

"Ecumenism"

Blessing and Good *Or* Dangerous and Subversive

Initially the term Ecumenism was an idea and initiative for Christian unity. Due to the original splits from one predominate church, the reformation, there are numerous "churches" separated by doctrine, history and practices. Ecumenism is not to be confused with "Nondenominational Christianity".

Ecumenism is from the Greek word *oikoumene*, with the meaning of "the whole inhabited world" and was originally specific to the Roman Empire. This movement was originally designed to "the recovery in thought, in action, and in organization, of the true unity between the Church's mission to the world (its apostolate) and the Church's obligation to be one". [*The Calling of the Church to Mission and to unity, Theology Today, vol. 9, no. 1 (April 1952): 15.*]

Today ecumenical is primarily used with the meaning of "Ecumenical Council or "Ecumenical Patriarch", of which pertain to the totality of the larger church. It is not restricted to one of the constituent churches or dioceses, referencing the whole, such as the Catholic Church or the Orthodox Church.

In actuality, G-d Almighty established the foundation of unity in faith, belief, and practices. He did so through His blueprint for mankind to receive salvation and return to an acceptable relationship with Him. This blueprint from G-d started with the establishment of a chosen, set aside nation, to be the guide to knowledge of Him and His requirements for man to receive the afore mentioned salvation and relationship through the coming Messiah. It only took a couple of decades after the sacrificial death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Yeshua HaMashiach for divisions and the "different and foreign gospel" and perverted power struggles to start creeping into the "Church" or the "Body of Christ". The original Apostles, taught directly by Christ had to address some of these issues at what came to be known as the Council of Jerusalem, approximately 50 A.D. (C.E). The Apostle Paul understood what was coming (with the interference of Satan behind it) and said, *Acts 20:26-31 (NKJV)* ²⁶ *Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.* ²⁷ *For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.* ²⁸ *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* ²⁹ *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.* ³⁰ *Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.* ³¹ *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."*

By the end of the first century, the division from the original church was well underway and eventually culminated into a vast, powerful and legislated influence of a combined state and church, led by a professed believer in Christ, who never undertook affirmation of his "faith" through baptism as commanded by Christ, until his death bed. This ruler merely said he would believe in Christ if he had won a military battle (*James 2:19 (NKJV)* ¹⁹ *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!*) The rest of the rise and actions of this state run church is history, including the new doctrines, the new theology, the new practices with pagan custom accommodation and assimilation. Then came rebellion against what

some "religious" leaders recognized as apostate teachings and actions, resulting in the reformation, which led to even greater divisions in "Christianity".

Unity or ecumenism is a good and desirable goal. However, only if this unity is scripturally based on the entire word of G-d bearing the standard of G-d's word, in other words the entire Bible, Genesis to Revelation! If this were the case then ecumenism would be a good and blessed action.

Not so today! For decades, the ideal of ecumenism has been on a downward spiral into a morphed, perverted ideal. The new direction for ecumenism is a very dangerous path for which the true believer needs to stay clear of, not be sucked into it's perversions.

The ecumenism of today is not only still the idea of bringing all "Christians" under one mantel or church, but is misused and construed to mean "interfaith pluralism". This move is being broadcast on international news programs, in churches and endorsed by leaders of many large mainstream "religions" and "Christian Churches" from around the world. We see the leaders of world conglomerate churches, mega churches and mega faiths coming together in pluralistic rituals and prayer, recognizing in word and "prayer" the god or deity of the other faith. Comments to the effect that these different paths still lead to the same G-d, whatever name is used are even made! These religious leaders are trying to come together under one umbrella. There is even intentional blending of some of the faiths into newly named "faiths", such as "Christlam".

This perverted "interfaith pluralism"; ecumenism movement is designed to bring the diverse faiths of the world's religions to greater mutual respect, toleration, and co-operation. It is designed to bring about interfaith dialogue. Fully designed to reconcile the diverse adherents into an organic unity. It is designed to bring all together into a single visible organization, through the above mentioned "mutual respect, toleration and co-operation", not to mention the power and standing the leaders will enjoy, at least for a season.

We are living in a time of unprecedented drive to religious unity at all costs. By the Vatican, Charismatic movement and the Protestant denominations it argued all people serve the same G-d and it is essential to have tolerance for different viewpoints to achieve peace. The consensus among the above and others is that man has to achieve peace first.

