

The problem of ‘white-pilled’ Christianity

Introduction

An interesting phenomenon is the recent ‘white pill’ renaissance. This term is used for the trend of anti-establishment commentators, that have recently realised the elite’s global plan, that have now become ‘Christian’ or renewed old Christian affections.

‘Red pill’ is a term used for awakening to the elite agenda and the figure is taken from the *Matrix* movie where a red pill reveals the true world situation. A blue pill is for those who are happy within the false elite narrative of how the world works.¹ Being ‘black-pilled’ is falling into despair by understanding what is happening.

A large number of anti-elite commentators have recently either espoused Christianity for the first time or have returned to their Christian roots. The more they sought the truth about what is happening in the world, the more they became religious.

A good example of this is James Delingpole (and his brother Dick) and a number of his podcast interviewees. James was steeped in social Anglicanism at his school (Malvern), which he later deserted. Now he is ardently seeking to develop in Christian doctrine, attends an Anglican parish church and reads the Bible.

But there is a big problem with this. Virtually all of the people that are espousing Christianity on the alternative commentating scene are not following Biblical truth. They are following various forms of superficial, aberrant or even heretical Christianity. A recent Delingpod (242) featured a person who extensively taught James Anthroposophy,² the Occult-Christian doctrines of Rudolph Steiner. This is a big problem.

Here are some of the trending doctrinal themes that are being picked up by these people that are thought to be Christian.

Reincarnation

Many of the modern converts to the current form of ‘Christianity’ believe in reincarnation. This is the rebirth of a human soul into a different form after death.

It is claimed that the Bible is not opposed to this doctrine and that it was current in early Christianity but was dropped as a result of the efforts of men proscribing it in church councils.

Firstly, reincarnation was never common in the early church; that is a lie. There may have been some obscure churches affected by Gnosticism that taught it but it was never a part of mainstream Christianity because it is inimical to key Biblical doctrines. The word, or its essential doctrine, never appears in Scripture.

¹ There are various terms for awakening to the agenda of the global elite. These include: ‘being red-pilled’, ‘going down the rabbit hole’ etc. They are not useful euphemisms, being based upon fantasy stories.

² Terry Boardman. He did not mention the word Anthroposophy.

Reincarnation is taught in oriental mysticism, such as Hinduism and Buddhism.³ The objective of being united with the world soul (the universal spirit) is only achieved through multiple births, failures and rebirths, getting slightly better each time. In Hinduism one has to change caste to gain salvation through rebirths. This is called samsara.⁴

This is clearly denied by overt Scriptures, such as:

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

Here it is categorically stated that men only die once. There is no rebirth, death rebirth process.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.
Gen 3:19

All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. Eccles 3:20

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Eccles 12:7

Man's physical body after death returns to the ground. His soul goes to Hades to await judgment⁵ (believers go to heaven). Other texts include:

For we will surely die and *become* like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. 2 Sam 14:14

Since his days *are* determined, the number of his months *is* with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. Job 14:5

What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave? Ps 89:48

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. Eccles 9:5-6

Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. Eccles 9:10

This is entirely in keeping with the tenor of Biblical doctrine. Man's life on Earth is a probation; he is tested to see whether he will obey God or rebel against God. There is only one life and after that single life there is the prospect of judgment. There are no second, third or fourth chances.

³ It is also found in Australian aboriginal culture and some African religions.

⁴ Samsara (Sanskrit: 'journeying through'); a central doctrine of Hinduism and Buddhism denoting the way in which successive lives are determined by the laws of karma. In Hinduism, the soul continues to be reborn, according to its actions in past lives, until release (moksha) is achieved. Buddhism rejects the existence of the soul but clearly recognises a spiritual link between successive lives.

⁵ Lk 16:22-23, 'The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades'.

Neither Christ nor the apostles taught anything approaching reincarnation. It is simply absent. Neither did it appear in the early Christian church. Anyone teaching such a thing would have been expelled for apostasy.

