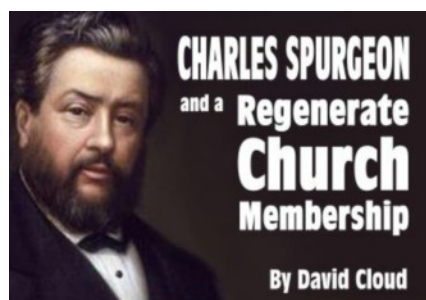


# O Timothy

*"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."*

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 36 - Issue 6 - June 2019



*"Spurgeon preached against the practice of puffing up the church's membership roles with people who are not present and active. 'Let us not keep names on our books when they are only names. Certain of the good old people like to keep them there, and cannot bear to have them removed; but when you do not know where individuals are, nor what they are, how can you count them?'"* **Page 11.**

**Digging in the Walls:** A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**



## CCM Philosophy Spreading Among INDEPENDENT BAPTISTS

By David Cloud

This is a shortened edition of a previous report by this same title.

In recent days I have warned about the "adaptation" of Contemporary Christian Music at independent Baptist churches and schools.

This is going on widely, but even more serious than the "adaptation" of the contemporary music is the adaptation

of the contemporary *philosophy*. Of course, the two go hand-in-hand, which is why contemporary music brings such radical and rapid changes to churches.

I trust that church leaders will heed our warning and renounce the following philosophies. Every fundamental Baptist church and school today needs to have a top to bottom review of what is being taught and what is not being taught, of what is being emphasized and not emphasized. Every teacher should be vetted so that no foreign philosophy is creeping in.

I am convinced that every Independent Baptist church that refuses to plainly and boldly and unhesitatingly renounce both the music and the philosophy of CCM will be fully contemporary in stance within 10 years.

Consider some examples of the CCM philosophy that has been espoused to me in recent correspondence by students at Baptist colleges:

**1. GRACE MEANS THAT IN QUESTIONABLE THINGS WE SHOULD COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF THE LESS STRICT, THE PATH OF GREATER LIBERTY. STRICTNESS IS A MARK OF LEGALISM AND IS A GRACE KILLER.**

A Bible college student wrote as follows:

"Another thing that is taught is that if there is a doubt or question concerning practice, standards, or anything else, that because we are under grace, we should choose the broader path, otherwise we are still acting under yoke of bondage" (Northland University student).

Grace is certainly at the heart and soul of biblical Christianity. The true gospel is called "the grace of Christ" (Galatians 1:6). The grace of God, though, does not lead to "the broader path."

Yet this has long been a New Evangelical principle. Consider the following statement by Charles Swindoll:

"There was a time ... when I had a position that life was so rigid I would fight for every jot and tittle. I mean, I couldn't list enough things that I'd die for. The older I get, the shorter that

list gets, frankly. ... More than ever we need grace-awakened ministers who free rather than bind" (*Grace Awakening*).

*Calvary Contender* editor Jerry Huffman observed that Swindoll's book leaves "the impression that rules or restrictions upon the believer steal from him the exuberance and joy of the Christian life and relegate him to a morbid and dreary existence."

This is precisely the philosophy that is permeating Independent Baptist churches and schools today.

In the aforementioned book, Swindoll implies that those who strive for strict moral purity are legalists who need to learn grace. He claims that it is legalistic to make prohibitions about movies, dress, music, dancing, etc.

Actually Swindoll redefines grace as a form of license.

Biblical grace, on the other hand, teaches a strict form of Christian living.

"For THE GRACE OF GOD that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UN-GODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from ALL INIQUITY, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS" (Titus 2:11-14).

To live in the manner described in this Scripture requires the continual exercise of judgment and extreme caution pertaining to all forms of entertainment, etc. It requires a "testing mindset."

The "grace" that is typically taught by Contemporary Christian Music performers is not biblical grace because it does not produce strict separation from worldly lusts. It does not produce peculiar people; it produces worldly-minded people.

God's people are to "have NO fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). That is a very strict standard and a very narrow walk.

Further, a strict position is a safe position. The Bible repeatedly and emphatically warns about spiritual dangers, particularly in the context of the end times.

The devil is wily and subtle and beguiling. He appears as an angel of light and his ministers appear as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11). There are seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (1 Ti. 4:1-4). There will be a great apostasy, a turning from sound doctrine to fables (2 Ti. 4:3-4). There will be men who operate by cunning craftiness and that lie in wait to deceive. (Eph. 4:14).

**O TIMOTHY Magazine  
Volume 36 Issue 6**

David W. Cloud, Editor  
Subscription information on  
back page of the magazine

Copyright 2011 by D.W.Cloud  
Way of Life Literature  
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI  
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)

[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org)

<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church  
4212 Campbell St. N.  
London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada  
519-652-2619

We must therefore prove all things and try the spirits. The danger of end-time apostasy requires is a very strict manner of Christian living.

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14).

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

## 2. IT IS WRONG TO HAVE A CRITICAL EYE.

A graduate of West Coast Baptist College wrote the following:

"[When I first arrived] I had a critical eye toward all that they had going ... [But] I would rather give account for singing songs written by contemporary artists but sung in a conservative way than for having a critical attitude toward a fellow man of God."

We don't have to make a choice between being wishy-washy about songs written by contemporary artists or having a critical attitude. We should rather aim to have a "critical eye" without having a "critical spirit," so to speak.

Like judging, criticism can take two forms: carnal and godly. The Bible commends a "critical eye" in the sense of exercising

keen spiritual discernment and testing everything by God's Word. We are exhorted to "prove ALL things" (1 Th. 5:21). That requires a LOT of judging and "criticism"!

Paul had a "critical eye" toward Peter's hypocrisy and Demas' worldliness and Phygellus' inconsistency and Philetus' heresy and Alexander the Coopersmith's evil (2 Ti. 1:15; 2:17; 4:10, 14).

Christ had a "critical eye" toward the Pharisees' hypocrisy and the Saducees' rationalism and the disciples' unbelief (Mt. 23; Lu. 24:25).

When I went to Bible School at Tennessee Temple in the mid-1970s, I was only one year old in the Lord, but I had a powerful dose of salvation, I had been devouring the Bible, and I knew that God wanted me to test everything by it. Psalm 119:128; John 8:31-32; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21 were as precious and real to me then as today.

I began to see some things that I felt were wrong scripturally, particularly the shallow, unscriptural soul-winning technique I have since labeled "Quick Prayerism," the carnal over-exaltation of man, the big-numbers, big-church, big-preacher braggadociosness, and the refusal on the part of the leaders and visiting speakers to speak out plainly on some very important issues.

I had a "critical eye," and insofar as I had a wrong attitude and lack of mercy and compassion, I was wrong, but insofar as I was identifying things that were unscriptural and wrong, I was right.

By God's grace, I have grown in my spiritual life, and I believe and hope that I am wiser and more gracious than I was when I was a new Christian, but I also thank the Lord that I have not given up my "critical eye" in a biblical sense. I still reject the things I rejected decades ago, because they are still unscriptural.

If ever there were a time to have a "critical eye" in a right sense it is today. It will protect you spiritually. It is the devil who wants everyone to give up "criticism." If we do that, we have no shield of protection and there is no way to bring correction to error.

I am deeply concerned that so many IB churches and schools are putting humanistic eye wash in the biblical critical eye.

At the same time, we must guard against a carnal, critical spirit. James described the right spirit as follows:

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife

in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish" (James 3:13-15).

I have often emphasized the importance of such things as giving church leaders the benefit of the doubt. Our free eBook [\*Keys to Fruitful Church Membership\*](#) emphasizes such things.

So does the article "[\*I Am Not Your Pastor\*](#)."

The CCM philosophy of not being critical about music comes from the charismatic movement, which teaches people to "let go and let God," to go with the flow, to not "put God in a box." This was the philosophy of John Wimber and many of the Vineyard churches. It is the philosophy of Hillsong. It is the philosophy of most of the CCM artists.

The Bible teaches just the opposite. We are to be very strict, very cautious.

The philosophy expressed above by the graduate of an IB college in an e-mail to me is something he was taught at school. The following is from the school's web site from 2006:

"Students at West Coast Baptist College will be taught the importance of appreciating and growing spiritually through the means of godly music. Students will also be taught that worldly music and Christian rock music are destructive to their maturing as a Christian. West Coast Baptist College believes in the importance of following the Scriptural admonitions regarding music found in Ephesians 5; therefore, our emphasis revolves around psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The 200-voice choir of Lancaster Baptist Church, as well as all musical groups and instrumentalists, adhere to conservative music standards, emphasizing a distinct melody and godly music theory. STUDENTS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE TAUGHT TO HAVE A JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT OF OTHER MINISTRIES WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN MUSIC STYLE FROM THAT WHICH IS TAUGHT AT WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE. THEY WILL BE TAUGHT THAT A CRITICAL AND JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT IS AS GRIEVOUS TO THE LORD AS PERHAPS AN UNINTENTIONAL VARIATION IN MUSIC STYLE BY A LIKE-MINDED FUNDAMENTAL CHURCH."

The first statement about the importance of having the right music and the destructive nature of worldly music is largely negated by the second statement about not judging or being critical, and it is the second statement that has become the predominant philosophy at West Coast. It has allowed the music people to push the boundaries farther each year.

