

Dear friends,

I bring you an interactive mail that invites your participation. I am part of a group that meets in the UK in a few weeks to discuss the issue of "Reconfiguring Church", a sort of Think Tank meeting. I have kicked off a bit of the discussion with this piece. Can I ask you (all?) to respond with a SHORT mail to this saying: 'Yes, I agree'(in principle), or 'No, I don't, because...' and then state some short good reasons? I may not be able to answer each end every mail, but it will help build focus. You may pass this message on to others who are interested in this, or have a contribution to make.

Blessings, Wolfgang



Reconfiguring Church: Our Therapy is as good as our Diagnostics.

Anyone who says, 'This way, Church!' needs to ask himself, 'Am I part of the problem or the solution?' And 'how would I know?'

Fact is, our discernment and diagnostics at this exact point decides whether all we do and stand for is leading us towards the Kingdom, or makes us blind leaders of more blind followers. As part of my diagnostics, I say Christianity has committed five crucial, gigantic, earth shattering, fatal mistakes:

1) Jesus came to free mankind from religion (as in self-made systems of worship that replaces life before God with human protocol); Christianity has made the very same mistake as Judaism and has become exactly that - a religion. Just like Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, etc.

2) Christianity has removed Jesus Christ from Kingship, literally beheaded itself and then told him to his face, 'we do not want you to rule us. You may save, heal and comfort us, but no way will you rule us.' The directives of Christ, his law, is disregarded and rebelled against day and night under disguises like grace, freedom and talk of the Holy Spirit. The entire setup is institutionalized rebellion.

3) Once Jesus as head and leader was gone, a headless Christianity needed a new king, a Saul, a new head, "like everyone else". This is why it has become completely obsessed with human leadership (hello, Senior Pastor, who called you into your unbiblical being?) and its all too well known roles in PBC, planning, budgeting, controlling. Look at the 45,000 denominations, 200,000 ministry mum-and-pop-shops and one Roman-Catholic Organization that makes defiance to Christ's every command its very organizational principle. None of this has anything to do with the Kingdom.

4) Christianity has failed to demonstrate and model the City on the Hill, the colony of God, where his will is done on earth as it is in heaven, the very thing Christ taught us to do. Christianity has particularly failed to model economic brotherhood, Acts 2 and 4 style sharing, Kingdom economics, the common wealth of the Kingdom, which requires an ego and greed-free zone. This can only start where people pray: "Your Kingdom come, my kingdom go." That is why we need to ponder: Jesus preached the Kingdom, what came was the church.

5) No model, no message. Anyone can see through words, words, and more words, hollow hypocrisy, bigot religion, religious fan clubs and consumer driven shows, particularly the children and close observers of "the ministers." They see first hand the emptiness and double standards of their own parents who preach things on pulpits and platforms that they do not live at home. Therefore, the Body of Christ has fled the litmus test of the home, given up the place of organic authenticity, and is now

obsessed with plastic, orchestrated, choreographed meetings. What such Christianity misses in local, tangible and transparent authenticity, they make up in social service worlds away. To compensate for the disaster at home, they build wells, school, hospitals with a vengeance and an insatiable helpers complex, stoppering their ears and eyes to see that Jesus, the King, never asked nor ordered anyone to do this.

As an end result, Christianity has become a religion of those saying "Lord, Lord", but do not do what he says, driven by a religious fervor to prove to anyone that what they know deep down to be wrong is so right. That is the result of killing the truth. Because it just cannot be, with all of our theologians, seminaries, preachers, top speakers and ministries, that we all have become that unbelievably betrayed, that wrong, that off.

So, I offer this to bring our conversation to an interesting choice:

Do you, or do you not, agree to this analysis? If yes, tell me, what therefore is the obvious thing to do? What is the place to start?

And if you do not agree with this analysis, then tell me, who made you join the choir that sings: All is well in Zion - when it is not?

And, tongue-in-cheek, is it someone paying you?

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