What about people that can remember their past lives? This is simply psychological delusion. There are people who think that they are Napoleon, Caesar, God or an egg; but we accept that such are in need of medical help. Such is the case with remembering past lives. When pressed such people often make mistakes and mention anachronisms proving that it is just imagination.

Another possibility is psychological manipulation to spread errors, such as the MK Ultra programme. In the same way that people (often sincere people) are brainwashed into believing that they were abducted by aliens, so also some were conditioned to actually believe that they were reborn from other time periods.

Acceptance of near-death experiences

Sadly this is also something that is widely accepted in some evangelical circles. It concerns the reports of people who claim to have died in certain circumstances (such as clinically dying for a couple of minutes during surgery). These testimonies claim to have seen heaven or the future, or God. They commonly include visions of going through a tunnel and then seeing a bright light.

Some of these people went on to become minor celebrities, telling the story of their vision to large audiences or writing books on it. In many cases the reports contain examples of doctrinal heresy. In other cases, after a period of fame, it turns out that the witness was fake and the whole thing made up.

Now whether the story being told is a true representation of the experience or not makes no difference. The only source of authority for the Christian is the word of God, the Bible. Nobody's experiences have any value in giving us information regarding the future, heaven or anything else.

I have known people that put great store in such visions that turned out to be false and great damage was done to that person's faith. In some cases they were defrauded of money and goods.

There are people who have genuinely had visions of God, the apostle Paul is one example, usually these people are loathe to talk about it and certainly do not exploit it. A vision may be an encouragement for someone, but no vision, dream or near-death experience has any value in teaching us truth.

How do we explain a genuine vision during a clinical death experience? It is usually merely a demonic delusion foisted upon someone during a period of great physiological and psychological stress and weakness. How do we know this? Because no person having a true vision of God would boast about it and exploit it. The vision would not contain doctrinal heresies. The vision should glorify Christ but typically they do not but instead focus on angels.

It is possible that some visions may be an encouragement from God during a physiological stressful period, but such visions would not contain doctrinal errors or wild claims; neither would the person exploit it for fame.

I have come across a number of these claims in my life but not one of them has stood the test of time.

Purgatory

This is a Roman Catholic doctrine that has never been accepted by evangelical believers. Indeed, it has been vehemently condemned.

Modern seeking-Christians feel that such a doctrine is necessary for fairness; to accommodate those who were nearly saved but missed out; people who weren't quite good enough. However, this denies the very basis of the Gospel, which is not founded upon our goodness or willpower at all but on God's grace (see later 'Arminianism').

God chooses who will be saved (election) and gives faith to those he chooses. It is not about man's will or strength:

He says to Moses, "'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion'. So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Rm 9:15-16

What is purgatory?

In Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian doctrine, purgatory is the state of existence or condition of a soul which still needs purification from venial (pardonable) sin before being admitted to heaven. It is believed that souls in purgatory can be helped by the prayer and good works of the faithful. Those who die unrepentant, having totally and deliberately rejected God, are said to go direct to hell.

Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

There are a number of problems with this doctrine:

- Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian theology are not evangelical (Biblical) theology.
- There is not a single mention of the word 'purgatory' in the Bible.
- There is no separation of sin into venial and mortal (lethal) variants. There is only sin. All sin warrants death and judgment.
- There is only one atoning force; that is the blood of Christ. Justification only arises from the work of Christ. There is no atoning force in an imagined state of purgatory.
- The faithful on Earth are never told to pray for dead souls because nothing further can be done for them. After death comes judgment.
- Good works on Earth cannot even contribute to your own salvation, let alone the salvation of someone else.

There is no such thing as purgatory.

Looseness of behaviour

A characteristic of these modern 'Christians' is their ability to commit minor sins with comfort and no contrition.

Now we are all sinners and all require forgiveness but a true believer confesses his sin, repents of it and grieves for it. These people commit sins openly and feel no remorse. This is a sure sign that there is no inner work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The sort of sins that they openly espouse include:

- Swearing.
- Blaspheming.
- Hedonism.
- Hubris.
- Taking illicit drugs.
- Expressing hatred.
- Syncretism with other religions.
- Heresies.
- Arrogance.