While we should be gracious and wise in our judgments, we must judge! While we should not be carnally critical in attitude, we should most definitely be critical of sin and worldliness and error and compromise of the truth!

I would ask at what point is it right to be judgmental and critical toward music? If it has a backbeat and other forms of

dance syncopation? If it has non-resolving chord patterns? If it incorporates worldly vocal techniques? If it is repetitious? If it has a vague message? If it is written by CCM people for charismatic mystical worship? If it is written by those who deny the Trinity and promote a non-judgmental god? If it is written by those who believe that Roman Catholics are part of the "body of Christ" and associate with the pope?

Where are we allowed to draw clear lines and become "judgmental" without breaking West Coast's rules?

In my estimation, it is not possible to obey this school's rules on music without disobeying God's rules.

### 3. PERSONAL EDIFICATION IS A MAJOR STANDARD OF MUSIC.

A graduate of West Coast Baptist College wrote the following:

"Can a Christian not be edified by these songs? Is it not more important for a person to be edified?"

Another Bible college student wrote:

"The music standards were changed so that the students could listen to any music they wanted to, as long as it didn't offend their conscience" (Northland University student).

These statements reflect a perfect description of the CCM and emerging church philosophy. If I am "blessed" by the music, it must be OK.

I have read at least 100 of their books, have attended major conferences with press credentials, have attended their church services for research, and have communicated personally with many of them, and the CCM crowd could not state their philosophy more clearly than it is being stated by students at many fundamental Baptist colleges today.

What is edification and how does it happen? "Edification" means to build up spiritually, of course, and it happens by God's Spirit through God's Word. True edification in a biblical sense can only happen in accordance with God's Word. Acts 9:31 associates edification with walking in the fear of the Lord.

"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied" (Acts 9:31).

Knowing the deception of the human heart, the standard of "I was blessed by the music" is insufficient and dangerous. The devil is clever and subtle and can appeal to the "religious" side of the fallen flesh. I must test every sense of "blessing" by God's Word. If I am acting contrary to Scripture and still



claim that I am being edified and blessed, I am deceived. This is blind mysticism.

Multitudes who attended Kathryn Kuhlman's preaching meetings said they were blessed.

Multitudes who attend papal masses say they are blessed.

Multitudes who fall on the floor and speak in gibberish in charismatic meetings say they are blessed.

Pentecostals who have heard voices telling them to not judge the Roman Catholic Church say they are blessed by these experiences.

Those who attend Marsha Stevens' concerts and hear her lesbian "Christian" music will tell you that they are blessed.

We must be very, very careful in this age that our "blessings" are not spiritual deceptions.

Jesus warned that in the last hours of the age false teaching will be so subtle that "insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Mt. 24:24).

When it comes to CCM, its use is disobedience to Scriptures such as Romans 12:2; 16:17; Ephesians 5:11-16; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:5; 4:3-4; Titus 2:11-12; James 4:4; and 1 John 2:15-17.

It is important to understand that mysticism is sweeping the planet, both in the secular, religious, Christian, and now fundamentalist realms.

In the book [\*What Is the Emerging Church?\*](#) we document the fact that mysticism is a major element of the emerging church, and to hold the principle that "personal edification" is an important standard for testing music is to be on the emerging mystical road.

Rock music has always been mystical. It is all about a good feeling. The 60s song "Hooked on a Feeling" capsulizes the whole thing. Modern society is hooked on the feeling produced by sensual music. It stirs up powerful emotions. It doesn't even need words.

Sun Records founder Sam Phillips, who recorded some of the first rock & roll hits, including Elvis' first recording in 1954, knew the power of rock. Reminiscing many years later about why rock music became such a social phenomenon, he said, "It all came out of THAT INFECTIOUS BEAT and those young people wanting to FEEL GOOD by listening to some records" ("Rock 'n' Roll Pioneer Sam Phillips Dies," *USA Today*, July 30, 2003).

Rock music can be hard or soft, fast or slow, loud or quiet, and it is still rock because it still has a sensual swing rhythm that moves the body, and it is still "infectious" or addictive.

If I need sensual, body-moving music to be "edified," and if sound doctrine sung in a sacred "old fashioned" manner doesn't do the job, then I am addicted to sensual music, and it is easy to mistake a sensual feeling for spiritual edification.

A good feeling does not equate to biblical edification. True edification is always in conformity to God's Word.

The "personal blessing" factor is a very shallow, insufficient, and dangerous standard by which to judge Christian music.

#### 4. LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MUSIC.

When Bible-believing Christians take the Word of God and measure leaders, churches, denominations and movements by it, they are invariably charged with a lack of love. A woman wrote to me and said:

"You preach separatism from heresy. WHAT ABOUT LOVE?  
... The lost will never be reached through SUCH HATRED"  
(Letter from a reader, May 1997).

A graduate of an fundamental Baptist college wrote along the same line:

"Last I checked, the Lord Jesus Christ was more concerned about our love than He was about our music or anything else"

To this generation, the "negative" aspects of "fundamentalist" Christianity are unloving. To carefully test things by the Bible is a lack of compassion. To mark and avoid false teachers is hateful. To warn of false gospels and to discipline heretics and to separate from error is mean-spirited.

Some years ago, evangelist Jack Van Impe, a former fundamentalist, rejected biblical separatism and adopted the ecumenical philosophy. He immediately began contrasting biblical discernment and separation with love:

"Let's forget our labels and come together in love, and the pope has called for that. I had 400 verses on love. Till I die I will proclaim nothing but love for all my brothers and sisters in Christ, my Catholic brothers and sisters, Protestant brothers and sisters, Christian Reformed, Lutherans, I don't care what label you are. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another."

This is the popular view of love in these end times: love doesn't judge, isn't critical, doesn't separate. But this is a false and dangerous position. If we define love by the Bible itself, we find that it is never set in contrast to godly judgment and holiness and a zeal for the truth.

Consider Christ's teaching on love: "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" (Joh. 14:23).

Consider Paul's teaching on love: "And this I pray, that your LOVE MAY ABOUND YET MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE AND IN ALL JUDGMENT; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Php. 1:9-10).

Consider the apostle John's teaching on love: "For THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jo. 5:3).

This is true Christian love, not the feel-good, rock & roll-driven mysticism of the contemporary movement that preaches world-loving license and broadminded tolerance.

Biblical love is obedience to God and His Word. Love is not a warm fuzzy feeling. Christian love is not an emotion, though emotion is closely associated with it.

Feelings of love come and go in this present life, but the action of biblical love can be steadfast. For a woman to love her husband means she submits to him and serves him according to the Bible as unto the Lord. For a man to love his wife means he treats her in the way the Bible commands. The emotion of love is important, but it is a very secondary thing, and true love is not dependent on an emotion.

Biblical love is spiritually and doctrinally vigilant. It is based on knowledge and judgment from God's Word. It proves all things and approves only those things that reflect the will of God.

Was the Lord Jesus Christ unloving when He drove the moneychangers from the temple with a whip (Joh. 2:15-17), or when He looked on the people "with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts" (Mk. 3:5), or when he called the Pharisees a "generation of vipers" (Mt. 23:33), or when he addressed Peter as Satan (Mt. 16:23), or when He instructed His disciples not to give holy things unto "dogs" and "swine" (Mt. 7:6), or when He called His own disciples "fools and slow of heart to believe" (Lu. 24:25), or when He said that He hates the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans (Re. 2:6; 15)?

Was the apostle Paul unloving when he rebuked Peter publicly for his compromise (Ga. 1)? Or when he named the names of false teachers and compromisers such as Hymenaeus and Alexander ten different times in the Pastoral Epistles? Was the apostle Paul unloving when he forbade women to teach or to usurp authority over men in 1 Timothy 2:12?

Of course not! And neither are preachers today unloving when they follow in these godly footsteps.

Jesus said to the churches, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

Biblical love does not mean that I ignore things that are wrong and things that are spiritually and morally injurious.

The contemporary crowd is very confused about the definition of biblical love.

## 5. WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF MUSIC AND STANDARDS.

"There was a huge push, at least toward me and another one of my friends who was struggling with the changes, TO RE-THINK WHAT OUR PARENTS HAVE TAUGHT US. I was told by Dr. Olson and one of the dorm supervisors that I must rethink my music philosophy and make sure I didn't just believe what I am taught, but I need to choose my own standards" (Northland University student).

While it is always good and right to test everything by Scripture, the Bible itself warns us not to remove ancient landmarks (Pr. 22:28). This does not mean that we blindly follow tradition or that we accept something just because our parents did it, but it does mean that we not reject tradition lightly.

Christian rock has the same insubordinate attitude that its intimate friend secular rock has. It is quick to overthrow anything or anyone that gets in its way.

Rock & roll burst on the scene in the 1950s and 1960s chock full of insolence toward tradition and authority.

And the e-mails I receive from young people who defend CCM represent the same insolence. Typically they are filled with mocking ridicule and a flippant spirit, and this attitude is applauded in circles that love CCM.

Consider the following from a student at West Coast Baptist College in response to my warnings about the music, and don't forget that this is a mere kid writing to a grandfather preacher who has been in the spiritual battle for nearly 40 years:

"Your hypocrisy and misinterpretation and out-of-context use of the Bible sickens me. May God have mercy on your soul you arrogant, raunchy man. I cannot help but wonder if those who call you 'brother' are sadly mistaken. Your choice of replies, continued attacks and unScriptural bellowing shows clearly who you are. I challenge you: post my previous email. Write a smart reply to the issues it addresses. Why haven't you? Because you're full of holes, arrogance and grotesque pride."

