

Antiochan Apologia

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“Forty Reasons Why the Seeker-Sensitive Movement is Destructive” (part 1 of 2)

Intro - “The only thing men learn from history is that men never learn from history”.

Familiar Cycles of Apostasy

- **3rd and 4th Century Constantine the Great with the help of Eusebius and Augustine (later) Introduced the unholy wedlock between Rome and the ever growing worldly church. Great harm came in doctrinal compromise with ecclesiastical apostasy and persecution against Baptists.**
- **Protestant Reformation: A diverse departure from Papal Romanism in the 15th century creating several confusing denominations with closer affinity to Baptists. The result: several Baptists compromised and were assimilated into Protestant groups.**
- **Conventionism: Strength in numbers & unity. 1820- Present. SBC- WBF- ABC- BBF- ABA- GARB all of which facilitated further compromise and apostasy among once orthodox Baptist Churches. This process is still devolving.**
- **Charismatic Movement: 1910 to Present This movement created havoc among Protestant and non-religious people. Baptists were not largely affected until the 1990's due to the popularity of the movement which became more worldly with Hollywood glamour and the CCM industry. Some Baptists ran w/the hounds and now they need some doctrinal flea collars.**
- **Arminian Pragmatism 1880 - 1980 Shallow unbiblical theology leading to bizarre gimmicks to “get a crowd” or “getting them down the aisle” to “bow your head and repeat a prayer”. G. Grandson Finney, Billy Sunday, Jack Hyles, John Rawlings, Jerry Falwell. This movement lost steam in the 80's and 90's. The only churches that could maintain their empires were the ones that shifted gears with the Seeker-Sensitive Movement.**

- **Seeker-Sensitive Movement 1980 - Present.** A forerunner of this movement was Robert Shuller in S. California with his survey of what people wanted. "The Drive-in Church" - later the Crystal Cathedral with special visits from Hollywood Peddlers and heretical, positive, motivational speeches from Robert Shuller.
- **Willow Creek - Hill Hybels in Illinois**
- **Lakeland Church - Joel Osteen in Houston, TX**
- **Saddleback Church - Rick Warren in Saddleback, CA**

Baptists are dropping like flies on a sticky fly paper!

(Read the cross section of praises for Rick Warren's book in the first three pages, and back cover)

I. Destructive to Whom

a. Destructive to Scriptural Baptist Churches

“ “ Baptist Churches which are already weak, worldly and wounded.

b. Destructive to unscriptural groups that had some semblance to biblical values.

c. Destructive to the Family of God – untaught Christians are led to the slaughter.

d. Destructive to lost sinners who mistake the SSM with its Pelegian Pragmatic Gospel, as true to the cause of God and Truth.

II. In Pursuit of Fairness (A critique Rick Warren's book Purpose Driven Church 500,000 copies sold.

A third of the material was beneficial.

a. Church Growth by God not man. (top of pg. 14)

b. It is about church health not growth - healthy churches do not need gimmicks. (pg. 17)

c. Longevity: perseverance (top of pg. 26, 31)

d. Churches health is measures by it's sending capacity not it's seating capacity. (pg. 32)

III. Forty Reasons:

a. Salvation is not the foremost priority in the SSM -ie reaching souls. "Just get them to come" (12 weeks, Pg. 39) "You'll be my first member!" pg. 37

b. Turning Sinners into Seekers Ps. 53:1, Rom. 3:10-13

c. Crowd -vs.- Church (pg. 54) Where in the Bible is the Church

- supposed to emphasize the Church service as an evangelistic tool? Matt. 28, Mk 16:15 Unbelievers can be invited to church services (I Cor.14) but the church is not to conform to a worldly standard. Rom. 12:1
- d. SSM believes that its critics are simply stuck in the 1950's culture. Pg 55 No, we are stuck in NT Culture-- such SSM reasoning neutralizes all future changes (top of pg. 62)
 - e. The use of the NIV, GNFM, LB, TEV... There is no fidelity to the verbal inspiration of scripture or divine preservation. Their big screen de-emphasizes Biblical authority. (pg 297)
 - f. Older members are dis-enfranchised by the SSM unless they conform. Holding to Tradition is blamed.
 - g. Worship style totally controlled by worldly religious Trends which is always declining w/the rest of the world. (pg. 126-127)
 - h. Arminian manipulating; "getting" the seeker saved (pg. 131) and "getting them to move" (303) God must give them repentance. II Tim. 2:25
 - i. A shift from NT pattern of working with the 12 apostles, then reach the world: This is changed by SSM To concentrate on the outer circle and then work in. (pg. 130, 138)
 - j. SSM teaches the way to win them is the join them. We must stay away from isolationism. The biblical solution is militant evangelism. (Pg. 138, 139)
 - k. SSM encourages a mentality that people choose churches based on programs, relationships, and entertainment.
 - l. High tech Marketing can be the driving force in a church instead of the holy Spirit. "Saddleback Sam" Pg. 170 (some of this is useful)
 - m. Pragmatism shapes the thinking that a preacher will only attract those he relates to. Pg. 176-177 What about CHS? Pg. 178,179--- What about God's will?
 - n. SSM tears churches apart w/radical ideas. Pg. 180 They recommend a 2nd service. Two congregations With no joint fellowship.
 - o. Strategic Evangelism can be harmful. Mk. 16:15, Mt. 28:19, pg. 187 Jesus went to the Jews/Israel To fulfill scripture?
 - p. Think like a fish!? Pg. 188 -or- Follow me and I will make you fishers of men??? "Catch fish on their terms!" pg. 194,195
 - q. The SSM church jumps in the water and becomes fishy to win fish. Thus the church loses its sanctified influence. Pg. 196 and 236 (pg.197 translation of I Cor. 9:22,23)
 - r. Drop the name "Baptist" pg. 198-199 Compromise before and

- more afterwards. The Baptist moniker should stand for something.
- s. Soulwinning becomes psychological pandering instead of the gospel net it has become the setting Of the "Arminian hook". pg. 216 Sin and repentance is de-emphasized.
 - t. Coming to Christ is synonymous with coming to Church or to the Altar in the SSM mentality. Pg. 235
 - u. All styles of musical worship are correct. Pg. 240 Really?? Ex. 32
 - v. Manipulating worship and the feeling of His presence. Pg. 241 (3,000 converted)
 - w. SSM does not encourage Sun. Evening Services pg. 246
 - x. Rock Music is promoted and defended. Pg. 279,280, 281(They try to use Keach and Londonderry tunes as historical justification. Eph. 5:19,20
 - y. Church Built on Rock Music!!! Pg. 285 Teaches to conform to what the worldly "seeker" wants.

I wonder if "Saddleback would be 10,000 strong if it was not for contemporary "pop" ROCK music?????

WE HAVE 15 MORE TO GO!

**Conclusion - Turn to Jer. 6:16,17 The old paths must not be forsaken.
Jer. 18:15 The new ways are dangerous.**

SSM is not just a new school utilizing innovative methods. It is an all-out attack on NT Church and it is destroying the fabric of the elder teaching the younger. Tit. 2:4, I Pet. 5:1-4.

Part II

Intro. The “bible” of the Seeker-Sensitive Movement (SSM) is the “Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Southern California, published by Zondervan. The book has some merit when it involves practical advice in administration. (.ie - pg. 369, 370 “shape”).

Rick Warren is a marketing Strategist, and an Administrative Genius. Warren is good at using certain verses to illustrate his ideas and methods. {now if he just knew which Bible to use!!}

The Purpose Driven Church book (PDC) was published in 1996. Eleven years has furnished a laboratory to test Warren’s methods in a depraved Society. Time has NOT been kind to those who have bought into the SSM, and today’s religious beach is now filled with Warren wannabes, surfers trying to catch the wave. But, Rick Warren’s wave is resembling a Tsunami!!