True Christians bear the fruit of the Spirit; they show their inner faith and the work of God by a life of repentance – following Christ. While I do not favour a legalistic set of rules for behaviour, I do recognise that genuine regenerated believers will comply with the fruit of the Spirit: ‘You will know them by their fruits’ (Matt 7:16).

If a person comes to me in arrogance, smoking, swearing and boasting of taking illicit drugs, I can safely say that such a person does not know Christ.

Anthroposophy

Anthroposophy is a formal educational, therapeutic system established by Rudolf Steiner [1861-1925], seeking to use mainly natural means to optimise physical and mental health and well-being with spiritual awareness. The word derives from the Greek words for ‘man’ and ‘wisdom’. Steiner also set up a number of Waldorf schools based on his principles.

Essentially it is a syncretism of the occult with traditional Christianity whereby Christian themes (such as the incarnation or resurrection) are given mystical and occult meanings. In some ways it is similar to Gnosticism.

Steiner was originally a Roman Catholic who became a part of Theosophy, but fell out with them in 1913 for not taking Christianity into enough account and over-emphasising oriental religions. Why would they when their purpose was to develop a renaissance of occultism for modern people? The Anthroposophical Society thus became a basket of Roman Catholic doctrine mixed with Theosophical occultism and mysticism. But being of sharp mind, Steiner also took up ideas from philosophers and Darwin.

Steiner’s doctrines include:

- A progressive and evolutionary pilgrimage of all things. (Evolutionary theory.)
- History unfolds in a series of stages. We are now in the fourth. (Evolutionary theory.)
- Belief in and an account of Atlantis. (Mythology.)
- The Fall was precipitated by materialism. This separated the spirit from the lower self (ego). Steiner denied that the Fall was an act of man’s sin and rebellion. Instead of man becoming alienated from God, man is alienated from himself. (Heresy.)
- The quest of history is to unite spirit and ego. The laws of Karma and reincarnation are vital in this process (Hinduism).
- To rise above matter involves training and mental discipline (sort of Platonism).

- There is a spiritual knowledge that cannot be understood by science. (Mysticism.)
- The student is not taught to look to outward sources (e.g. the Bible) but to look inside (subjectivism) to innate abilities to get enlightenment. (Introspective Mysticism.)
- In Theosophy Jesus is just one of the great arhats⁶ in history; in Anthroposophy Jesus is the main arhat. Jesus teaches us to reveal the world beyond the sense realm and attain self-awareness. (Twisted Buddhism.)

The key problem with Steiner is authority. Christianity rests on the authority of the word of God. Anthroposophy rests on the word of Steiner's imagination. Why would anyone trust a mere man?

Demons mating with humans

I have covered this many times. In short:

This is the belief that before the Flood either demons or aliens mated with human women and produced a hybrid offspring. Some claim these were the giants of old (but giants also appeared after the Flood, which wiped out all pre-deluvian evil people).

The claimed basis for this is

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years'. There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen 6:1-5

Some simple points:

- The 'sons of God' is not a reference to angels or demons.
- There is no mention of aliens like the Anunnaki.⁷
- 'Sons of God' is a reference to the godly line of Seth as opposed to the rest of mankind that rebelled against God following Cain.
- The godly line was perverted from following God by marrying corrupted women.
- Demons (fallen angels) are spiritual, immaterial, incorporeal beings that cannot mate with women.
- Angels do not have sex in any case (Matt 22:30).
- 'There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward.' So what? Mutations of the human genome produced giants for centuries until the time of David (e.g. Goliath; the sons of Anakim, the Rephaim, the Nephilim).

⁶ In Buddhism and Jainism: a saint of one of the highest ranks. From the Sanskrit meaning 'meritorious'.

⁷ Sumerian gods that some claim were really aliens, based on the flimsiest of evidence (misinterpreted images on stone carvings).

- ‘Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.’ Nothing unusual here. David had a number of mighty men (*gibbor*) in his guard 1,200 years later (2 Sam 23:8).

This text simply explains the corruption of godly men so that the Earth was filled with iniquity requiring God’s judgment in the Flood.

The secret rapture

In many cases acceptance of this is based upon superficial references picked up from here and there. Few have any understanding about the Dispensational Theology that it derives from.

The secret rapture is the doctrine that, at the end and usually before a great tribulation, Christ appears in secret to rapture obedient believers so that they escape the tribulation. At a later point Christ appears again openly to usher in a millennial reign on Earth. There are varieties of this amongst Dispensationalists.⁸

Firstly, Dispensationalism is a rogue theological system that is modern (it only appeared in this form after 1830) and originated in a very heretical group (the London-based Catholic Apostolic Church that included Edward Irving). It was later popularised by some Brethren writers, notably John Darby, and sprang to fame with the Scofield study Bible. The chief features of Dispensationalism were sponsored by elite bankers for political reasons; chiefly to get American Christians to support the State of Israel. In fact, Dispensationalism spawned a number of errors that have done great damage to the modern church; chief of which is the separation in God’s purposes of Israel and the church.

The idea of a secret rapture proposed by most variants of Dispensationalists has not a single piece of Biblical evidence to support it. Jesus never taught it and the apostles never wrote about it. It is a piece of human manufacture. In fact, the idea of the Lord of Glory appearing in the air before the end to snatch away certain people is dishonourable to the Lord.⁹ Scripture teaches that Christ returns only once, not twice.

The idea of a millennium golden age has a longer historical pedigree in Historical Premillennialism, but the secret rapture never appeared in history until the ravings of a sick, teenage, Scottish girl (Margaret McDonald) in 1830. But even the idea of a millennium is a blasphemy, as if the Lord of Glory would reign from Jerusalem over a world of sinners. Again there is no evidence in the Bible for this apart from a symbolical reference in Revelation 20 which is clearly a reference to the Gospel Age.¹⁰ The reign mentioned is over dead souls not living beings on Earth.¹¹

So, there is no millennium golden age where Christ reigns on Earth over sinners and there is no secret rapture.

⁸ Pre, mid and post tribulation.

⁹ If the Lord appeared in the air above the Earth his divine glory would kill every sinful person. In Dispensationalism nobody even notices.

¹⁰ A perfect, complete time period, 10 x 10 x 10.

¹¹ Rev 20:4, ‘Then *I saw* the **souls** of those who had been **beheaded** for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years’.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:16-17

Nothing secret about this rapture. It occurs at the end when Christ returns to usher in God's judgment.

Arminianism

Arminianism derives from the teachings of James Arminius [1560-1609], which sought to water down the key principles of Calvinism to enable a closer alliance with Roman Catholicism (and also Lutheranism). This produced great debate in the Dutch church, which led to the Remonstrance in 1610 that outlined the theology of Arminianism as now understood. This led to the important *Synod of Dort* [1618-1619], which anathematised the five points of Arminianism and established the five points of Calvinism (known as TULIP). This Reformed Theology upheld the continental *Belgic Confession* (1561) and the *Heidelberg Catechism* (1564) and subsequently influenced the later British *Westminster Standards* (1647), the *Savoy Declaration* (1658) and the *1689 Baptist Confession*, and is the basis of all modern Calvinism.

The chief Calvinist points summarised in the acronym TULIP are:

- **Total Depravity.** [Man is dead in sins and unable to do good.] See later texts.
- **Unconditional Election.** [God chooses from eternity those who will be saved.] 'You did not choose Me, but I chose you' (Jn 15:16).
- **Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption).** [Jesus only dies for those who are elect; he does not die for all men.] 'The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep', (Jn 10:11).
- **Irresistible Grace.** [The word of the Gospel is empowered by the Holy Spirit to draw and regenerate the elect and effectively call them.] 'He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit', (Titus 3:5).
- **Preservation of the saints.** [Those elect who are saved by the Gospel cannot fall away.] 'I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand', (Jn 10:28).

The chief emphasis of Arminianism is a synergism between man and God in salvation; the sinner co-operates with God in salvation and in fact initiates the process. In other words, the human will is the main factor in initiating salvation; thus Arminianism is also called 'Decisionism'. It is man-centred theology.

Although the Remonstrants were a minority in the Netherlands the influence of these doctrines grew and were adopted in England under Archbishop Laud [1573-1645] (who tried to bring back Romanism), the General Baptists, and John Wesley's [1703-1791] Methodists. Today Arminianism is probably the majority Christian position.

The chief point of Calvinism, the true faith, is that God is God. God is sovereign in salvation. Grace is sovereign. Salvation belongs to God. Man is powerless to save himself and must rely upon the grace of God.

Thus the argument is whether salvation centres on man or God. Most of the current white-pilled 'Christians' have a man-centred focus where good works trigger salvation.

Pelagianism

Arminianism is a form of Semi-Pelagianism in that man co-operates with God in salvation. Man initiates salvation and then gets grace. Full-blown Pelagianism is worse in that it needs no grace.

Pelagius [c.360–c.420] was a British Celtic monk who initiated a great controversy that led to Augustine of Hippo contending with him over the Doctrines of Grace. He particularly denied the doctrines of original sin (Total Depravity) and predestination (including unconditional election), defending innate human goodness and free will. His beliefs were condemned as heretical by the Synod of Carthage in about 418.

His chief point was that if God demanded righteous living then man must be able to be righteous innately. Man can fulfil God's law unaided by God. In this theology Christ becomes a mere example of goodness and love to mimic, rather than achieving justification for those with faith.

His teaching can be summarised as follows:

- Human nature was not ruined by the Fall; man is not inclined towards sin.
- Man has a natural ability to do good.
- Sin is separate aspects of the will; there is no sinful disposition caused by the old, Adamic nature.
- Pelagianism does not include the Doctrines of Grace or the sovereignty of God.
- There is no redemption by Christ.
- Man's free will is sufficient to obey God's law and be righteous.

In short, Pelagianism is salvation by man without God's grace. It is not Christianity.

Note the following:

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. Jer 13:23

The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD. ... The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD. Prov 10:9, 26

The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. Prov 15:29

For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practised deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Rm 3:9-18

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. 1 Cor 6:9

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph 2:1-3

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 Jn 1:8

The man in sin without grace is under the dominion of sin, cannot change his position and does not seek after God. No sinner can make themselves righteous before God. They can do no good, not even pray properly or have faith. This is why God must intervene and give grace to those he chooses.

Confusion about the Person of Christ

There are various errors upheld in this matter; most of which harp back to ancient heresies.

Arianism

Arianism is the unorthodox teaching of Arius [250–336], a Libyan priest living in Alexandria. His essential error was that Jesus Christ was not divine, was not God in the flesh. God the Father alone is eternal and made his Son to be the first creature.

The truth is that the Son is of the same substance as the Father (*homoousion*) not merely of a similar substance (*homoiousion*). Thus the Nicene Creed states that Jesus is, ‘*Son of God, light of light, very God of very God, being of one substance with the Father*’.

In 325 the Council of Nicaea excommunicated and banished Arius. However, another condemnation was issued at Constantinople in 381 to settle continuing debate.

Arianism, being simpler to understand than orthodoxy was accepted by many barbarian tribes, such as the Germanic (notably Goth) invaders of the empire. It continued to spread throughout Western Europe and persisted in this form until the 8th century. However, it became incipient in other later unorthodox sects.

Because the doctrine of the Trinity, and particularly the two natures of Christ, is fathomless and requires faith, it became a contentious issue for centuries resulting in multiple heresies that necessitated a number of ecumenical church councils to arbitrate on. That is why it still raises its head today amongst unorthodox groups.

Adoptionism

This is the doctrine that Christ was not the Son of God and divine but was a mere man. By God’s decree he was born of a virgin and given supernatural powers at baptism. Due to his righteous living he was resurrected from death and then adopted into the Godhead.