To write and "rip into" a preacher like me who warns about CCM is the sporting, clever thing to do. "Let's see how ridicu-

lous we can make that “old fundamentalist” look. Who cares whether we are speaking the truth with godly respect. We’re ever so cool and clever, and we’re having fun, and we all know that he’s a nutcase.”

Young people have every right to challenge their elders and to disagree with them if they have biblical authority to prove an error, but God hates pride and mocking and disrespect. When God-loving Noah had a temporary moral failing, two of his sons showed honor to him even in that difficult situation, while one son showed disrespect and mocking. Which sons were blessed of God?

God’s Word is unequivocal on this matter.

Leviticus 19:2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

I personally know the issue of rebellion from every perspective. I was an insolent adolescent. As a teenager, I rebelled against my dad in a pretty vicious way. I mocked him and told him he wasn’t going to tell me how to live or how long my hair was going to be or anything else. I broke his heart, but I didn’t care. Everything was about me. When I was drafted into the army, I did enough to survive and get an honorable discharge, but I was a rebel through and through, thumbing my nose at authority every chance I got. When I got out of the army, I made two foolish vows: one, not to wear green again, and two, not to cut my hair again. I became a rock & roll New Age hippie. I grew my hair down to my shoulders, and if I thought that someone was offended by it, that made my day!

The attitude that I have experienced countless times from CCM defenders reminds me very much of the attitude I had as a lost, drug-addicted, rock-drunk hippie.

Since I was saved, though, I have had a different spirit by God’s grace. I’m not saying I can’t get in the flesh, but thank God I no longer “live in the flesh.” There has been a tremendous change in my attitude toward authority, and I know

that a humble, respectful spirit is what pleases the Lord. Until before I was saved, I really care about having a right attitude toward authority. I have stood against error since I was first saved, after the example of Psalm 119:128. “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things* to be right; and I hate every false way.” But I have always tried to do it in the spirit of 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

And James 3:13,

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.”

If your contemporary philosophy has granted you the liberty to mock and disrespect elders and spiritual authorities, to do anything but show godly humility, you are self-deceived because this type of thing is far more of this world than of Christ.

The fact that rock & roll has always been about thumbing your nose at authority and doing your own thing is 180 degrees contrary to the biblical Christian faith, and this is one of the many fundamental reasons why I reject rock & roll in every form.

Defend “Christian” rock and any other type of rock if you think you can. Disagree with me if you feel you must, but don’t mock me and treat me like a fool. A sincere believer who is trying to take God’s Word seriously can be wrong, but he is no fool.

Intimately associated with the insolence of secular rock and Christian rock (and even the soft CCM) is the unconcern about offence. Consider the following Scriptures:

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.

The Bible warns about giving unnecessary offence. Paul taught that even in matters of liberty, matters in which the Bible is silent and in which I thus have personal liberty before God, we are to restrict our liberty if we know we are causing offence and possible spiritual harm.

I find these Scriptures very interesting in light of the attitude that I have typically encountered among CCM defenders. Paul

was willing to give up things such as meat, things which are not wrong in themselves, but the CCM crowd is not willing to give up even deeply questionable things for the sake of not offending others.

When you try to explain to the CCM crowd that as a young person you were almost spiritually destroyed by rock music and that you are convinced from personal experience and from the Word of God that every aspect of rock is of the world, the flesh, and the devil, they have no sympathy that I can discern. They have no fear of offence. They are much too busy getting in your face with their music and their “liberty.”

Live in contemporary dreamland if you want, but this is not genuine biblical Christianity, and it is yet another fundamental reason why I am opposed to the CCM movement.

## 6. TO APPLY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO THINGS SUCH AS MUSIC IS GOING BEYOND SCRIPTURE.

I don’t have a quote at hand, but fundamental Baptist college students who have written to defend the adaptation of CCM have often brought up the philosophy that since the Bible doesn’t specifically condemn it, then it is not right to apply general biblical principles.

But while the Bible doesn’t condemn hard rock or soft rock or really any aspect of CCM’s music specifically, it does address such things *in principle*.

The Bible doesn’t specifically condemn wearing a bikini while teaching a Sunday School class, yet even the most liberal churches don’t allow that.

The same is true for the use of marijuana. This drug is not mentioned in the Bible by name, but there are biblical principles that apply to its use, such as being sober-minded, not being under the mastery of anything other than Christ, having a good testimony before others, and avoiding even the appearance of evil.

Likewise, the following are a few of the Bible principles that are applicable to Contemporary Christian Music:

- the principle of separation from end-time apostasy and not building bridges to that apostasy (2 Timothy 3:5)
- the principle of not conforming to, not being the friend of, and not loving the world (Romans 12:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16)
- the principle of doctrinal purity (1 Timothy 1:3)
- the principle that our music should be spiritual (Colossians 3:16)
- the principle of making a clear distinction between the holy and the profane (Ezekiel 22:6)

- the principle of being sober-minded and spiritually vigilant (1 Peter 5:8)
- the principle of not communing with devils (1 Corinthians 10:21; 1 Timothy 4:1)

And those principles are only a start.

Consider just one of these: the Bible principle of separation from the world as expressed in the following Scriptures:

“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Proverbs 4:14-15)

“I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked” (Psalms 26:4-5).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:15-16).

Strict separation from the world is a major teaching of Scripture. It is a fundamental Bible doctrine. It is a foundational principle of biblical Christian living.

It was this doctrine that convinced me as a young Christian that I had to give up rock & roll if I was going to please the



Lord. It wasn't an easy decision, because my flesh loved rock. I had long been addicted to the backbeat, the sensuality and fleshly excitement of it.

I didn't give up rock because I was some sort of legalistic Pharisee. I was just a young Christian seeking the Lord's will.

I didn't give up rock because someone was preaching against it. My pastor at the time knew next to nothing about rock music and never mentioned it in his preaching.

I gave up rock for one reason, and that was because I believed that God's Word required that I separate from such things, and that decision was based on the aforementioned Scriptures which was read as a young Christian.

It wasn't that the Bible says anything specific about rock music. It doesn't say anything about it directly, but it says plenty about it *in principle*!

God's Word makes it perfectly clear that separation from the world, non-conformity to the world, is not an optional part of Christianity.

Watch any typical CCM performance and there is an obvious conformity to the world. The musicians sound and look exactly like the world. They dance sensually just like the world. The CCM promotionalism and awards system and charting system are all patterned after the world. Their marriages break up about as often as the world's. They often curse like the world and drink like the world. They love R-rated movies and trashy sitcoms like the world. They love any sort of secular rock & roll like the world.

How is this not "worldly"?

As far as I can discern, if there is such a thing as worldliness as defined by 1 John 2:16--the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life--it would have to describe the modern pop music field and the pop culture and its religious counterpart, Contemporary Christian Music.

Therefore, we could not disagree more with those who claim that the Bible has nothing to say about the use of contemporary music in the churches.

It has a *lot* to say *in principle*.

## 7. AN EMPHASIS ON "A HEART FOR GOD" IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MUSIC OR ANY "EXTERNAL" THING.

A Bible college graduate wrote the following:

"While at West Coast Baptist College one the most important things I learned was the importance of having a heart for God. The music was a lot more of a concern to me when I first started to hear it and I thought of the fact that it was CCM artists that perform it."

I agree with the importance of emphasizing "the heart" as long as this is defined properly in today's context. It is so important to emphasize the heart and true godliness as opposed to mere externals, and we have always tried to emphasize that (such as in the book [Keeping the Kids](#)). I have often been discouraged at the shallow emphasis on the externals and the neglect of the true heart issues in many fundamental Baptist churches.

But this is no excuse for going down the road of saying that music doesn't matter as long as the "heart is right." That is one of the fundamental philosophies of CCM and the emerging church, and it is heretical and eventually leads to a complete collapse of godly standards and even of absolute truth itself. This is because of the subjectivity of the principle and the duplicitous nature of the human heart.

The philosophy of testing music by the passion for God exhibited by the performers and listeners or by whether my heart is blessed by it is the mystical charismatic approach, which lies at the heart of CCM.

This philosophy is akin to John Piper's Christian Hedonism doctrine. He says, "God is most satisfied with us when we are most satisfied with Him." A passion for God is promoted as THE major principle and sanctifier of the Christian life. As Dr. Peter Masters of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London says:

"Delighting in God ... is made the organising principle for every other spiritual experience and duty. It becomes the key formula for all spiritual vigour and development. Every other Christian duty is thought to depend on how well we obey this central duty of delighting in the Lord. The entire Christian life is simplified to rest upon a single quest, which is bound to distort ones perception of the Christian life and how it must be lived" ("Christian Hedonism - Is It Right?" *Sword & Trowel*, 2002, No. 3).

Only a fool would say that a passion for God is not the most important thing in the universe; but it is also true that it is easy to deceive ourselves that we are being passionate about God when we are actually being passionate about ourselves and about what we like. It is not a sufficient standard for saints who are still "in the flesh" in this present sin-cursed world.

The Bible warns that "the heart is deceitful above all things" (Jer. 17:9), and, "he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" (Prov. 28:26).

