
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PROFESSORS AND LEADERS PROMOTING “PROTESTANT UNITY”

Several Southern Baptist professors and leaders are signatories to a new confession promoting broad Protestant unity. “A Reforming Catholic Confession: A ‘Mere Protestant’ Statement of Faith to Mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” emphasizes “interdenominational unity in the essentials of the faith.” Two Southern Baptists were on the drafting committee (Malcolm Yarnell and Gregg Allison), and it has been signed by professors from all six Southern Baptist seminaries, eight colleges, SBC pastors Matt Chandler, J.D. Greear, and James MacDonald, Russel Moore, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and Ed Stetzer, formerly with Lifeway. The confession deals with 12 topics, including the Trinity, Scripture, the person and work of Christ, the Gospel, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the church, baptism and the Lord’s Supper, and last things. It is brief and shallow, at best, (which is obviously its purpose) and heretical in places. For the purposes of ecumenical unity, there is only silence in regard to the mode of baptism



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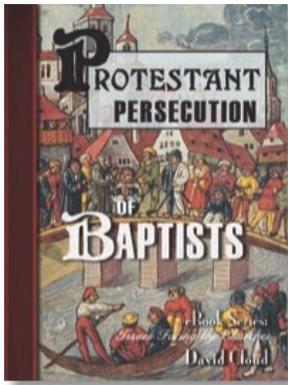
In a recent interview published in *Crux*, a Catholic magazine, Southern Baptist Rick Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Church, and Catholic bishop Kevin Vann discussed their five-year friendship and cooperation and urged it as a model for evangelicals and Catholics around the world (“In Orange County, bishop and pastor model Catholic/Evangelical ties,” *Crux*, Sept. 14, 2017). Warren and Vann have partnered in ministry in projects pertaining to mental health, pro-life, and prayer. At the beginning of 2017, Saddleback Church and Catholics in Orange County “came together to pray for God’s blessings on all our Holy Week services.” Bishop Vann says, “We’ve seen first-hand that much good can be accomplished for the Kingdom of God by Catholics and

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and the Lord’s Supper. They are called “sacraments” and are said to “communicate life in Christ to the faithful,” which is a Catholic/Protestant heresy. Large numbers of Baptists were killed and otherwise persecuted by Protestants, oftentimes over the “mode” of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, and it is sad to see such ignorance and compromise among Baptists today. (See *Protestant Persecution of Baptists*, available for free online viewing and as a free eBook download at https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/index.php.) The statement on “Last Things” in A Reforming Catholic Confession states that



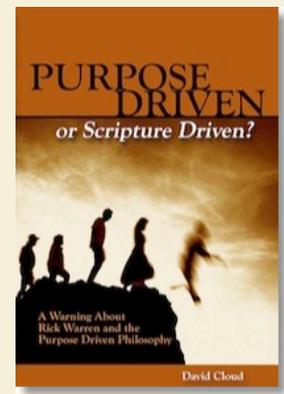
Christ will consign “any who persist in unbelief to an everlasting fate apart from him, where his life and light are no more.” That extremely weak statement leaves room for a wide variety of heresies held by Protestants, Baptists, and “evangelicals” who deny eternal fiery judgment. For example, Billy Graham has long defined hell fire as “a burning thirst for God that can never be quenched.” Even if A Reforming Catholic Confession

contained pure truth, it would be wrongheaded, because the Bible’s teaching on unity cannot be limited to any manmade list of “essentials.” Biblical unity is a unity of one mind rather than a unity in diversity. “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Co. 1:10). Biblical unity is a unity found in the local church rather than a “universal” unity. The exhortations about unity are addressed to individual churches rather than “the church.” See Romans 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27. (For more on this see the free eBook *In Essentials Unity*, https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/in_essentials_unity.php)

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evangelicals being present to one another, praying for each other, and ministering to our communities together.” Warren says, “Our prayer is that Orange County might be a model for others around the world.” It is sad that a Southern Baptist pastor can be so blatantly disobedient to Scriptures such as Psalm 119:128; Acts 20:26-31; Romans 16:17; 2 Timothy 3:5; and Jude 3. (For more on this see *Purpose Driven or Scripture Driven: A Warning about Rick Warren and the Purpose Driven Philosophy*, a free eBook available at https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/index.php)



BETH MOORE CALLS DOWN “HOLY FIRE”