Anthroposophy / Apollinarianism

Terry Broadhead (see Delingpod 242) gives a more complex and mystical account of the Person of Christ that is somewhat confused. This emphasises Jesus as the divine *Logos* but gives an unbiblical explanation as to what this means. The emphasis is that Jesus is a man who, with the Logos, reveals the way for men to escape materialism. In some ways this is reminiscent of Apollinarianism which affirmed that Jesus had a true human body and a normal soul but the eternal Son (or Logos) took the place of a human spirit.

The truth

The Second Person of the Trinity is eternally generated by the Father (not created) and is equal with him. He has two natures in one Person: a human nature and his divine nature (Logos). These are not mixed or confused but are united within one Person.

Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit without the action of man and without sin. From his virgin mother he gained his human nature. During his life on Earth (the incarnation) he hid his divine glory behind the veil of his flesh (he did not abandon it).

The Trinity was not changed by the incarnation; there are still three Persons. The divine nature of Christ did not unite with a human person but a human nature.

The Son had to become a genuine man in order to achieve the work of salvation. In order to die for sin he had to be a man and take the weight of the elect's sin upon himself. However, because he is also God, and therefore infinite in his divine nature, his death was able to atone for millions of people.

Church Standards

Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect? A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,(1) who, being the eternal Son of God, became man,(2) and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.(3)
(1)1 Tim. 2:5,6. (2)John 1:14; Gal. 4:4. (3)Rom. 9:5; Luke 1:35; Col. 2:9; Heb. 7:24,25.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q21.

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature,(1) with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin;(2) being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance.(3) So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion.(4) Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.(5) (1)John 1:1,14; 1 John 5:20; Phil. 2:6; Gal. 4:4. (2)Heb. 2:14,16,17; Heb. 4:15. (3)Luke 1:27,31,35; Gal. 4:4. (4)Luke 1:35; Col. 2:9; Rom. 9:5; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Tim. 3:16. - (5)Rom. 1:3,4; 1 Tim. 2:5.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 8.2.

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only begotten Son of God,¹² begotten from eternity, not made nor created (for then he should be a creature),

¹² Matthew 17:5, While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. John 1:14,18, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Romans 1:4, And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Galatians 4:4, But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,

but co-essential and co-eternal with the Father, the express image of his person, and the brightness of his glory, equal unto him in all things.¹³ He is the Son of God, not only from the time that he assumed our nature, but from all eternity,¹⁴ as these testimonies, when compared together, teach us. Moses saith, that God created the world;¹⁵ and John saith, that all things were made by that Word, which he calleth God.¹⁶ And the apostle saith, that God make the worlds by his Son;¹⁷ likewise, that God created all things by Jesus Christ.¹⁸ Therefore it must needs follow, that he, who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ, did exist at that time, when all things were created by him. Therefore the prophet Micah saith, *His goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* (Micah 5:2) And the apostle: *He hath neither beginning of days, nor end of life.* (Hebrews 7:3) He therefore is that true, eternal, and almighty God, whom we invoke, worship and serve.

See *Heidelberg Catechism*: Question 18; Question 33.

See *Canons*: Head II Article 1; Article 2; Article 3; Article 4.

The Belgic Confession, Article 10: That Jesus Christ is true and eternal God.

The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being true and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of the same substance and equal with Him; - Who made the world, and Who upholds and governs all things which He has made, - did, when the fullness of time had come, take upon Himself man's nature, with all its essential properties and common infirmities, with the exception of sin. - He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her and the power of the Most High overshadowing her, so that He was born to a woman from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of Abraham and David, in accordance with the Scriptures. - Thus two whole, perfect and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion; - So that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, yet He is one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

Baptist Confession of Faith, 1689; 8. Christ the Mediator.