The World Council of Churches defines ecumenism as:

*"The word oikoumene, from which the term "ecumenical" derives, means "the whole inhabited earth"...In modern usage, the word embraces the unity of God's whole creation and recognizes every human pursuit as subject to the healing ministry of Christ's Spirit."** (*About the WCC logo, "World Council of Churches Website)

"Pope Francis urged members of all religions and those belonging to no church to unite to defend justice, peace and the environment ... Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, met leaders of non-Catholic Christian religions such as Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans and Methodists, and others including Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus." (Vatican City, March 20th 2013)

This Ecumenism gives "official" acknowledgement that all people, everywhere have a spiritual side or dimension. Regardless of what they believe, regardless of their religion or lack of religion are "one" with a spiritual buffet of choices to be picked and used by each individual, to fill their personal needs. A very unscriptural based theology. This is not the unity of which Jesus Christ taught and wanted.

The confusion and bickering among religious entities, especially the "Christian" denominations, explains why atheist and agnostics view religion as a spiritual crutch. For it appears each person interprets the Word to suit his or her fancy. This making it appear as though truth is unavailable, unattainable and even non-existent. This leads to the belief that truth is relative to each person's perspective and experiences.

Unity at all costs is the driving force behind these religious endeavors. This is false unity, which is not based in way, shape or fashion on the Word of G-d. Rather it is based on dogma and experience!

Dogmatic Unity: The binding of people together through principles and doctrine. Dogmas include words of the church fathers, sacraments, liturgies, politicians, religious leaders, and humanistic philosophers.

Experiential Unity: The binding of people together through emotions or supernatural occurrences or events. This type of unity crosses Biblical, doctrinal, cultural barriers, religious and non-religious barriers, bringing people together in a "communal emotional high", which is of spiritism, not spiritual.

Keep in mind that the many other religions and their off shoots have their version and recognition of Jesus Christ. Islam recognizes Christ as a great prophet, who will return. Others such as Buddhism and Hinduism recognize Christ as a great man and philosopher. Even Judaism recognizes Christ's greatness but as a corporate entity do not recognize him as the Messiah, at least not yet!

This brings us to the warning from the Apostle Paul concerning the last days, end times and time after he, the other Apostles and original disciples were dead and gone.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 (NKJV) ² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ *For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit, which you have not received, or a different gospel, which you have not, accepted--you may well put up with it!*

Acts 20:29-30 (NKJV) ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure *savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.* ³⁰ Also *from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

We can see what the Apostle Paul was talking about, as we see this verse coming so true today with Ecumenisms. Only through a "Universal, Generic Christ" can the current, irreverent drive to "religious unity" succeed. Only through a false "Universal, Generic Christ" can Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, etc. be united! The mission in these last days of the end times toward ecumenism is erasing from people the true character and purpose of Jesus Christ. It is erasing the meaning and purpose of Christ's sacrificial sacrifice for us.

Even now, we see the major religious leaders, especially of "the Church of Christianity" declaring statements concerning the exclusive belief in Jesus Christ and exclusive salvation through Him is "hate

speech". They are following the philosophy of "religious pluralism", which dictates belief that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation to be narrow minded and intolerant, for they believe all religions are equally true and all lead to salvation.

People are seeking unity through pluralism, conformity, or co-existing, but the Bible must be our guide.

In order for all religions to unite in a one-world religion, the belief of Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation has to be downplayed and set aside. Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims, etc. will not unify with Christians if Jesus Christ is lifted up as the only way to salvation. The truth and principle of Jesus Christ as the only way for salvation is under attack in our world today.

Through the efforts of the New Age Movement and pluralistic thinking, the glorious work of Jesus is downplayed. He is being replaced by a "universal Christ that satisfies them all".* This universal Christ bears many names and disguises, is acceptable to all religions, and is not really God. This universal Christ claims to be just a teacher—no more divine than he claims all humans are. He speaks of global unity, world peace, and justice for all." (**de Chardin, P.T. 1971. Christianity and Evolution. Collins, p. 130.*)

This brings us to what G-d's inspired Word has to say about today's Ecumenism movement. G-d gave the prophecy in dramatic fashion. The prophecy is about the very time and season we are living in today, the last days of the end times.

Revelation 17:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you *the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,* ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." ³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And *I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* ⁴ *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.* ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ ***I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*** And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. (italics and bold added for emphasize)

Revelation 17:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Here *is* the mind, which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

Revelation 17:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

G-d uses the word and analogy of a woman in scripture when talking of a church, a body of believers. A good woman, a pure woman symbolizes a good church. A bad woman symbolizes a church that has strayed away from the commands of G-d and the teachings of Christ.

The reference to Babylon is not reference to the physical Babylon as it was destroyed and G-d decreed it would never be rebuilt.

