

BEWARE "PROGRESSIVE" CHRISTIANITY

A Progressive Christianity has about as much sense and benefit as progressive politics. Behind most progressive politics is a desire to push the republic toward a socialist state. That is a fast way to destroy the country socially and economically! Similarly, the push to revise Christianity in progressive terms has the effect of weakening the Gospel due to ignoring the Law of God. Without the Law, sinful humans do not repent and therefore do not value the redemption that has come through Christ.

U Here are some tenets of progressive Christianity, as discussed in the article, "Progressive Christianity: A Dangerous Distortion of God's Word," by Arch Kennedy.

- G** • Progressive Christianity presents itself as a more enlightened, compassionate version of traditional Christianity. It emphasizes values like social justice, inclusion, and acceptance – but often at the expense of biblical truth.
- U** • It redefines sin as anything that harms others, rather than a violation of God's holy will. Personal behaviors that the Bible calls sin are minimized or dismissed if they feel affirming or empowering.
- S** • It denies the authority of Scripture by treating the Bible like a human document with errors, biases, and limitations. It does not acknowledge that "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16), but views the Bible as a collection of writings that we can select what we feel is relevant to today.
- T** • It promotes universalism, the belief that all will be saved eventually. As such, it attacks the Gospel and Christ, who stated clearly, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).
- 2026** • It reduces Jesus to the status of a moral teacher or social activist, rather than the Son of God who atoned for sinners that they might be saved if they believe in Him.
- It offers "religion without repentance, faith without sacrifice, and community without accountability."
- It asserts that you don't need to change (i.e., repent), God does not require much from you (you are fine the way you are), and your feelings are your ultimate guide (versus God's Word as the ultimate guide).
- It downplays the cross of Jesus, considering it an example of love rather than bearing God's wrath upon sin.
- It dismisses the binary design of man and woman created as male and female. Gender is seen as fluid, self-determined.



*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

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Warning: Progressive Christianity is popular among people who wish to be morally high-minded but are biblically ignorant. Leaders of the progressive Christianity movement do not preach the whole counsel of God but instead use select passages that seem to support their cause. They are, in theological terms, antinomian, which means "against the Law." They refuse to present clearly the Law of God, which condemns aberrational sexual behaviors and distortions of the Gospel.

Historical criticism of the Bible (also known as higher criticism) begins with a priori judgments about the text's author, message, transmission, etc., and then interprets it. It grew in popularity in Europe, especially in Germany, in the late 18th and 19th centuries, and was adopted by many denominations in America in the early 20th century. The Roman Church has endorsed it, which is why Roman believers, taught by priests, may hold secular, worldly attitudes toward the Word. The higher critical stream of thought in Christianity still negatively influences the Church.

A new politically oriented, damaging perspective toward the Bible has arisen in the past 30 years in the form of progressive Christianity. While historical criticism sought to maintain the trappings, i.e. liturgies, social ministry programs, etc., of the Church, progressive Christianity seeks to aggressively personalize the faith and erodes the body of Christ doctrinally and socially.

Worldly ideologies have always tried to glom onto the Church, and the Gospel has been threatened in every generation since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Peter warned the fledgling first century Church, "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies..." (2 Peter 2:1). The form of the heresies changes according to the social setting and personalities of the day. But they all share one thing in common, denial of foundational Christian doctrines such as the Creation, Redemption, atonement by Christ, and the call for repentance and regeneration spiritually in Christ. In that sense, progressive Christianity is a rehashed higher criticism in a populist form.

LEARNING EARLY

Two children in battery powered play cars were driving along the sidewalk. The older one was holding a phone and looking at it while driving. Imagine that child someday as a young adult behind the wheel of a real car! For good or ill, our habits start forming early on. Make sure your child sees your faith habits and stop using the phone while you drive!

*Blessings,
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