The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was

made under the law. Hebrews 1:2, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

13 John 5:18,23, Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God... That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Romans 9:5, Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. Philippians 2:6, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Colossians 1:15, Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. Titus 2:13, ... The glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

14 John 8:58, Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. John 17:5, And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

15 Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

16 John 1:1-3, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

17 Hebrews 1:2, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

18 1 Corinthians 8:6, But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Colossians 1:16, For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile His Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

The 39 Articles, Art. II, Of the Word, or Son of God, which was made very man.

Historical errors about the Person of Christ

These tend to reappear throughout history in aberrant groups from time to time.

- **EUTYCHIANISM:** A monophysitist heresy. The human nature was swallowed up by the divine to create a third compound nature (called: *tertium quid*). Denies the distinction of natures in Christ by denying the humanity of Christ.
- **NESTORIANISM:** Christ is two persons (Dyophysite). The human being is controlled by the divine. The Logos indwelt Jesus making Christ a God-bearer rather than a God-man; a man accompanied by the Logos.
- **APOLLINARIANISM:** Christ is divine and has no human nature. Jesus had a 'one sole nature'. In place of Jesus' human nature / spirit was the divine logos.
- **MODALISM** (Modal Monarchianism / Sabellianism / Patripassianism): God is one in nature and person but this one God reveals himself in three ways (or modes).
- **MONOPHYSITISM:** Developed from Eutychianism. Christ had one nature. Emphasised the divine nature of Christ, which was clad in flesh. Denies Christ's human nature.
- **DYNAMIC MONARCHIANISM (ADOPTIONISM):** Jesus became Christ at his baptism (or with certain writers, at his birth), and was adopted by the Father after his death, his humanity deified.
- **ARIANISM:** Christ was the first and highest created being.

In simplified terms:

- **MONARCHIANISM ERRORS:** (God reigns): Adoptionism – the man Jesus becomes Christ and is adopted into the Godhead. Modalism: the one God reveals himself in three modes.
- **MONOPHYSITE ERRORS:** Christ has one nature; a divine nature clad in flesh. Eutychianism – Christ has one composite nature; the divine nature swallows the human nature to create a third nature. Apollinarianism – Christ is divine; in the place of the human spirit was the Logos.
- **DYOPHYSITE ERRORS:** NESTORIANISM - Christ is two persons; a man accompanied by the Logos.
- **ARIANISM:** Christ is a primary created being.

Or

- **OVER-EMPHASISED HUMANITY:** Arianism, Nestorianism, Adoptionism.
- **OVER-EMPHASISED DIVINITY:** Modalism, Monophysitism, Eutychianism, Apollinarianism.

Acceptance of Anglicanism

Perhaps I should say modified acceptance. Most of the new 'Christians' appear to support the Church of England in a wistful way while denigrating its current leadership and forlorn politicised state. The current status of the Anglican Church is certainly to be castigated but the idea that its demise is only recent Wokeness is a mistake. The Church of England has never been a pure church, even in the days of the Puritans, and it has been in full-blown apostasy for at least 100 years.

Even in the days of very good bishops, such as JC Ryle [1816-1900], the church was far from being Biblical. I will note just a few problems:

- Its hierarchical structure is utterly unbiblical.
- Its leadership positions are all unbiblical; every one. The archbishop is an unbiblical position that is akin to the pope. Even the notion of a local vicar is unscriptural; there is no vicar [substitute, mediator] between Christ and his people. The very notion of priests is heretical.
- It centres on a building made of stone; this is unbiblical. The church is the people of God.
- Many of its doctrines are heretical in the extreme. One bishop proclaimed that God is dead.
- It teaches practical unbiblical doctrines, such as female leaders or homosexual leaders.
- It teaches consubstantiation; i.e. Christ is actually present over the bread and wine.
- Its worship is liturgical based on the ideas of man, represented in a clergy / laity dichotomy (the 'frozen chosen') instead of mutual edification and open fellowship under the Holy Spirit.
- It ignores the Biblical leadership position of the local elder as the sole church leader. [The Anglican bishop (overseer, *episkope*) is nothing like a NT elder (*episkope*, *presbuteros*,¹⁹ *poimen*²⁰).]
- It centres on a formal sermon issued from a pulpit. This does not appear in the NT.²¹
- The church abandoned most of its founding articles of faith as expressed in the *Lambeth Articles*, *Irish Articles* or the *39 Articles*.
- It is now highly politicised and fully theologically liberal.