Isaiah 13:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰ It will **never be inhabited**, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. Men have tried but failed to rebuild the actual Babylon.

Consider this, Babylon is also the center of confusion as this is where the Tower of Babel had been built, which G-d disrupted by giving man many languages creating confusion to stop man's plans of trying to be like G-d and reach the heavens themselves.

G-d is referencing a *spiritual Babylon*, a church that is rife with false teachings, doctrine, and idolatry. It is a church full of the blood of those who would not submit to her ways, teachings, and idolatry. This church, spiritual Babylon has and holds religious power and influence over world leaders, who have been in bed with her and are also stained with the blood of the "saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus". This church, mother church, has birthed many "daughters" whom also are following their mother's path with false teachings and idolatry. These daughter churches have prostituted themselves with politics, false teachings, and idolatry and some are returning to their mother's bosom. It is true that some of the daughter churches do not agree with their mother but they do consistently recognize her power and authority and pay the "proper respect and homage" to their mother, even courting her favor and recognition.

"Babylon the Great" is organizing, directing and overseeing the Ecumenical movement. It is a powerful movement in these the last days of the end times. False doctrine and theology are the wine of her fornication of which she "made all nations drink". The Ecumenical movement has and is substituting its teachings and theology for those of the Bible, of G-d's Word. Through this Ecumenical movement the opinions, creeds, and teachings of the church(es) are considered more important than the teachings of G-d's Word, the Bible. Through this Ecumenical movement, Satan will work with power, signs, and lying wonders. With such things, men are being taught to have faith based upon the opinions and teachings of the "church" rather than on the standard of G-d's Word, the Bible.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Although this false Christ's message sounds peaceful, it will in reality only bring peace to those willing to comply with global manipulation. The real and true Christ's message is of peace that will come when God eradicates Satan and the problem of sin from Earth and humankind. That time is shortly coming.

Prior to the return or second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, judgment will befall "Babylon the Great" and those that are a direct or indirect part of her.

Revelation 18:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying,

"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

Babylon the Great paves the way for the false prophet and worship of the beast. We use the term, the One World Order or the New World Order in reference to the beast of revelation. It is the wonders and miracles afforded to Babylon the Great, the false prophet concerning the beast, which will mislead multitudes. The signs, wonders, and miracles, which are allowed to be preformed, are on par with the miracles and mimic those performed by G-d Almighty, His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ and the men of faith of old.

Matthew 24:23-25 (NKJV) ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*. ²⁴ *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.* ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

Mark 13:21-23 (NKJV) ²¹ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or, 'Look, *He is* there!' do not believe *it*. ²² For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

Revelation 13:11-15 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.* ¹⁴ *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast,* telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

G-d will avenge all of His people, the saints, the prophets, the disciples and apostles for their martyred deaths.

Revelation 18:20-24 (NKJV) ²⁰ *Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"* ²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³ The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Revelation 19:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! ² For *true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.*"

Yes, the Ecumenism movement of today is dangerous and subversive!

We have been warned and warned; yet, these false prophets and ravenous wolves are misleading many. Take note, just before the judgment and destruction of Babylon the Great, we are still given warning and a chance to avoid judgment of G-d Almighty. It appears there are many of G-d's people in Babylon the Great. False doctrines and theology are intoxicating! Yet, the opportunity to avoid judgment is still given through grace and love.

Revelation 18:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "***Come out of her, my people***, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Obviously many are sincere, love G-d and want to worship Him properly, but are still in and blinded by the works and traditions of Babylon the Great. It is time to get out!!

G-d's written Word, given by the living Word our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has the blueprints and plans for mankind to worship and live in holy communion with Him properly, acceptably in truth. It begins with Genesis and goes through Revelation as we see. In order to get out of Babylon the Great, one must set aside the years of indoctrination and theologies we have been told are right by man's opinion and tradition. There is a lot right, for after all Satan has to give enough truth to make the deceptions palatable. However, there is a lot wrong also. Then study, research and learn G-d's Word for yourself, testing all those traditional theologies and dogmas to see if they bear the standard of scripture. If a theology, teaching, dogma, doctrine, or tradition based on one verse or two does not follow with the rest of G-d's word, then it is not a mystery, it is deception. By earnestly and sincerely seeking G-d's truth with an open mind and heart, one can see the false issues. Then one can change to the correct worship, and walk with our Lord.

This is food for thought and study, do not just take my word for it, go to Word, the Bible, research, study and test all yourself. Start with honest sincere prayer for truthful understanding and get after it!!

Shalom and Blessings

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