The passions of the heart must be continually and always tested by the clear teaching of God's Word. If a "passion for God" were THE important standard of Christian living, the New

Testament would make no sense. Take the book of Ephesians. It contains some 88 specific commandments, by my reckoning, that the grace-saved, born again believer is obligated to obey. Why didn't Paul just summarize everything with one simple principle?

The test of our music is not merely whether our heart is pleased with it and whether we feel that we are being passionate for God when we enjoy it. A proper biblical test involves many things, such as the following:

- Is the music conformed to the world?
- Can the music be identified as “the lust of the flesh” or “the lust of the eyes” or the “pride of life”?
- Is the music associated with end-time apostasy?
- Is the music doctrinally unsound or even doctrinally questionable?
- Does the music lead to a lack of sober-mindedness and spiritual vigilance?
- Does the music fail to make a clear distinction between the holy and the profane?

If the answer to any of these is yes, then it doesn't matter whether or not I think I like the music because of my “heart for God,” it is still wrong!

**For more on this subject see the following free materials:**

***Baptist Music Wars (book)***

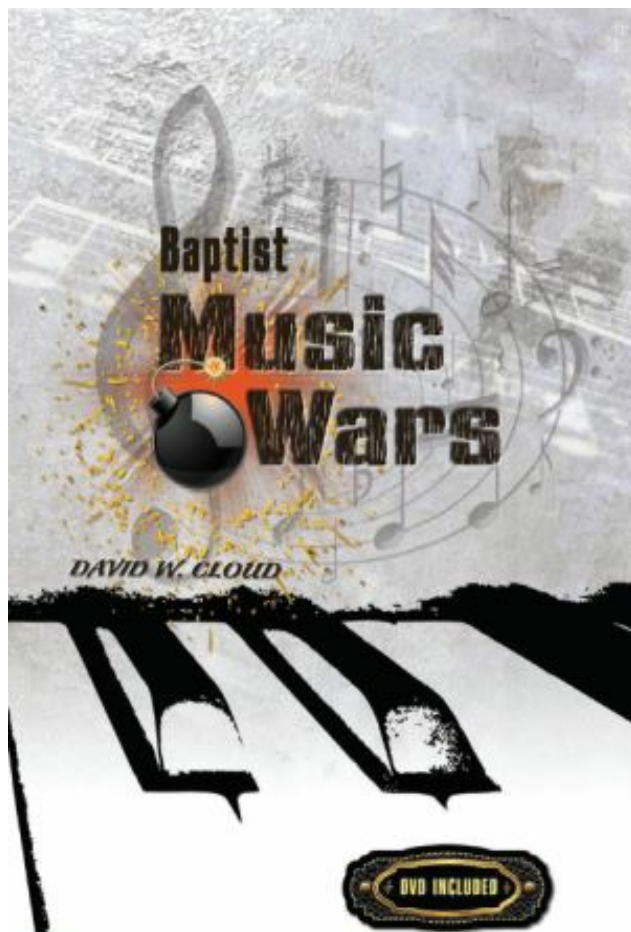
[https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/baptist-music-wars.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/baptist-music-wars.php)

***The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music (video)***

[https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/transformational\\_power\\_ccm.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/transformational_power_ccm.php)

***The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music (video)***

[https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/xxxxxxforeign\\_spirit.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/xxxxxxforeign_spirit.php)



# Baptist Music Wars

*By David Cloud*

We don't believe that good Christian music stopped being written when Fanny Crosby died or that rhythm is wrong or that drums and guitars are inherently evil. We believe, rather, that Contemporary Christian Music is a powerful bridge to a very dangerous spiritual and doctrinal world. The book begins by documenting the radical change in thinking that has occurred among independent Baptists. Whereas just a few years ago the overwhelming consensus was that CCM is wrong and dangerous, the consensus now has formed around the position that CCM can be used in moderation, that it is OK to “adapt” it to a more traditional sacred sound and presentation technique.

The more “conservative” contemporary worship artists such as the Gettys are considered safe and their music is sung widely in churches and included in new hymnals published by independent Baptists. As usual, the driving force behind this change is the example set by prominent leaders, churches, and schools, which we identify in this volume.

**Available From:** [Way of Life Online Store](https://www.wayoflife.org)



# CHARLES SPURGEON

## and a Regenerate Church Membership

By David Cloud

Charles Spurgeon began pastoring the Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, in 1853 at age 19, and was the senior pastor until his death in 1892. His superlative preaching drew massive crowds, and the church grew from two to three hundred to a membership of over 5,300.

Spurgeon believed in a regenerate church membership and was very careful in this regard.

He didn't give invitations to come forward after his sermons. Instead, he invited seekers to meet with him at his office on Monday morning. He wanted to deal with seekers carefully and properly.

Prospective candidates for baptism and membership went through a multi-step process.

1. The enquirer met with one of the elders or deacons to share his or her testimony.

Following is an account of this from *Wonders of Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon's early years* (compiled by Hannah Wyncoll, copyright 2016 by Wakeman Trust).

"On a weeknight evening each week church elders would see enquirers at the Tabernacle. For each one they would write an account of their spiritual journey. Often the discernment they exercised can be seen in the advice given, and in further visits over weeks or months until they were sure that the enquirer was truly saved. The core of the testimony would need to show that the person was relying only on the blood of Christ for salvation. They would also be asked if they understood the need for the imputed righteousness of Christ. They would talk about the doctrines of grace and whether they would-be member was looking only to Christ rather than their own merit. If the applicant was not quite

clear on some things, the elders might give further questions to be answered, Bible passages to be read and prayed over, or as one elder put it, he 'prescribed her some pills of precious promise with a little draught of sympathetic experience to wash them down.' They might be given the *Baptist Confession of Faith* to study, or be directed to attend one of the Bible classes to help them further. ... *The Sword and the Trowel* of 1865 says that elders look for four things: Tenderness of conscience, attachment to the means of grace, desire to come out of the world, and deep interest in the unconverted."

2. If the elder or deacon was satisfied with the testimony, the enquirer was recommended to meet with Spurgeon.

"If satisfied, an interviewing elder would give a card, with the number matching the report, for the enquirer to see C.H. Spurgeon" (*Wonders of Grace*).

3. If Spurgeon was satisfied, he nominated someone to visit the candidate "to enquire as to the moral character and repute."

"Spurgeon would spend several hours every Tuesday afternoon seeing many such people, taking a brief interval to compare notes with his elders. He would then appoint an elder or deacon to visit to ensure the applicant was living a consistent, godly life at home. Attendance at as many meetings as possible on Sundays and during the week was seen as a sign of true Christian life. Many were in service and had very little free time away from their work, but their new Christian instinct should be seen--to assembly together whenever possible. ... [A] theme which shines out distinctly in the vast majority of records is the forsaking of worldliness at conversion. All is changed for the convert. Worldly pleasures are given up and the life devoted to Christ and his people from that time on. Pursuits such as the penny theater, public houses, music parties, the use of popular songs, and gambling are spoken of repeatedly as holding no pleasure for the new believer. The markedly different life of believers is often men-



tioned as instrumental in bringing others to enquire into Christian things. The change was not limited to church attendance, but extended to all areas of life" (*Wonders of Grace*).

4. If the home visitor was satisfied, he invited the candidate to attend a special congregation meeting to appear before the church family. There the candidates would again give their testimonies and answer any questions from church members. These meetings were not rushed and could last several hours, beginning at 2pm and sometimes "lasting till a late hour at night."

5. The church then voted whether to receive the candidate as a member.

6. If approved by the vote of the church, the candidate was baptized and received into membership and participated in the next communion service.

This process began during the earliest days of Spurgeon's pastorate at Metropolitan. During the first six and a half years, there were 1,442 new members, most by baptism. "That's 1,442 membership interviews by a deacon, 1,442 meetings with Spurgeon, 1,442 membership visitations, 1,442 testimonies before the congregation, and 1,442 approvals by the congregation (not to mention over a thousand baptisms, as most of these were new converts)" ("Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle," The Spurgeon Center, Feb. 8, 2018).

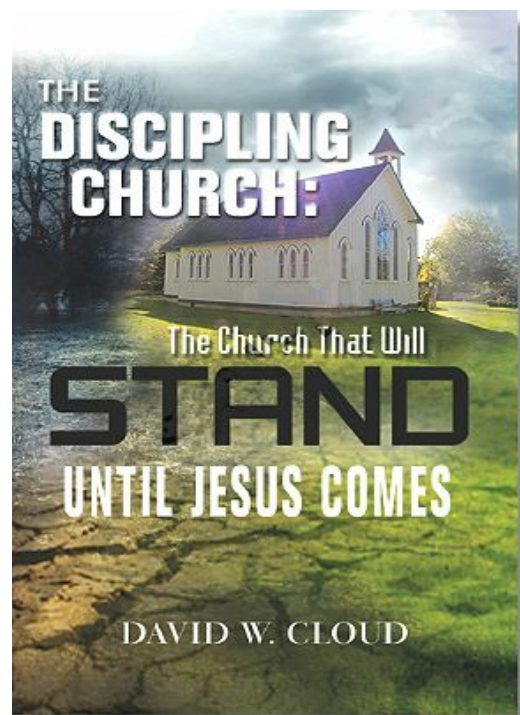
To maintain church membership required faithfulness to the Lord's Supper. "Upon joining the church, members were given a communion card, divided by perforation into twelve numbered parts, one of which was to be delivered every month at the communion. These tickets would be checked by the elders and if any member was "absent more than three months. This enabled the church to work towards meaningful membership by providing better care and discipleship, or by removing those members from the membership" ("Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle").

