

main issues threatening
the Church & the Gospel
today

I wanted to write a quick post about the main issues that I believe are currently threatening the Church and the

purity, truth, & transformative power

of the gospel.



Kaitlyn Sanner
@KaitlynSanner



For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 4:3

main issues threatening
the Church & the Gospel
today

the
**watered
down gospel**

ROMANS 1:6

hyper
**emotionalism,
mysticism**

JEREMIAH 17:9

the
**social justice
agenda & CRT**

DEUTERONOMY 16:19-20

"de-constructing"
**progressive
christianity**

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

and
**nominal
christianity**

MATTHEW 7:21-23

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,
according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits
of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:8

main issues threatening
the Church & the Gospel
today

the
**watered
down gospel**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:16

hyper
**emotionalism,
mysticism**

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

JEREMIAH 17:9

the
**social justice
agenda & CRT**

You shall not pervert justice.

You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

DEUTERONOMY 16:19-20

"de-constructing"
**progressive
christianity**

All Scripture is breathed out by God

and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

and
**nominal
christianity**

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven,

but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

MATTHEW 7:21-23

“

Biblical illiteracy

IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PLAGUES
IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

MALNOURISHED CHRISTIAN,
FEAST ON GOD'S WORD.

”

IZZY @SAINTSNSOCIETY

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

GALATIANS 1:6-8

Study: the law, covenants, sin

the
**watered
down gospel**

and
**nominal
christianity**

Study: the gospel & discipleship

hyper
**emotionalism,
mysticism**

Study: the heart, Romans

“
Biblical illiteracy
IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PLAGUES
IN THE CHURCH TODAY.
MALNOURISHED CHRISTIAN.
FEAST ON GOD'S WORD.
”

IZZY @SAINTSNSOCIETY

“de-constructing”
**progressive
christianity**

Study: depravity, Christ crucified

the
**social justice
agenda & CRT**

Study: justice, reconciliation

I BELIEVE THAT THESE 5 ALL STEM FROM
BIBLICAL ILLITERACY & A LOW VIEW OF GOD.

the watered-down gospel

CONVICTING SCRIPTURE:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:16

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

#1. AVOIDS PREACHING ABOUT SIN

- Avoids preaching with a few Christian terms sprinkled in
- More like a motivational speech
- Me-ology: focus on ourselves instead of on God
- Shallow theology
- Eisegesis not exegesis
- Love is sentimental

BUZZWORDS / POPULAR CONCEPTS / RED FLAGS:

brokenness the enneagram
self-love live your best life
authenticity We are a seeker-friendly church

CONSEQUENCES:

- Immaturity
- Slow or no sanctification
- Shallow friendships/ community
- Disobedience
- Missing out on knowing God deeper
- Selfishness
- Me-centered & surface-level ministry

SUGGESTED READING:



"Let the pure gospel go forth in all its lion-like majesty, and it will soon clear its own way and ease itself of its adversaries."

— CHARLES SPURGEON

GOOD INTENTIONS:

- God is loving, welcoming, community-focused (but not at the expense of his wrath, judgment, and individual focus for salvation)
- The Church is not for unbelievers but they should not feel unwelcome by our conduct

PRAY FOR:

- Ephesians 3:14-19 — to know "what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge"
- a desire to hear the true Word preached
- to grow in holiness, maturity

hyper emotionalism, mysticism

CONVICTING SCRIPTURE:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;
who can understand it?

JEREMIAH 17:9

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Hyper emotionalism/ spiritualism/mysticism
- High emphasis on feelings and feel-good preaching, again little speaking of sin
- Views and refers to the Holy Spirit in a way different from the biblical depiction
- Concert style worship services - flashing lights, backup dancers, focus on the performance

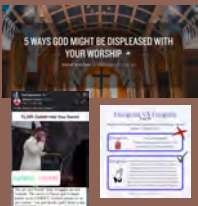
BUZZWORDS / POPULAR CONCEPTS / RED FLAGS:

“Jesus calling” devotional
celebrity pastors
God told me
concert-style worship
new revelations
fake faith healings
“God broke the law for love”

CONSEQUENCES:

- Little or no repentance
- Little growth in holiness
- Inaccurate view of self
- Lack of understanding about the role of the law
- Elevates emotions (self) over the bible (God's words)

SUGGESTED READING/ WATCHING:



“Worship isn’t just an opportunity for us to express our feelings; it is the primary way in which the faith (i.e. the doctrines which define what we believe as Christians) is passed down from one generation to the next. Unbiblical worship teaches people lies about God, and since God mustn’t be misrepresented, our worship must be rooted in his revelation rather than our own innovation.”