I. Understanding the Seeker and the Sensitive Christian.

- a. The Bible is clear, the so-called “Seeker” is a sinner that will never seek after God. Psa. 53:1-3, Rom. 3:10-14 - Unless the Holy Spirit and the Father “draws” them! John 6:44, 65
- b. The Lord “draws” sinners by the Word - Rom. 10:14-17, ICor. 1:21
- c. The Carnal Mind cannot please God! Rom. 8:7,8
- d. The Flesh loves entertainment and enjoys impurity. I Jn. 2:15, Tit. 1:15
- e. The Bible promises that in the Last Days religious apostasy will be marked by pleasure hungry thrill-seekers who do cannot endure “sound Doctrine.” II Tim. 3:1-8, 4:1-5
- f. The Sensitive soul winner must understand how God works to save a soul. II Tim. 2:24-26 - must not use worldly compromise. I Cor. 1:21-25 and 2:1-5
- g. The Offence of the Cross. Gal. 5:11
- h. The Church is to Go out into the World and confront them in their worldly environment - NOT turning the Church Service into a worldly environment so we can lure more sinners into Christ!!! (Matt.28:18-20, Mk.16:15) The fisherman does not jump out of the boat and swim around in order to catch fish, and neither does he fill his boat w/ water in order that the fish may feel inclined to jump in the Boat !!!!!
- i. Who is being influenced??? Give us Flesh !!!!! Num. 11:4 The mixed multitude of “seekers can destroy a church !!!!!

II. FIFTEEN MORE REASONS:

- a. Music becomes the new Egyptian “golden calf” in SSM churches. PDC Book pg. 286, 287, 290 The flesh loves the Rock, Jazz, bar room music, it is an emotional stimulant and it manipulates a euphoric feeling imitating Worship. Without this music the SSM churches would Die!!!
- b. SSM churches promote newer translations which in turn devalue the sole authority of the Holy Bible. KJV- for English speaking. -pg. 297
- c. Extreme Arminianism devolves into rank Pelagianism. “Repeat a Prayer” pg. 303, 305
- d. Ministry and practical service competing with Bible Study. Pg. 342
- e. Rick Warren’s devotees have taken the SSM to lower levels. Churches are being split and those (old and young) who do not like it, can leave! In fact, they are counseled to leave. (II-E)
- f. An Defeatist attitude. Join the SSM or Die! (II-F)
- g. Churches attendances are decreasing, some churches are dying. (II-G)
- h. Those who oppose SSM are *wolves, leaders from hell*, and need to be excommunicated, or *they need to die !!!!* (II-H - 4 sites)
- i. SSSM compromises w/ spiritual wickedness such as New Age gurus Ken Blanchard, George Mair, and Norman Vincent Peele. (II -I)
- j. Rick Warren’s flip flop and dishonest misrepresentation;
 - i. Regarding Joseph Farah (II- J)
 - ii. Regarding Christian Psychology (II - J)
- k. With the Mega growth of “seekers” SSM churches must shift to the left politically -- *Sen. Barak Obama*. (II - K)
- l. Gross Compromise w/ popular heretics such as Mother Teresa, Henri Nouwen, Bro. Lawrence, and John Main. All eclectic pagans. (II - L)
- m. Slander of Biblical Fundamentalists, comparing them to Islamic Extremists. (II - M 3 sites)
- n. The woeful lack of sound doctrine, ecumenical philosophy, and pragmatic marketing skills in place of biblical evangelism has created the largest apostate Christian religion to date. And is playing into the hands of the *Anti-christ and his mistress in Rome*.
- o. True Christians are being side lined and will be stunted spiritually, some irreparably!!

III. WHERE IS THIS ALL HEADING???

- a. This insidious apostasy will separate the men from the boys: I Cor. 11:18,19, Rom. 16:17,18
- b. Godly churches that stay faithful to the Word and evangelistically aggressive will prosper. As SSM becomes worse some will come back to Biblical

worship, though not all regrettably.
c. And it WILL get worse!!! Christian Porn!?! (III - C)

CONCLUSION: True Churches must be careful to guard against an envious spirit towards SSM churches. We must not succumb to the worldly standard of success. Compare Smyrna (Rev.2) to Laodicea (Rev. 3)

A One World Religion (Rev. 17) is on the horizon, we must keep pleading for God's people to come OUT !!!! Rev. 184

When the smoke clears, I want to be seen still waving my sword at the enemy and yelling "come on boys, they are on the run, and the truth will prevail!!!!!"

Never forget Matt. 16:18 and Jude 3