Spurgeon preached against the practice of puffing up the church's membership roles with people who are not present and active. "Let us not keep names on our books when they are only names. Certain of the good old people like to keep them there, and cannot bear to have them removed; but when you do not know where individuals are, nor what they are, how can you count them? They

are gone to America, or Australia, or to heaven, but as far as your roll is concerned they are with you still. Is this a right thing? It may not be possible to be absolutely accurate, but let us aim at it... Keep your church real and effective, or make no report. A merely nominal church is a lie. Let it be what it professes to be" (Spurgeon's final message to the Pastors' College, cited from "Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle").

## The Discipling Church: The Church That Will Stand Until Jesus Comes

by David W. Cloud



This book aims to help the church planter establish churches on a solid biblical foundation and it exhorts the pastors of existing churches to move forward in their establishment of a Biblical church.

The keys are a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism.

Now Available as a **Free** eBook From:  
[Way of Life Online Store](http://WayofLifeOnlineStore.com)



## DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



### FATHER PUNISHED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT/COURT FOR NOT AFFIRMING HIS D A U G H T E R ' S TRANSSEXUALISM

(Friday Church News Notes, May 3, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Father Gagged, Found Guilty of 'Family Violence,'" *The Federalist*, Apr. 24, 2019: "Last week, Justice Francesca Marzari of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Canada, declared a father guilty of 'family violence' against his 14-year-old daughter on the sole basis that he had engaged in 'expressions of rejection of [her] gender identity.' These 'expressions' revolved entirely around his polite refusal to refer to his daughter as a boy in private, and his steady choice to affirm that she is a girl in public. As previously reported, the BC Supreme Court ordered in February that 14-year-old Maxine\* receive testosterone injections without parental consent. Accordingly, Maxine began regular injections at British Columbia (BC) Children's Hospital over the course of the last two months. ... Her father, Clark\*, strongly objects to this treatment and immediately sought to reverse the decision in the BC Court of Appeal. Hoping to raise awareness of his case, Clark gave a number of interviews to media outlets, including *The Federalist*. In these interviews,

he repeatedly referred to his daughter as a girl, stating to *The Federalist* that 'she is a girl. Her DNA will not change through all these experiments that they do.' While many might take this to be an honest statement of biological fact, Marzari quoted it as a prime example of Clark's 'family violence of a public denial of [Maxine's] gender identity.' Marzari convicted Clark of this violence, and issued a 'protection order' preventing him from speaking to journalists or the public about his case. While the main thrust of Marzari's ruling focused on Clark's public statements, Marzari also ordered that Clark be enjoined from 'exposing' Maxine to any materials that might 'question whether [her] gender identity is real or the treatments [she] seeks are in [her] best interests.' ... What Marzari found particularly egregious, however, was not Clark's private interactions with his daughter but his 'continued willingness to provide interviews to the media ... in which he identifies [Maxine] as female, uses a female name for [Maxine] ... and expresses his opposition to the therapies [Maxine] has chosen.' According to the court, this willingness placed Maxine at 'a significant risk of harm.' (\*Clark and Maxine are not the real names of the father and daughter involved. Their identities have been concealed by court order. Court documents use the initials CD and AB, respectively.)"

**SBC PRESIDENT CALLS ON CHRISTIANS TO STAND UP FOR LGBT RIGHTS** (Friday Church News Notes, May 3, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "SBC Prez," *ReformationCharlotte.org*, Jan. 31,



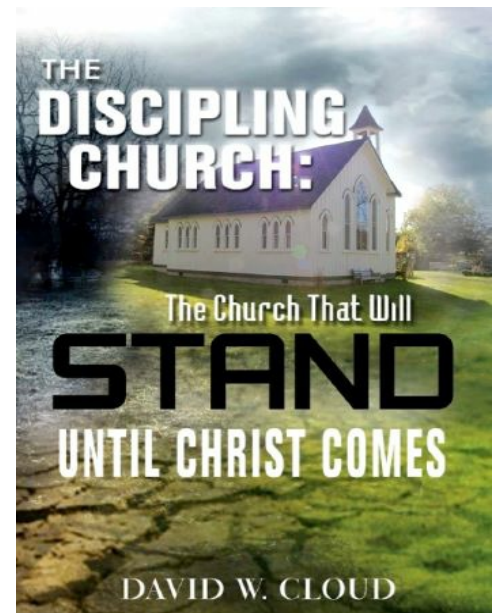
2019: “The current Southern Baptist President, J.D. Greear, is proving himself to be unfit for the position he holds in America’s largest Protestant denomination. Over the last few years, the SBC has taken a sharp turn toward political as well as theological liberalism while pushing a social justice agenda. *Reformation Charlotte* reported earlier today that Greear, during an eisegesis of Romans 1, compared homosexuality to ‘greed’ and ‘boasting,’ even stating that most of these sins are ‘more egregious in the eyes of God’ than homosexuality. Of course, this is foolish, as homosexuality is the one sin that caused God to wipe ... cities off the face of the earth. It is, according to the text he clumsily referenced, the sin that God gives people over to because of their other sins. It is actually the wrath and judgment of God being poured out on a people to be given over to depraved minds and dishonorable passions. It has now come to light that not only has Greear misrepresented the Scriptures regarding the sin of homosexuality, he has also called on Christians to stand up for the rights of LGBT people. ... The ‘rights’ that LGBT people are fighting for are, for example, the right to use the public restroom of whatever gender they choose to identify as on any given day. The right to get married and practice sodomy in the apartment next door. The right to get married in your conservative church. The right to be

fully embraced as an active, affirmed, and participating member of your church. And the right to propagandize you and your children with their vile affections that God has given them over to...”

### **THE DISCIPLING CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE AS A FREE EBOOK**

(Friday Church News Notes, May 3, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - *The Discipling Church: The Church That Will Stand Until Christ Comes*, first published in 2017, is now available as a free eBook. This church manual aims to establish churches on a solid biblical foundation of a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism. We examine the New Testament pattern of a discipling church, and we trace the history of Baptist churches over the past 200 years to document the apostasy from the biblical pattern to a mixed multitude philosophy. We also document the history of “sinner’s prayer” evangelism which has affected the reality of a regenerate church membership. The book deals with biblical salvation with evidence, care in receiving church members, the church’s first love for Christ, the right kind of church leaders, the right kind of preaching, training church members to be real Bible students, the many facets of church discipline, building strong families, youth ministry, training preachers, charity, reproof, educating the church for spiritual protection, maintaining standards for workers, the church’s prayer life, the church’s separation, spiritual revival, the church’s music, and many other things. There is a

chapter on moving from a mixed multitude church to a discipling church. The last chapter documents some of the cultural factors that have weakened churches over the past 100 years, including theological liberalism, the public school system, materialism and working mothers, the rock & roll culture, pop psychology, the feminist movement, New Evangelicalism, television, and the Internet. There is also a list of recommended materials for a discipling church. Dr. Don Jasmin, editor of *The Fundamentalist Digest*, says, “The book *The Discipling Church* is well named. It is loaded with Scriptural exposition, Scriptural explanation, and Scriptural edification. This spiritually rich volume covers almost every phase of a genuine Biblically discipling church. Every pastor should procure this spiritually enriching treasury, one which a preacher will readily consult for valuable assistance and counsel in seeking to maintain a Scripturally balanced N.T. ministry.” 550 pages. *The Discipling Church* is available for reading and downloading as a free eBook and for purchase in a print edition, from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).





**PASTOR FINDS “CHRISTIAN CANNABIS”** (Friday Church News Notes, May 3, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Pastor Craig Gross,” *Christian Post*, Apr. 29, 2019: “Pastor Craig Gross is a fan of weed. He’s not quite a heavyweight user like rapper Snoop Dogg or the legendary Willie Nelson, but he does confess to having developed a comfortable relationship with the psychoactive drug he testifies has taken him to higher levels of worship. ‘I went to Coachella and saw one of my favorite artists that I’ve ever seen and I used marijuana before seeing him. It was amazing,’ Gross tells *The Christian Post*. ‘I’ve never lifted my hands in a worship service ever, ‘cause I was raised Baptist. ... I’ve done that in my bathroom worshipping with marijuana by myself.’ Often recognized as the founder of XXXchurch in Pasadena, California, a ministry that empowers individuals to break free from their pornography addictions, Gross has embarked on a new controversial mission: to sell and promote marijuana for Christians through a new venture called Christian Cannabis. As public perception continues to shift on the demonized plant he celebrates as a gift from God that was ‘created on day 3,’ Gross wants to bring Christian weed users out of the shadows and challenge

churches to have frank conversations about marijuana. A recent poll by the Pew Research Center found that 62 percent of Americans, including 74 percent of Millennials, support legalizing marijuana. Ten states and Washington, D.C., have legalized it for recreational use for adults older than 21, while 33 states have legalized medical marijuana. Michigan is the latest state to legalize it for recreational purposes, while Utah and Missouri voted to legalize medical marijuana in last year’s midterm elections. Gross describes himself as among the untold number of Christians who first turned to marijuana for medicinal relief. ... It’s in the wake of this shifting and complex cultural and political landscape that Gross believes churches should start having deeper conversations on marijuana and he hopes Christian Cannabis can help drive them.”