Taken together, the Church of England ceased to be any kind of witness to the NT *ekklesia* centuries ago; if it ever was. In the days of the Puritans, like John Owen [1616-1683] or Thomas Goodwin [1600-1680], it was far better than today but the Puritans were not satisfied that it was pure enough for good reason. There was a reason why John Owen formed house churches and why John Bunyan [1628-1688] was an independent.

The modern seeking-Christians favour Anglicanism due to sentimentality and the social tradition they were brought up in, based on a conservative, rural, parish church. These are not good reasons for favouring it.

The true Gospel

For the benefit of these would be Christians I will explain the essentials of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, by which we become Christians. This involves a basic understanding of the Doctrines of Grace and the Reformation Solas.

The Reformation Solas are simply:

- Sola Gratia Grace alone
- Sola Fide Faith alone
- Solus Christus Christ alone
- Sola scriptura Scripture alone
- Soli Deo gloria Glory to God alone

¹⁹ Elder.

²⁰ Pastor.

²¹ Teaching is an important ministry in the church and is usually delivered by an elder. This is in the context of fellowship where there is dialogue, discussion and questioning. The idea of elevating a man six-foot above contradiction is unbiblical.

Salvation is by grace, through faith, is in Christ alone, is based upon the word of God and is to the glory of God alone.

This emphasises that salvation is by God's grace, not human works or willpower and is centred upon the work of Christ. The testimony to this is the word of God in the Bible and nothing else.

The entrance into eternal life is by faith, but this faith is not something worked up by man; it is the gift of God to the elect (Eph 2:8).

When God touches a person he gives faith and repentance and the person responds and is converted.

So what does a person actually do?

The Bible explains that all who come to God will be accepted and saved.

Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. Isa 45:22

I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. Rev 21:6

And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:17

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. Isa 55:1

Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'. Jn 7:37-38

Thirst for God. Nothing is stopping you coming but sin. This is why only those drawn by God will actually come.

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. Jn 6:44

Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father. Jn 6:65

You must understand that you are dead in sins (Eph 2:1) and must have the grace of God to overcome that sin. Therefore, cry to God for mercy. Call out to him for grace. Pray for salvation.

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. Acts 2:21

Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. Rm 10:13

When God has touched you respond with faith, confession and repentance (turn from sin and follow Christ).

Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame'. Rm 10:9-11

What is important is that you meet with Christ and receive him. There must be a confession of your sin, telling God that you need forgiveness of that sin and meeting with Christ, confessing him as Lord and Saviour.

Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matt 11:28-29

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Jn 1:12-13

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. Jn 6:37

Those who seek salvation must be desperate for forgiveness. They must throw themselves upon the mercy of God and trust in him alone. When they have been confronted by God and have believed in Jesus and have repented of their sin, they must then follow Christ as a true disciple; abiding in him and obeying his commands.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. Jn 14:21

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. Jn 15:9-10

He who keeps His commandments abides in Him. 1 Jn 3:24

Practical advice upon conversion

- Pray daily. Commit yourself to God in the morning. Pray through the Lord's Prayer as a foundation template.
- Read the Bible daily. Prepare for prayer by reading Scripture.
- Give thanks to God often. Give thanks for meals. Worship God.
- Study what the Bible teaches. Get useful books to help you understand.²²
- Join an evangelical (Biblical Gospel teaching) church. Get fellowship with fellow believers.
- Commit yourself to doing good works.
- Wait for the return of Christ.

²² Check my website for lists of useful books.

Conclusion

I welcome the fact that switched on people are becoming more interested in Christianity. What is necessary is for these people to get access to good evangelical commentators to explain the truth about Biblical doctrine and wean them away for the multiple heresies being promulgated in this community.

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version
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