

## The "Old Paths"

Apostolic Pentecost is not the only group that has to fight the demons of liberalism; the denominational churches also have a battle on their hands. There always seems to be someone that is willing to be used by the dark side to encourage others to leave the "Old Paths."

I love the "Old Paths." But many, unfortunately do not. There is a constant pressure from those that seem to be embarrassed by the "Old Paths" to modernize, to be progressive, and to accept concepts that are borrowed from the business world. But, the Church does not need the business world, the business world needs the Church.

In the book, *The Dark Side of the Purpose Driven Church* (Expanded Edition, 2011, by Noah W. Hutchings, Hutchings issues "a special warning to Christians..." (p. 7). Part of that warning is that "Dr. [Rick] Warren has come up with a formula that would finally bring all denominations together – make everyone think that there is something in it just for them" (p. 22).

The following are some examples that Hutchings uses from a book entitled, *Outcome Based Religion*, by Mac Dominick (p. 22-23). Unfortunately, many have fallen prey to "dark side" philosophical and ideological thinking, such as, multiculturalism and political correctness. The infiltration of this type of thinking has hurt our ranks as well.

1. Perception must be changed from viewing people as "saved" or "lost" to "churched" and "unchurched."

Let's stick to the "Old Paths." The Lord said it right: "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." (Matt. 18:11)

2. Bring in popular "heroes" to attract the multitude.

Whatever happened to having Jesus Christ as our hero! How about looking up to the heroes of faith such as we find in the book of Hebrews 11 and elsewhere in the Bible?

3. Pastors should model themselves after businessmen and plan strategically.

The apostle Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1)

4. Do not preach expository sermons, you have to win them and build relationships.

Paul the apostle said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Tim. 4:2)

5. We must begin to say, 'I am not trying to convert any other religious people to my viewpoint.'

What hogwash, of course we are trying to covert people. Titus 1:9 says, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

6. Christ was self-esteem incarnate.

This is bad stuff, and people are flocking to this tripe.

People don't need more self-esteem, they need more of God. 1 Tim. 3:16 says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

7. The Christ Spirit dwells in every human being.

Absolutely wrong. People need to be born again. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

8. The most destructive thing that can be done to a person is to call him a sinner.

Unbelievable. A God-called preacher has a duty to preach to the "sinner." Ezek. 3:18 says, "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

Hutchings has every right to be alarmed, and so do we. The trend for several years has been to soften and tone things down to accommodate the carnal masses. We, no doubt, have a snowflake generation even amongst us. We must use wisdom, as God must help us to win an overly sensitive generation by biblical means. We must continue to support an unfettered pulpit to preach the "Old Paths."

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