The following is excerpted from Pulpit&Pen, Aug. 3, 2017: “Beth Moore began her career as a small group women’s Bible teacher and author of women’s Bible studies. According to her bio, ‘at the age of 18, Beth sensed God calling her to work for Him. Although she couldn’t imagine what that would mean, she made it her goal to say yes to whatever He asked.’ One might ask, ‘How did God call her to become a famous worldwide preacher?’ In light of the clear teaching of Scripture that a woman must remain silent in the churches and hold no authority over men, Moore has clearly usurped the authority of men and has created her own doctrine to follow. ... As one who began her ministry in a Southern Baptist church, she’s now turned full-on charismatic. Scripture teaches that one of the fruits of redemption is sanctification--a work of the Holy Spirit. That is, that one is led out of moral corruption, but also theological error, not deeper into it. Beth Moore is no stranger to theological error. Her gravest error? That God gives her visions--and these visions are contradictory to Scripture. Her visions range from being raised up in the air and watching God tear down the denominational divide between the false church of Rome and the true Church, uniting

‘all sectors of Christendom,’ to getting a vision from God about giving money to a woman at a random bus stop. Moore regularly convenes with other false teachers in the Word of Faith movement including Christine Caine and Joyce Meyer. Simply put, Beth Moore has slid from small town, small group teacher to a world-renowned Pentecostal Word of Faith prosperity gospel preacher. This is clearly not the work of the Holy Spirit. Beth Moore’s latest venture received an interesting word of acclamation from *Charisma News* where she was panegyricized by Lee Grady who wrote, ‘Her message was so convicting and so saturated in the Holy Spirit that people ran to the stage even though she didn’t even invite people to the altar.’ Moore was speaking at the 28th General Conference of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, a revival gathering in Orlando, FL, which included leaders from the Assemblies of God, the Church of God, and Nigeria’s Redeemed Christian Church of God. According to Grady, he couldn’t decide if a Southern Baptist’s call to embrace the ‘holy fire’ of Pentecostalism was ‘more fascinating’ than the fact that a Southern Baptist woman was preaching to men.”



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A MAGAZINE THAT IS NOT OUTSPOKEN IS A LITERARY NUISANCE

The following words by Charles Spurgeon are from *The Sword & Trowel*, 1870: "This Magazine has not been conducted in a timid, crouching spirit, neither have we pandered to popular tastes. Some of our articles have brought down upon us upbraidings which we have borne without regret. Our reviews, when we have felt conscientiously bound to censure, have cost us many a postal lecture. We are not, however, penitent; we have nothing to retract, but doubt not that we shall sin again; we would not needlessly irritate, but we will not be silent in the presence of error, neither will we bespatter with flattery where honesty demands denunciation. **A magazine which is not outspoken, and is destitute of principle, is a literary nuisance.** We use the *trowel* wherever we can to aid every good cause, but we have a *sword* also and mean to use it. We expect to receive blows, and therefore when we do we are not overwhelmed with dismay. Christ's truth is too dear to us for us to flinch from its defense. In the widespread defection which is now so sadly apparent in certain quarters, we see not only signs of coming struggles, but calls to duty, stern and arduous, from which only cowards will desire to be excused. The ancient faith, assailed by foes on all hands, must not lack for champions."

WHAT VALUE IS MUSIC?

The following is from CreationMoments.com, September 8, 2017: "The Bible tells us that the earliest generations of human beings were making music. By the time the eighth generation of man came along, Jubal, a member of that generation was able to make his living providing musical instruments. On the evolutionary side of things, however, musical ability would seem to provide no survival advantage. Yet, the human brain devotes considerable resources to the processing of music. Our love of music is wired into our brain. Each of our sense organs is important to our enjoyment of music. And each of these organs is linked to its own part of the brain which is responsible for how we experience the music. Parts of the brain are reserved for memory which stores the music. Other parts of the brain are dedicated to trying to understand the entire piece of music, referencing back to parts of the music stored in the memory. Even more interesting is that one need not hear music to activate the various parts of the brain devoted to music. Positron-emission tomography reveals that a person only needs to imagine music for these portions of the brain to become active. The ability to make or appreciate music offers us no apparent survival value, and therefore, according to evolutionary theory, should not have developed. Yet, our brains, and indeed, all our senses, are designed to make and appreciate music. The obvious message here is that evolution had nothing to do with the formation of human beings. Rather, we were created by God Who loves music, and wants us to praise Him with music."

INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.