### **DID BIRDS’ LUNGS EVOLVE?**

(Friday Church News Notes, May 3, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, Apr. 5, 2019: “I remember buying a foot pump to inflate the tires on my first car. My choice was between two pumps. On the cheaper model, the foot operated a piston entering a cylinder in which the air would be compressed and forced through a tube into the tire. When the foot was lifted, valves prevented air getting back into the cylinder from the tire, and, instead, dragged air in from the outside. Each depression of the foot repeated this operation. In a sense, the lungs of mammals and reptiles would resemble two such pumps side by side. The second model featured two pistons and cylinders angled in opposite



directions. Pressing with the foot began the first stage of tire compression as before, but on releasing the foot, the second cylinder pushed air into the tire while the first refilled with external air. The next foot depression allowed cylinder 2 to refill while cylinder 1 pumped. Thus, there was air pumped into the tire on both depression and release of the foot. The two cylinders worked in tandem, in opposite directions. This second continuous pump is like the two lungs in a bird. Even some well-known evolutionary scientists have pointed out how impossible it would be for one mechanism to evolve into the other because the transitional form would not be able to process air for breathing at all, and would suffocate. So bird lungs could not have evolved from dinosaurs, but, instead, are designed by God for exactly their purpose. Ref: Quick, D.E and Ruben, J.A., ‘Cardio-Pulmonary Anatomy in Theropod Dinosaurs: Implications from Extant Archosaurs,’ *Journal of Morphology*, 270:1232–1246 (2009), pp. 1232–1246.”

**FIRST TELEVISED ROCK WORSHIP SERVICE HAD ALL THE EARMARKS OF CCM TODAY** (Friday Church News Notes, May 10, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The first televised rock worship service, a half-century ago, had all of





the earmarks of Contemporary Christian Music today and all of the loud warning signs for wise, Bible-believing Christians and churches. The date was April 27, 1969, the year I entered the U.S. Army. The band was The Mind Garage; the broadcaster was ABC (American Broadcasting Corporation); the forum was Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Bowery, Manhattan. The event was called "14th Electric Mass." It was seen by thousands of people in the United States and rerun annually into the 1980s (classicchristianrockzine.com). Consider the earmarks of this proto-rock worship service: **First, from its inception rock worship was pagan in sound.** The music of the first rock worship band was borrowed directly from the secular world. There was nothing sacred or holy about it. It was described as "psychedelic," which was 1960s drug music. Journalist Joyce Tracewell described it as "deliberate alien music, the kind that makes you shiver." She said "they sing in voices that should have belonged to Druids or Incas or Gypsies" ("Mind Garage Deliberate Alien Music," Mindgarage.com, Apr. 19, 1970). I know this music. I lived this music as a drug-using "hippie"

before I was saved. There is nothing godly about it. It is "spiritual" only in the sense that it is of the spirit of this world. From then until now, Contemporary Christian Music has borrowed at its pleasure from the cesspool of the world's party music, pretending to have this liberty, but it is not a liberty justified by God's Word. It is confusion; it is apostasy; it is rebellion to incorporate the sexualized, demon-influenced music styles of this wicked world into the worship of a thrice-holy God, the God who has commanded His people, "Be not conformed to this world" (Ro. 12:2). **Second, from its inception rock worship was ecumenical.** The Mind Garage Band members were Baptist, Catholic, and Protestant. "It was not uncommon to witness Episcopalians, Catholics, Protestants and Jews together, all taking Communion" ("The Electric Liturgy of 'The Mind Garage,'" Classic Christian Rockzine, 2015). The Mind Garage performed in Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches. Ecumenism requires an unscriptural non-judgmental stance toward doctrine and practice and an openness of heresy and apostasy. Nothing is building a "one world church" more effectively than Contemporary Christian Music. Even the more conservative contemporary worship people, such as the Gettys, are ecumenical (e.g., their non-critical relationship with Roman Catholic Matt Maher). It is telling

that the first televised rock worship service was held in an Episcopal congregation, seeing that the Episcopalians have been on the cutting edge of theological modernism and apostasy. Earlier in the 1960s, Episcopal Bishop James Pike called the virgin birth of Christ a "primitive myth" and said that Joseph was probably Jesus' real father (*Redbook* magazine, August 1961). He also said that Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, heaven, and hell are myths. In 1963, Episcopal theologian Paul van Buren started the God-is-dead movement with the publication of *The Secular Meaning of the Gospel*. **Third, from its inception rock worship was worldly.** The longhaired men of The Mind Garage "were not overly religious" and cared little to nothing about biblical precepts against unisex and immodest fashion, alcohol and drug use, separation from filthy things such as secular rock music. The Mind Garage associated with and performed with filthy bands such as Iron Butterfly, Sly and the Family Stone, and Canned Heat. In practice, they ripped verses such as the following from their Bibles: Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 11:14-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:9; James 4:4; and 1 John 2:15-17. Worldliness continues to be a prominent feature of Contemporary Christian Music, as we have documented in [Baptist Music Wars](#) and [A Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), both of which are available as free eBooks from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org). **Fourth, from its inception rock worship was focused on a feeling.** A Mind Garage advertisement said, "We welcome you to the electric liturgy, a festival of feeling." We are reminded that from its inception, contemporary Christian music has been experience



oriented, which is largely a product of its intimate association with the charismatic movement. Contemporary worship music is a rock & roll feeling-fest. It is designed to create an emotional experience, a sensual experience, as opposed to a sacred music style that edifies through the mind and heart. We are taught to *learn of* Christ, not *feel* Christ (Mt. 11:28-30). But Graham Kendrick, one of the biggest names in contemporary worship, says, "The old way of preaching and singing began to give way to an expectation that ... God would visit us, and we'd EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE IN A TANGIBLE SORT OF WAY" (interview June 11, 2002 with Chris Davidson of Integrity Music). Hillsong United's Matt Crocker says, "My goal is to create an atmosphere for people to be able to enter into the presence of God" ("Seeing the World in Wonder with Hillsong United's Matt Crocker," WorshipMusician.com, Jul. 21, 2017). The search for feeling in worship drives the choice of a rock style of music. Unlike traditional sacred music styles, rock music produces strong sensual feelings. One rock song writer well described it as being "hooked on a feeling." A Bible-believing church that is playing with contemporary Christian music is playing with fire. It is building bridges to the one-world "church" and to the world itself, bridges that will eventually destroy whatever biblicist, pilgrim character the church currently possesses.

**CHILDREN IN PHILADELPHIA MUSLIM SOCIETY SAY THEY WILL CHOP OFF HEADS FOR ALLAH** (Friday Church News Notes, May 10, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from "Kids in Philadelphia," *Daily Wire*, May 3, 2019: "The Muslim American Society (MAS) Islamic Center in Philadelphia posted the video to its Facebook page celebrating Ummah Day in which young children wearing Palestinian scarves sang and read poetry about killing for Allah and the mosque in Jerusalem, *Fox News* reported. 'One girl talks about martyrs sacrificing their lives without hesitation to conquer Jerusalem.' 'We will defend the land of divine guidance with our bodies, and we will sacrifice our souls without hesitation,' another girl says. 'We will chop off their heads, and we will liberate the sorrowful and exalted Al-Aqsa Mosque [the mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount]. We will lead the army of Allah fulfilling His promise, and we will subject them to eternal torture.' In a statement to *Fox News*, MEMRI wrote: 'These are not isolated incidents; they are happening in major centers of the country--including in Pennsylvania.' ... Hassan Sajwani, an Emirati writer, tweeted: 'I hope the world now realizes why did the #UAE back in 2014 designate #MuslimAmericanSociety @mas\_national a terrorist organization! This is what they preach [to] kids as young as 5 yrs of age !!'"

**PAUL'S ADAM** (Friday Church News Notes, May 10, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),

[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, Apr. 15, 2019: "'For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive' (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). I saw a video on the BioLogos website entitled Paul's Adam. Even the title caused concern. The apostle Paul alludes to Genesis in a number of places in his epistles, but two places in particular refer directly to Adam. These are Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. In both cases, Adam is compared to Jesus. When I watched the video, I heard the featured theologians say that Paul got it wrong. These supposedly Bible-believing theologians were explaining that Adam was never a real person, but that they did not expect the apostle Paul to know that, and, therefore, the lesson drawn by Paul is still true. The lesson that Paul draws, in brief, is this: Adam was our representative in Eden. Jesus was our representative on the cross. 'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.' The analogy made between Adam and Jesus in both passages is so close that logic would tell us that the lesson would be undermined if Adam did not exist. It seems that some self-avowed conservative theologians are playing with fire these days. The idea that 'it's okay, if Paul was wrong' is



not an acceptable answer. The more humble approach is to acknowledge that if Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, told us that Adam was real, then he most certainly was.”

