

## How To Lose Your Christian Faith

Peter Kreeft from Boston College observes that there are seven basic ideas which the devil plants in the minds of believers so that they will most certainly fall away from the faith. These seven can be summed in the acronym: PHONEYS: **P**oliticization, **H**appy talk, **O**rganizationalism, **N**eo-Worship, **E**galitarianism, **Y**uppie-ism, **S**pirituality. They are seven roads that lead from the real to the phoney. The whole strategy of hell is to get souls out of the real, authentic and true and into the false. Kreeft suggests that these tactics have worked very well with American Christians over the past 40 years, such that many have very gradually committed spiritual suicide.



**Politicization** – The attempt to persuade Christians to absolutize politics and to judge their faith by the standard of political correctness. The supernatural is relativized and the natural is absolutized. Get Christians so interested in ‘social justice’ overseas that they fail to love their neighbor next door.

**Happy Talk** – Keep people focused on happy talk. Let them constantly talk about the progress and success the Church has enjoyed. Cause them to ignore the awful abominations being committed all around them and focus on “being happy in Jesus.” Keep them pretending that they are living in a playground for their pleasure—rather than in a high-stakes spiritual battleground.

**Organizationalism** – Get Christians to see the church as a business—not a supernatural mystery. Keep their minds focused on programs, numbers and success. Guide them to worship success—not sanctity, and to fear failure—not sin. Keep them slaves of constant activism—so that they have no time for God.

**Neo-worship** – Let them substitute new for true. Rather than confession, repentance, obedience, self-denial and fasting, persuade them to ignore these time-tested means of worship and go for what is ‘relevant’ and ‘seeker-friendly.’ This will keep them distracted by modernity and prevented from falling to their knees in true worship of God.

**Egalitarianism** – Don’t let them realize that God made men different from women and ordained different roles for men and women. Fill their minds with such meaningless slogans as ‘male chauvinism’ or ‘absolute equality.’ Get men to see women as objects of sexual play. Encourage the lie of feminism and cause women to disdain motherhood.

**Yuppie-ism** – Make them shoppers—not saints. Get them addicted to the material comforts of this world. Seduce them into embracing Christ without the Cross [a yuppie revision of the true Gospel]. Get them to worship themselves and their own comfort. Keep music constantly playing in their minds and ears so they cannot hear the voice of God.

**Spirituality** – Get them to clamor for ‘spirituality’ instead of traditional, orthodox religion. Keep them from practicing the presence of God. Let them substitute pop-psychology and ‘what’s-true-for-me’ for what is objectively true. Make them believe in a Church that saves man from nastiness into niceness—not from hell into heaven. Replace the fear of God with the fear of man. Get them to believe that everything is relative—except relativism itself.

Beloved saints of God, be on your guard! The Church is not based on pragmatism, happy-talk, politically-correct thinking, or new worship. The Church is the pillar and support of the absolute truth given by God. We are at war! Hold your head high and fight gloriously! Devote yourself to Christ alone! O Church of God, arise and put your armour on!