— ADRIEL SANCHEZ

GOOD INTENTIONS:

- Emotions do have a place in the Christian life
- The Holy Spirit is real
- God can and does heal people

PRAY FOR:

- A desire to know God as He has revealed himself in the scriptures
- An understanding of emotions, relationship, and law
- Knowing how God wants to be worshipped, a desire to honor, glorify, and exalt Him above ourselves

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God.” - WILLIAM TEMPLE

The social justice agenda, CRT, and liberation theology

CONVICTING SCRIPTURE:

You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

DEUTERONOMY 16:19-20

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- An unbiblical view of race and justice, a current worldly trend of social justice in America
- Lack of discernment, naive understanding of race, justice, and policies, influenced by the world
- Driven by emotion and genuine compassion but shallow understanding of reality and theology

BUZZWORDS / POPULAR CONCEPTS / RED FLAGS:

white privilege
anti-racism
Equity
white guilt
lived experience
"Say their names"

CONSEQUENCES:

- Sins of partiality, false witness
- Warped sense of earthly justice
- Hypocritical advocacy for justice for select people, causes
- Misunderstanding and misrepresenting the character of God and the faith

SUGGESTED READING:



"The antiracist movement has many of the hallmarks of a cult, including staying close enough to the Bible to avoid immediate detection and hiding the fact that it has a new theology and a new glossary of terms that diverge ever-so-slightly from Christian orthodoxy."

— VODDIE BAUCHAM

GOOD INTENTIONS:

- A desire for justice, mercy, and compassion
- Mourning with those who mourn
- A feeling of injustices in this world
- A desire to fight for what is right for the oppressed

PRAY FOR:

- Wisdom, clarity, true compassion
- Real racial reconciliation
- An understanding of the bible's insight into these issues
- Discernment with narratives perpetuated by the media, politicians, celebrities, etc

“de-constructing” Progressive Christianity

CONVICTING SCRIPTURE:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Progressive Christianity denies foundational truths:

- It denies that Jesus was God (his deity)
- Denies the resurrection (his power)
- Denies that God is both loving and just/wrathful (the fullness of his character)
- It de-emphasizes or contradicts the text of the bible

BUZZWORDS / POPULAR CONCEPTS / RED FLAGS:

the bible is flawed “Cosmic child abuse”

de-constructing

the atonement wasn't necessary

Jesus wasn't God

CONSEQUENCES:

- Relative truth rather than God's truth
- Reinterpretation of essential Christian doctrines such as: the deity of Christ, the sacrificial atonement, and the authority of Scripture alone
- If you don't see the need for salvation, then likely you don't accept it
- Creating a God of our own invention

SUGGESTED READING/ WATCHING:



“The gospel message of “Christ crucified” has always been offensive. In our culture it is common for preachers to soften the offense of the cross, and the attributes of God that are displayed in the person of work of Jesus Christ. “American Gospel: Christ Crucified” explores how the paths of post-modernism and progressive Christianity lead to a different gospel, and a god created in our own image.” - American Gospel

GOOD INTENTIONS:

- This does not mean that we should not question anything, we should absolutely ask questions and genuinely seek answers. Why can we believe the bible? Is it reliable?
- Definitely make sure that you understand what you believe and why

PRAY FOR:

- A desire to dig into the Word.
- Understanding of the harder parts of the Bible
- Learning more about who God is
- Learning about the reliability of the bible, and Christianity

and Nominal Christianity

CONVICTING SCRIPTURE:

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

MATTHEW 7:21-23

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- "Prayed the prayer" + no transformation
- Doesn't go or occasionally goes to church
- Believes in God, was "raised in the church," etc who have not personally been transformed, repented, and believed
- Consider themselves a "nice" "good person" (i.e. don't see their need for a savior, view Christianity as morality)
- This may be paired with morality and legalism which makes it very dangerous.

BUZZWORDS / POPULAR CONCEPTS / RED FLAGS:

doesn't go to church

no community

legalism

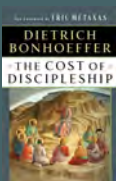
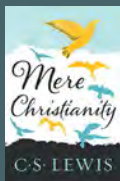
Church is endlessly
bornig to me

"My faith is personal,
I don't need to share it with others"

CONSEQUENCES:

- No real salvation, dead in sin
- Or no or little sanctification
- Neglecting the importance of community, not going to church
- Spiritual isolation
- No mentorship/ discipleship/accountability (giving and receiving)
- Lack of self-awareness, dishonesty

SUGGESTED READING:



"The price we are having to pay today in the shape of the collapse of the organized Church is only the inevitable consequence of our policy of making grace available to all at too low a cost...Our humanitarian sentiment made us give that which was holy to the scornful and unbelieving. We poured forth unending streams of grace. But the call to follow Jesus in the narrow way was hardly ever heard."

- DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

PRAY FOR:

- Saving faith, a new heart / heart change
- Seeing and hating your sin, true repentance
- Sanctification
- A biblical church
- Community, accountability

A NEW HEART:

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Consequences:

These issues

at best

STUNT SPIRITUAL GROWTH (SANCTIFICATION) BY
KEEPING US AS INFANT CHRISTIANS,

and at worst

CREATE A FALSE SENSE OF ASSURANCE OF SALVATION WITHOUT
TRUE REPENTANCE AND FAITH IN JESUS AND DISCIPLESHIP (AND MAY
LEAD THEM ASTRAY AS WELL).

Solution:

Read and study the Bible.

PRAY FOR WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING.