

Same Ol' Stuff

The "new movements" in America are nothing new at all: the mini-skirt, the health food craze, young people wanting their own styles of hair and clothing, and churches practicing different approaches -- there is nothing new.

John Rice preached about modernists before I was saved. Around the time of my conversion, the Charismatic Movement was strong with its talking in tongues and the mandate that if you didn't talk in tongues, you probably were not saved. Brother Hyles preached about the "Deeper life" crowd that went down deep, stayed down long and came up dry. Then the rock and roll churches, the anti-organized religion crowd, and the contemporary church movement came along. And everywhere we find the "Bible study" church as if none of the rest of us study our Bibles; and how can we miss the "praise and worship" crowd that preaches little yet praises and sings much.

Teens enjoying a hike in the mountains never lack something fun to do or miss a good picture spot.

But in reality, all these entities have the same root issues: they do not believe in soul winning; they do not have alter calls; they have no inspired or preserved Bible. All these movements assure their listeners that what a person is on the inside is what counts, not the outside. They push the "dressed down" look, for there is no need for standards, separation, and holiness when the outside doesn't matter.



The devil simply takes the same stuff and puts a new name on it. Just as the mini-skirt is introduced again and again and continues to embrace fashion indecency, so the same spiritual whorish stuff is offered to appease our flesh rather than feed our spirit.

The next step is always the same...

The worldly churches can not reproduce themselves, so they subtly influence our good churches, dragging them into the cesspool of compromise, and add one more compromiser to their crowd. Perhaps the seeker-sensitive movement, the emerging church, and today's Southern Baptists are coming to our independent Baptist men to draw them into their circles because that crowd of compromisers could not reproduce any more effectively than a queer couple.

(Southern Baptists threw out Lester Roloff, Jack Hyles, Lee Roberson, and J. Frank Norris -- why would we join them?)

These moves take place slowly and usually are accompanied by cash and a crowd, the two things Satan uses as bait. Living by faith is hard; going to God and waiting on His timing is a weary business. Why not drop our standards, bring in the world's music, adopt some new idea (which is nothing new at all), and begin to increase the size of our church?



As is often the case in our church, the young couples who were raised here have no intention of bringing up their children anywhere but their own home church. Matt Banghart was a bus kid who paid his own way through our school. He went to Bible college where he met his wife.

The casualties are always the same: we lose the next generation of preachers because a worldly church produces worldly young people, and worldly young people have no desire for the ministry: hence, no preachers. The worldly young people treat Christianity as a fad; then run off after things that "really matter:" money, sports, and fun.

To sacrifice a lifetime of service for others would be ridiculous in the typical young person's mind.

The real church is then placed into the hands of a new group of poorly educated, "other side of the tracks," crazy people who somehow get folks saved, baptized, and help a church grow without money or help. Their buildings are poor; their buses are in poor repair; their budget is embarrassing. But the souls saved are real; the families helped are real, and look -- from the spiritual ghetto come young people who want to be in the ministry for some unknown reason. The big church sits back and wonders how it can get inside and deliver these poor impoverished folks from their ignorant ideas so they can be part of a big and prosperous church like the rest of the non-producing churches. (It has happened in each decade of my ministry -- nothing new at all.)

There is no lack of young men in our ministry, especially when we say we are meeting after church at In-N-Out.

Sadly some of the young people who were called by the Spirit of God from the "backwards, out of date" church buy into the new ideas (which, of course, are not new to the other side of the tracks preacher, he saw it all a decade ago, and the decade before that too).



The young people from the "other side of the tracks" are embraced and promoted quickly because, remember, the other crowd can not reproduce. God called young people, and they should not buy into a movement that never will produce anyone even close to the caliber of the youth that was stolen from the church that God used to produce him.

I have watched it work the circle for three decades, nothing new, same ol' ideas painted up like a gal in a mini-skirt -- very attractive, but very unacceptable, and nothing to which you want to tie your life.