**STEVEN ANDERSON BANNED FROM YET ANOTHER COUNTRY** (Friday Church News Notes, May 17, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- Steven Anderson has been banned from yet another country. This time it is Ireland. Anderson was scheduled to preach in Dublin on May 26, but the Minister for Justice signed an exclusion order against him. This is the first time that someone has been banned under a 1999 immigration law that allows exclusion “in the interest of national security or public policy.” The decision followed a gay activist petition that received over 14,000 signatures. Anderson is targeted for his statements that homosexuals should be killed. After the mass shooting at a gay-friendly nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016, Anderson said, “The good news is that there’s 50 less pedophiles in this world, because these homosexuals are just a bunch of disgusting perverts and pedophiles” (“Gay Hating Preacher,” *Sunday Express*, Sept. 16, 2016). Anderson said it was too bad some of the homosexuals survived. Of transgender celebrity Bruce (Caitlyn) Jenner, Anderson said in a sermon,



“Listen to me--I hate him with a perfect hatred. I have no love for this Bruce freak. ... This person is just the evangelist of sodomy and filth to the world, and people are like, ‘Oh, we need to pray for him so that he finds Jesus.’ I’m going to pray that he dies and goes to Hell” (Adam Salandra, “Pastor Prays Caitlyn Jenner’s Heart Explodes,” *NewNowNex*, n.d.). Anderson has also preached “Why I Hate Barack Obama” and said that he prayed for the death of the former President. Anderson calls himself an Independent Baptist, but he is a deeply confused individual who should not be in the ministry. When James and John wanted to call down fire upon those who rejected the Lord, Christ rebuked them and said they were of the wrong spirit (Luke 9:54-56). Anderson denies the Holocaust, holds to Replacement Theology, believes that God is finished with Israel, rejects biblical repentance, believes that salvation doesn’t have evidence, and denies the imminency of the Rapture. Anderson has also been banned from or denied entry to the Netherlands (2019), Jamaica (2018), Canada (2017), South Africa (2016), Botswana (2016), Malawi (2016), and the United Kingdom (2016). (For more on this see [What about Steven Anderson?](#) a free eBook available at [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

### HILLSONG’S FALSE GOSPEL

(Friday Church News Notes, May 17, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Hillsong is one of the most influential names in contemporary Christian music. Hillsong began in a mega-church in Sydney, Australia, with music produced under the direction of worship leader Darlene Zschech. It has since multiplied into



a group of churches in 21 countries. Hillsong is Pentecostal (the original Hillsong was an Assemblies of God church) and radically ecumenical, with close ties to the Roman Catholic Church. It preaches the Word-Faith heresy and a no-repentance, “you don’t have to change anything” false gospel. Joel Houston, Hillsong United worship leader who is currently on tour in the United States, says, “God loves you more than you could ever imagine just the way you are, you don’t have to change anything, just you, He knows you” (“Hillsong’s Joel Houston declares God is doing something new in America,” *Christian Post*, May 10, 2019). God does love sinners, and He does love them as they are, in their sins, which is why Christ shed His blood in the sinner’s behalf; but the “you don’t have to change anything” is a damnable lie. Consider the clear Word of God: “Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). “O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:19-20). Salvation is God’s free gift without works, but it is received by repentance and faith and always produces a dramatic change of lifestyle. “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments,

is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4). Hillsong is lying to this generation, offering no-repentance “cheap grace” which is no grace at all. It wasn’t that long ago that Hillsong was too charismatic, too radical, too hard rocking to be heard in an Independent Baptist church, but that has changed. “Toned down” editions of Hillsong’s music are heard in many Independent Baptist churches and schools today. We suggest that if a church is going to use CCM, it should use it properly, which requires full-blown rock & roll that captures the people’s very souls and sweeps them into fleshly, charismatic mysticism. It requires giving oneself over 100% to the power of the music. That’s what CCM is all about and that’s where it always leads. So if you intend to go in that direction, then go for it full bore and skip the ridiculous “adaptation” middle ground. If you love CCM, stop pretending that you don’t!

**PENTECOSTALS HOPING TO REKINDLE THE 1990s WILDFIRE** (Friday Church News Notes, May 17, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Pentecostals are hoping to rekindle the wildfire with “Light the Fire Again Pensacola,” scheduled for September 4-7. A quarter century ago, “spirit drunkenness,” “holy laughter,” and other unscriptural phenomena broke out in multiple places, most prominently at Carpenter’s Home Church in Lakeland, Florida (began May 1993, led by Rodney Howard-Browne), Airport Church in Toronto, Canada (began January 1994, led by John Arnott), and Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida (began June 1995, led by Steve Hill and John



Kilpatrick). The “fire” was also associated with Claudio Friedzon in Argentina, who in November 1993 taught John Arnott to “dial down the analysis” so he could “receive the spirit of fire” (Guy Chevreau, *Catch the Fire*, p. 24). This is the unscriptural Pentecostal doctrine of “open up; don’t judge; just receive the Spirit,” which is clear disobedience to God’s command to “be sober, be vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8) and therefore a path to spiritual delusion. At the beginning of the “outpouring” at Brownsville, Pastor John Kilpatrick fell to the floor and lay there for almost four hours. He said, “When I hit that floor, it felt like I weighed 10,000 pounds. I knew something supernatural was happening” (*Charisma*, June 1996). Church members had to haul their pastor out of the church in a wheelchair because he was too drunk to walk. There was also “spiritual jerking.” A 19-year-old female college student jerked so uncontrollably as she “prophesied” that she appeared to be suffering from seizures. A female choir member experienced wild and uncontrollable jerking of her head whenever she was near the church. At Toronto Airport Church there were spirit slayings, uncontrollable bodily jerks, birth groans, drunkenness, hysterical laughter, roaring, howling, braying, clucking. In Lakeland, the focus was on drunkenness and laughter. Rodney Howard-Browne called himself the

“Holy Ghost bartender.” Oral Roberts’ son Richard, who flew to Florida to catch the fire, said he and his family ended up on the floor laughing at every service. On the flight back to Tulsa, Richard laughed so uncontrollably that the flight attendant thought something was wrong with him. Perpetually in financial straits, Oral and Richard Roberts claimed that God was helping them laugh their way out of debt. Marilyn Hickey (author of *God’s Seven Keys to Make You Rich*) also spent her time in Lakeland on the floor laughing. When Howard-Browne called this loquacious Pentecostal female preacher to the microphone, she laughed and fell down and could not speak, which in her case was doubtless a miracle. (For more about the “fire” in Brownsville, Lakeland, Toronto, and elsewhere see [The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

**SCIENTISTS DESIGN AN ENERGY HARVESTER BY STUDYING ASPEN LEAVES** (Friday Church News Notes, May 17, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - A new leaf-like energy harvester is the latest in a series of “nature inspired” technologies from a field called “biomimicry.” “Inspired by aspen leaves, which tremble in the slightest of breezes, scientists at the University of Warwick have developed a leaf-shaped energy harvester. Researchers suggest the device could power weather sensors in hostile environments, like those deployed by Martian rovers. [Researchers] used computer models to better understand the unique sensitivity of aspen leaves to wind. The analysis showed the leaf’s thin,





flat stem plays an important role. The stem's tendency to twist in two directions causes the long, thin leaf below to quiver. Armed with their new knowledge, scientists designed a model to produce a mechanical representation of an aspen leaf. They produced a device characterized by a flat stem, cantilever beam, curved blade tip and an arced cross section" ("Shaking aspen leaves inspire," UPI, Mar. 18, 2019). The field of biomimicry has exploded in the 21st century. Edward Kelley copied the human eye's design to create a camera that has 70 times better clarity and resolution in dealing with lens flare. Anthony Brennan developed Sharklet by studying how shark's skin prevents fouling by algae and barnacles via a microscopic toothlike pattern of the scales. Eiji Nakatsu patterned the nose of a bullet train after the design of the kingfisher's beak. WhalePower Corporation created superior fan blades by mimicking the bumps on the flipper of the humpback whale. Mick Pearce created the non-air-conditioned cooling system of a building in Harare, Zimbabwe, by mimicking the design of termite mounds. Dozens of other examples could be cited. Biomimicry scientists typically describe nature both as a

years of solid research and development, nature has developed some ingenious solutions." But it is complete nonsense to describe non-directed, non-intelligence-driven evolution as "research and development"? How can the processes of natural selection and genetic mutations see the need for something and produce genetically complex solutions? Scientists involved in this field continually express amazement at "nature's" fantastically complicated designs. Geri Richmond of the University of Oregon says, "We're in the stone age compared to nature" ("Sponge Has

### LABOUR PARTY LOSES IN "SURPRISE" RESULT IN AUSTRALIA ELECTION (Friday

Church News Notes, May 24, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - In an upset victory that surprised pollsters, Scott Morrison, Australia's conservative

product of blind evolution *and* as a design factory, which is an impossibility. A report by Hewlett Packard at [hpmegatrends.com](http://hpmegatrends.com) on "BioConvergence" begins with this astonishing statement: "After about 4.5 billion

prime minister, won the national election on May 18. The Labour Party, which was expected to win, has vowed to instigate a radical homosexual rights agenda and ban religious exemptions for those who oppose it. A friend in Australia wrote, "Final results are still to come to see if the Coalition (Liberals/Nationals) will be a majority Government, but at least Labour is not going to be running the show--not for a while anyway. When Labour does get back in, which they will eventually, they will be gunning for people like us. People they see as xenophobic Christian extremists, anti-Muslim, anti-gay, etc., etc., etc. And worse still, some of us religious fanatics actually think Trump is a good bloke. The difference between Bill Shorten and his gang, and Scott Morrison and his gang, is that Bill Shorten will try to outlaw Christianity, whereas Scott Morrison is willing for everyone to have their own religion (and morals), providing they don't try to impose their beliefs and standards on others." In a mailing on May 9, we asked for prayer for this election. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in





all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

**“EQUALITY ACT” PASSES THE U.S. HOUSE** (Friday Church News Notes, May 24, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- After many years of persistent labor, the supporters of the so-called Equality Act saw the bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, May 17. The margin was 236-173. If ever passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President and approved by the Supreme Court, the Equality Act will singlehandedly overthrow the Constitution’s guarantee of liberty of religion and speech. Every Democrat approved the bill, proving themselves to be the party of homosexual rights vs. religious rights, but they were joined by eight Republicans, including one from Texas. More than 160 major businesses, with 8.5 million employees and a total revenue of \$3.7 trillion, backed the measure, including Airbnb, Alaska Airlines, Amazon, American Airlines, Apple, Bank of America, Capitol One, Chevron, Coca-Cola, Corning, Cox, CVS, Dow, DuPont, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, Food Lion, General Electric, General Mills, General Motors, Google, Hershey, Hewlett Packard, Hilton, IBM, IKEA, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, JP Morgan Chase, Kellogg, Levi Strauss, Marriott, MasterCard, Merck, MGM Resorts, Microsoft, Monsanto, Nike, Northrop Grumman, Office Depot, Pinterest, Procter & Gamble, Symantec, T-Mobile, Target, Twitter, Uber, Unilever, Visa, Wells Fargo,



Whirlpool, Xerox, and Yelp. At present, the Equality Act does not have a chance of approval by the Republican-controlled Senate or the Trump administration, but that could change with one election cycle. This is a spiritual issue, and the battle must be fought with spiritual weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18). Since Jerry Falwell’s Moral Majority in the 1970s, Bible-believing churches have been trying to fight spiritual battles with carnal weapons, and they have been losing ground to the enemy every decade. It is long past time for those who have access to the throne of grace to rise up and approach boldly through Christ and find grace to help in our nation’s time of need (Hebrews 4:16). The One who sits on that throne is the One who has said, “Lift not up your horn on high: speak *not with* a stiff neck. For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south” (Psalm 75:5-6). Jesus said, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Mt. 19:26). God has specifically and pointedly commanded His people to pray “for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” That entails praying against the Equality Act, which would destroy the peace we have so long

enjoyed in the world’s premier Bastion of Liberty. It is holiness and prayer in God’s house that can make a real difference in Washington D.C.

**WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EQUALITY ACT** (Friday Church News Notes, May 24, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “4 Things Christians Should Know about the Equality Act,” ChristianHeadlines.com, May 17, 2019: “The ill-named Equality Act is making its way back through Congress this year. The act, which is being painted as a pro-LGBT law, is coming across to many people of faith as an anti-religious freedom law. As *Christian Headlines* previously reported, the act is seeking to make ‘gender identity’ a covered category under the Civil Rights Act, thereby overriding the protections based on biological sex. ... Here are 4 things Christians should know about the Equality Act: **1. It Endangers the Church.** If the Equality Act passes, Churches will no longer be able to hire someone based on their beliefs. What this means is that a church could not deny hiring someone because they are an Atheist or because they live a life contradictory to the church’s beliefs. This also means that churches, like

all other institutions, will not be allowed to segregate restrooms or locker rooms based on sex. According to Greg Baylor of Alliance Defending Freedom, the Equality Act is also set to repeal the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 ... This means that people will no longer be able to use religious free exercise as a defense for their actions. For example, if a church declines to allow a gay couple from holding their wedding in their church because it goes against your religious beliefs, the church could be subjected to legal action. **2. It Encourages the Suppression of Religious Freedom.** According to *The Hill*, the Equality Act moves to elevate the protection of LGBT people over people of faith. If enacted, the Equality Act will prevent religious people from denying a service, employment, housing or public accommodations among other things, to LGBT persons, despite the fact that homosexuality contradicts their religious beliefs. ... Alliance Defending Freedom's Sarah Kramer summed up the effects of the act on religious people, 'Essentially, the Equality Act gives people of faith an ultimatum: Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment.' **3. It Will Obliterate Women's Rights.** ... The Equality Act is seeking to make 'gender identity' a covered category under the Civil Rights Act. By doing this, the protected category of 'sex' is being

eliminated. ... In an interview with *Fox News*, Doreen Denny, the Senior Director of Government Relations at the conservative group Concerned Women for America, said ... 'In a bathroom, or locker room or a dressing room, any biological man at any time that wants to come in and say, *I'm now a woman* could just have access to that.' ... The Equality Act will outrightly let any person who feels like a woman, compete [in sports] as a woman even if they are a biological man. **4. It Will Affect Your Kids.** ... The Heritage Foundation reports that the Equality Act will force doctors to ignore parents' wishes and give kids--no matter the age--transgender operations and puberty blockers if the child asks for it."

**DENVER VOTES TO BECOME FIRST CITY TO DECRIMINALIZE "MAGIC MUSHROOMS"** (Friday Church News Notes, May 24, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Denver is on a fast track to be the stupidest city in America, and that is saying a lot. It was the first city to vote to decriminalize marijuana possession in 2004, and now it is the first city to decriminalize the possession and use of psilocybin mushrooms, a potent hallucinogenic. On May 7, voters approved the ballot measure by a slim margin. This is not legalization, and the mushrooms won't be on sale in Denver's marijuana shops, but it is probably a step toward legalization. Eight years after Denver voted to decriminalize marijuana, it was legalized statewide. As with the legalization of marijuana, promoters are claiming great medical benefits for psilocybin, though none have been scientifically proven. The



acceptance of a drug for medical use breaks down barriers and prepares the way for its legalization in recreational use. I know firsthand that psilocybin is a dangerous, mind-altering drug. I used it in 1972 when I was working at a psychiatric hospital in south Florida. We picked the mushrooms ourselves and boiled them to make a nasty-tasting brew. It was the most foolish and devastating thing I ever did to myself, more psychologically devastating than LSD. Of course, we had no idea of the exact potency of the brew; we were on a fool's errand, carried along by the indulgent, libertarian philosophy of the rock & roll pop culture. The sorcery/witchcraft that is condemned in Scripture is the Greek *pharmakeia*, which is the use of drugs in magical arts. Psilocybin was used by the Aztecs in their demonic, idolatrous rituals, which should be warning enough for a Bible believer. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

**HORNBILLS THAT UNDERSTAND MONKEY** (Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, Apr. 23, 2019: "With the exception of basic messages such as aggression, communication between two entirely different species has







seldom been observed among animals in the wild. We know that many animals among the same species give each other specific warnings about an impending danger. However, scientists have never noted one species recognizing the specific warning given by a second species. Diana monkeys on the Ivory Coast of Africa face two primary threats:

leopards and crowned eagles. When one of these threats appears, the spotter gives a very specific bark-like call depending on the type of threat. Of course, the monkeys need to respond differently to each threat, whether it comes from the leopard below or the eagle above. So it helps them to know what they are facing. On the other hand, a bird named the yellow hornbill is threatened only by the crowned eagles. Researchers noted that these birds ignored the monkeys' warning about the leopards. But when the monkeys signaled danger from the eagle, the yellow hornbill took defensive measures. Researchers confirmed their observations using tape-recorded monkey calls. The researchers were amazed that these



birds understood the monkey warnings in an intelligent manner. Such intelligence comes from the Creator, Who has given the gift of such intelligence to His creatures in a way that provides for their survival. This shows His loving care for His creation. Ref: 'Hornbills know which monkey calls to heed,' *Science News*, 3/20/2004, p. 188."

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



**O TIMOTHY MAGAZINE**

Way of Life Literature

P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061-0368

866-295-4143 (toll free),

[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org) (e-mail)<http://www.wayoflife.org> (web site)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
PORT HURON, MI  
Permit No. 1061

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

- **ONLINE EDITION: FREE!** - To access the online edition, go to [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), click the **O Timothy** tab, then click the words "online edition" to select the issue you wish to view or download.
- **UNITED STATES:** The annual subscription is US \$10 for the US. Make checks payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy. Please use the form below for ordering.
- **CANADA:** The annual subscription for Canada is \$26.25 Canadian (GST included). Checks or money orders should be made payable to Bethel Baptist Church and designated for O Timothy. Payments should be mailed to Bethel Baptist Church, 4212 Campbell St N, London, ON N6P 1A6.
- **PHILIPPINES:** O Timothy magazine began publication in the Philippines in January 2005. It is distributed on a free will offering basis in the Philippines at this time, as long as the Lord provides the needs. We take up an annual offering to pay the expenses. If you are interested in receiving the magazine in the Philippines, contact us c/o: Pastor Medel Barrera, Berean Bible Baptist Church Gardenia Valley, Molino III, Bacoar City, Philippines. The phone # is 0917-856-4439. Email: [info@bbbcmolino.org](mailto:info@bbbcmolino.org).
- **INTERNATIONAL:** The annual subscription for other countries is US \$45. Contributions must be sent in US Funds by International Money Order drawn on a major New York bank. Make the drafts payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy subscription.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (O Timothy is a monthly publication)

USA - One Year Subscription.....\$10 US

CANADA .....\$26.25 Canadian (GST Included)

FOREIGN.....\$45 US

PHILIPPINES.....(see contact information above)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE, EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINTED IN CANADA**