

Danger for churches is increasing in the United States

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[Randy Bright](#)

In my last two articles, I have discussed how the left has eagerly and purposely attempted (and for the most part succeeded) in blaming many social problems on conservatives, and more specifically, on Christians. These problems, according to the Civil Rights Commission, include racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia and Christian Supremacy.

It is not difficult to find examples of liberals who find fault with Christians or Christianity because their beliefs don't coincide with the liberal's judgment of what is right and fair. To them, certain activities that are called sin in scripture aren't sin at all because they (the liberals) believe that their judgment is superior to God's. So even though these activities are clearly called sin in scripture (a fact that is easily proven), there is a rejection in exchange for a human opinion that attempts to redefine what is right or wrong.

It is also not difficult to find people who attempt to redefine God himself in what they believe God to be. I cited the example of a columnist who had judged God for not stopping Catholic priests from sexually assaulting young boys. That's logical until you consider that if God were to intervene in the free will of one person, he would have to intervene in the affairs of all. Somehow I doubt that such people would willingly invite such an intrusion into their own free will.

Yet it is a terrible thing when Christians, or people who call themselves Christians, engage in acts that harm others, and certainly that kind of hypocrisy harms the church when they do. In addition, it gives the left the ability to criticize and redefine the church in a way that further damages the church.

This rejection of truth in scripture is by no means limited to liberals. If the church is under attack from the outside by liberalism, it is also under attack from the inside.

Progressivism is seeping into many American churches, and with it is a movement to redefine God to conform with a humanistic view of things that will argue against what God has clearly called sin. These arguments are not new. Here are some examples:

Abortion is about a women's right to her own body, not about murdering a child. Someone who lives the lifestyle of a homosexual does so because he or she was born that way, not because it was a choice. Christianity is not superior to any other religion, it is just one of many.

To justify sin within the progressive church, one must redefine its interpretation by redefining or falsifying its context. Perhaps the earliest example of this comes from the interpretation of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because their inhabitants were "inhospitable" to their guests, not because homosexuality had become rampant there.

More recently is the example of Jesus driving the moneychangers out of the Temple. Scripture tells us that Jesus did so because they were conducting themselves in an unholy way in a holy place, saying that they had turned his house into a den of thieves. The progressive interpretation was that the temple had been constructed to separate people from God and each other, based on “socio-economic status, race, political parties, and gender” and a system that “welcomes those who identify as LGBTQ until they decide that they want to (be) baptized, take communion, or serve in a greater capacity”.

In pointing out these misinterpretations that progressives use to justify what they personally believe, my point is not that conservatives Christians should declare them the enemy. There is no need. Churches that adopt these beliefs won't last long. Statistics show that those denominations that do are already in a steep decline.

Other churches, however, are undergoing an extreme cultural change that can lead even conservative Christians into a progressive future, and it is being done in response to a serious change in American culture itself. While our technological advances have brought a massive improvement in the quality of our lives, it has also given us short attention spans and impatience for anything that isn't instantaneous. As a result, there is no patience for learning.

While we can easily learn the basics of God's Word in mere minutes, learning the whole of the scripture is a lifetime endeavor; without it, falling to deception and misguided judgment are nearly inevitable. We are warned within scripture many times about the importance of learning, yet because it is so difficult to engage people in learning, American churches are systemically eliminating the role of education from their activities. It is just as damaging to the future of the church in America as any edict that comes from the left, and it is an issue that our churches must address if they are to survive.



Randy W. Bright, AIA, NCARB, is an architect who specializes in church and church-related projects. You may contact him at 918-582-3972, rwbrightchurcharch@sbcglobal.net or www.churcharchitect.net. ©2016 Randy W. Bright