emergent Church. New Age Occultis m repackaged for the unlearned & undiscerning "Christian". Dangerous stuff.

I think Joe Schimmel from GoodFightMinistries has a good one on the Emergent church too: Called "submerging church" or something like that?

Re: personality tests - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2016/4/26 6:13

I find this a worthwhile discussion. I found that I had similar experiences with false doctrine being piped into my mind wh en I tried to unshackle myself from the dead orthodoxy I was familiar with.

Thank you for fleshing this out.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/4/26 7:18

Now the biggest pentacostal church Aog ,have also become an emergent church ...

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=am41xpM3Rps>

Re: , on: 2016/4/26 8:57

Churches with corporate structures depend on people and not on God for their survival. There is a lot of competition for nickels, noses, and numbers and many, many bills have to be paid. Inevitably, to bring these people in, they must and d o change their 'sales pitch', from time to time, in order to remain relevant "in the world", and keep up with the competition . It is a "dog eat dog" (stressful) religious world. Any of you who have ever been in sales understands what I mean.

It's not about the Word of God anymore, it is all about the packaging, success in sales and outdoing the competition.

AOG has built a kingdom on earth that needs to be sustained.

Great movements of the Lord, have become monuments to men, and the Holy Spirit moves on. We are to move with the "Cloud", not vice-versa.

Exo 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Re: How do you classify this experience? - posted by twayneb (), on: 2016/4/26 9:56

John: Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit would guide us in all truth and show us things to come (John 16:13). So, I don't t hink it strange that the Holy Spirit would speak something to your spirit about "seduction", and then follow it up by reveal ing some things to you...especially if you are truly seeking God and His ways in your life.

A quick note about some denominations and movements. I have floated in and out of several of these movements for a number of years, watching and listening. Here is what I have found. There are those in the WoF movement who are re ally off and, in my opinion, deceived. However, I have seen the opposite as well. I have seen people in that movement who are solid as a rock and do not see things quite the same as those who are in left field. I think that is true of most de nominational movements.

I do believe that we are approaching a pivotal moment in church history. It will be a time when there is a purifying and s eparation of the true church from the false. The gray will disappear and there will be clearly drawn lines of black and whi te that emerge. It is not that the false church will not continue to exist nor will they lose their "form of Godlineess", but th ey will deny the power. The true church will be refined and will come forth being led of and empowered by the Holy Spiri t. God will, I believe, reveal to us the error that we are to avoid.

So, I think what you are hearing is from God. It certainly passes the Biblical test in my eyes.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2016/4/26 19:10

twayneb

I believe I heard from God in this as well. I have some who are trying to tell me God doesn't do that and they are falling in the Calvinist camp but online. I don't get it. Sometimes I think some of those people are die hard in saying that God does not use anything like that to speak to people. There are many times I wonder if they are doing more harm than good but I find the term 'Providence of God' come up a lot on this circle. Is that scriptural? The providence of God?

I attend a reformed church solely for the preaching at the moment. They baptize infants but are careful to point out that it does not save them. It only seals them until the day they fulfill that calling of God to be born again.

WOF is very dangerous. I had a friend who passed away after using that theology to believe herself healed. She died of cancer.

I have also seen them use leavened bread for communion. Some of them have told it is not a big deal but in reality, shouldn't it be?

I think in these days there is a mass delusion with Christians in America that is happening. Praying for revival will not come to pass in the sense of American repenting. It is obvious to me that America is being given up by God to sin all she wants. It is the Christians responsible to seek God and preach the Gospel despite the cost of that. It is a part of taking up the cross. A deep delusion is that homosexuals are born that way and it is no sin as a result and in some instances it seems as if it is a part of their natural lives but therein is the delusion. Is God's Word true? Then homosexuality is sin.

We must love people and call people to repent but we must also not react harshly to those who respond harshly to us all the time. It serves only to provoke us and cause us to strive in the flesh and forget the Spirit of God within us. It is satan seeking to slap us into the flesh in order to cause those who need Jesus to laugh at us and push us off into the distance while they fall off a cliff.

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2016/4/26 20:35

There are so many false doctrines and wildfire movements today that it is tempting to get paranoid and lock ourselves away in a fortress of orthodoxy and fire arrows at everyone who comes within bowshot. There are (at a rough estimate) 800,000,000 discernment websites which label anyone who claims a living relationship with God "a Gnostic" and insist that God only speaks through the scriptures (an unscriptural proposition, to say the least!). So there are two perils: one is to fall prey to deceiving spirits; the other is to lock down in a dead orthodoxy to escape deception!

The only safe course is to be taught by the Spirit of truth Himself (John 16:13; 1 John 2:27). We recognize deception by being acquainted with truth; we recognize counterfeits by knowing the real.

Re: , on: 2016/4/27 1:30

Wayne,

Some interesting Christian history in this link about Christ in us.

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/bible_books/?view=book_chapter&chapter=16513

III. THE OSIANDRIC CONTROVERSY (1549-1566).

It touched the central doctrine of Evangelical Lutheranism, justification by faith, whether it is a mere declaratory, forensic act of acquittal from sin and guilt, or an actual infusion of righteousness.

Luther and the other Reformers made a clear distinction between justification as an external act of God for man, and sanctification as an internal act of God in man; and yet viewed them as inseparable, sanctification being the necessary effect of justification. Faith was to them an appropriation of the WHOLE CHRIST, a bond of VITAL UNION WITH HIS PERSON.

N FIRST, and in consequence of this a participation of his benefits.

In the Osiandric controversy, justification and sanctification were either confounded or too abstractedly separated, and the person of Christ was lost sight of in his work or in one of his two natures.

Andrew Osiander (1498-1552), an eminent Lutheran minister and reformer at Nuremberg (since 1522), afterwards Professor at Königsberg (1549), a man of great learning and speculative talent, but conceited and overbearing, created a great commotion by a new doctrine of justification, which he brought out after the death of Luther. He assailed the forensic conception of justification, and taught instead a medicinal and creative act, WHEREBY THE SINNER IS MADE JUST BY AN INFUSION OF THE DIVINE NATURE OF CHRIST, WHICH IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. This view was denounced as Romanizing, but it is rather mystical. He did not make justification a gradual process, like the Roman system, but a single and complete act, BY WHICH CHRIST ACCORDING TO HIS DIVINE NATURE ENTERS THE SOUL OF MAN THROUGH THE DOOR OF FAITH.

Osiander, certainly had his enemies. It was a pretty crazy time back then. I just took out one excerpt from that link. We think today is crazy with all the Emergent Church, Ecumenicalism, and cults galore, check out 1500AD to 1600AD.

Let's look at the Scriptures regarding union/fellowship with Jesus Christ.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, AND WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM.

1Cor 6:17 But he that is JOINED UNTO THE LORD is one spirit.

1Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

2Pet 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER, AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY.

1Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us WISDOM, and RIGHTEOUSNESS, and SANCTIFICATION, and REDEMPTION: