

## **What's Wrong with Ecumenicalism?**

Before we discuss this topic, we must define the term of ecumenicalism. This term also relates to ecumenical organizations, and the movement itself.

### ***Ecumenicalism Defined:***

Ecumenicalism is a religious movement that seeks to unite all Christians of various denominations together for mutual cooperation and ministry. The Greek word is "oikoumene", which means the whole inhabited earth, or the inhabitants of the earth. This term can and should be used in a Biblical way when it refers to evangelizing the inhabited earth or the inhabitants of the earth. The Early church had witnessed in such a way that when Paul wrote to the Believers in Rome, he said that the Gospel had gone to the ends of the oikoumene. (Romans 10:18). So there is some proper uses of the term that are Scriptural. The Greek word "oikoumene" is used 15 times in the KJB.

### **world, 14**

Mat 24:14, Luk 2:1, Luk 4:5, Act 11:28, Act 17:6, Act 17:31, Act 19:27, Act 24:5, Rom 10:18, Heb 1:6, Heb 2:5, Rev 3:10, Rev 12:9, Rev 16:14

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Luk 21:26

## The Danger of Modern Ecumenicalism

Modern ecumenicalism seeks to combine churches and Christians of all faiths into visible unity and concerted Christian efforts. Some claim that this is what Jesus prayed in John 17:22 which says, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:" However, modern ecumenicalism ignores the warnings of maintaining doctrinal purity. Christians should and must maintain a purity of the Gospel. The Bible says in Galatians 1:9-10, "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

The Bible declares that any man preaching a different Gospel than the Biblical Gospel Truth, let him be accursed, not yoke up with them, but to stand against it. Paul went on to say, "do I seek to please men?". At the heart of ecumenicalism is the bringing together of men in unity, ignoring differences in doctrinal, Scriptural Truth. This movement pleases men, but it doesn't please God. Paul was amazed (surprised and saddened) at the Believers in these churches of Galatia (1:6) that they had stepped away from the Gospel Truth to a perverted Gospel (V7). The word pervert, means to distort or turn from its proper use to something similar but different, or to be corrupted.

The Ecumenical movement today, perverts the Gospel message because various beliefs about the Gospel are allowed. It ends up being a mixture of truth and error in this movement, thus perverted in truth. Furthermore, 2 Peter 2:-2 says, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Notice false teachers are not always obvious. Peter uses the word privily. Nothing could better express the usual way in which error is introduced. It is "by the side," or "along with," other doctrines which are true. This again is a mark of the ecumenical movement. While they maintain good intentions, beliefs are mixed; some correct and some in error. This is the way in which damnable heresies are brought into the church. Jude 1:3 reminds us that we are to earnestly contend for the faith. We as Believers and the local church must take doctrinal purity seriously and not give an opening to error in any way. In fact we should even avoid the appearance of giving approval to false doctrine and in no way should it appear that we identify with or approve of a mixture of error in our beliefs.

## **Last Days Warning**

The prevailing philosophy of the last days desires that all professing religions join together in unity regardless of doctrinal integrity.

The ultimate goal of the ecumenical movement will be to bring all religious groups together into one worldwide group, if not in organizational unity, at least in sympathy of the movement. In their words, we may not all be Catholics or Methodists, Muslim or Lutherans, etc., but we all still worship the same God; but we do it in 'our own way'; so naturally, because we are sincere about our love & worship, we can be sure God DOES hear us because God is love & if we love each other, then certainly God must love us. Make no mistake, the Ecumenical movement is a concerted worldwide movement to bring together all religions regardless of beliefs into unity. At the top of this movement is the World Council of Churches. Below this on a more national level is interdominational organizations and parachurch organizations. Examples include Campus Crusade for Christ, World Evangelical Fellowship, etc. Even at the local church level there are churches that seek to unite churches of every denomination.

## **Results of Ecumenicalism**

Nobody lifts a voice against doctrinal differences in this movement. In Ecumenicalism, it is necessary to reduce Scriptural authority and Biblical Doctrine to opinions and preferences and for the sake of unity to ignore doctrinal differences. Any group, organization, or "church" that ignores Doctrine is NOT Biblical. The

results of this movement is confusion and it destroys the belief of absolute TRUTH and Biblical Authority. Truth is ignored and Biblical authority is ignored in this movement. Often the Ecumenical movement also ignores the Biblical role of the local church. The local church is the entity Christ established for the fulfillment of His Work, the church is the body of Christ. In Ecumenicalism, the church is often downplayed, ignored and the “work” done through ecumenicalism is often outside of the local church. This in turn can and does cause division and a counterfeit to the fulfillment of the Commission that is to be done through the local church.

Furthermore, Ecumenicalism downplays doctrinal purity, and Biblical separation. The Bible teaching of separation forbids God's people from fellowshiping with error (Romans 16:17-18; II Corinthians 6:14-18; 11:1-4; Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:14-15; 5:11; Philippians 3:1-2; Colossians 2:8; II Thessalonians 3:6; I Timothy 1:3; 6:3-5; 6:20-21; II Timothy 2:16-21; 3:5,13; Titus 1:10-14; 3:9-11; II Peter 2:1-3; 3:17; 2 John 7-11; Jude 3; Revelation 2:2,6,14-16,20-23; 18:4).

We know that if we are to worship God, we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Worship that ignores truth is NOT worship. Also, Jesus warned several of the churches in Revelation of allowing false teachers in the church. The Lord rebuked them in every case and threatened consequences. To ponder if ecumenicalism is right, look at what ecumenicalism leads too; Religious pluralism. Ecumenicalism on a broader scale seeks to bring together various religions and beliefs. The conclusion of this is that the Bible is not the sole source of Truth, that truths exist in other religions, that different beliefs about Christ are equally valid. Make no mistake, in ecumenicalism it starts out as a toleration for others different beliefs and then leads to acceptance of different beliefs, thus Truth is discarded. This also gives rise to the philosophy that all religions are in some way united and the same in essence. Biblically this is heresy in classic form.

### **What About Unity?**

Christians are called to unity, but not at all costs. Doctrine is paramount, especially when it concerns the person and work of Christ. Modern ecumenical efforts are often all too ready to part with biblical teachings, and do not discuss or make issue of doctrine. Therefore, we must take care when evaluating potential partnerships. If other churches are of “like faith” and if unity can be had without compromising fundamental Biblical beliefs, then unity can and should be pursued. However, if doctrinal differences exist, separation should be the rule.

The philosophy of ecumenicalism is very prominent in our society today. We must take heed to our doctrine and earnestly contend for the faith. The philosophy of unity without regard to Truth will get worse and worse until our Lord returns.

The ecumenical movement is addressed in the Statement of Faith of our church, because of the danger and deception of this philosophy and movement.

**“The Ecumenical Movement:** This movement is the attempt to unite in cooperation the unity of all believers of different faiths. We believe this movement contradicts true unity of believers according to the Bible based on sound doctrine. We reject all cooperation with this movement. (i.e. The World Council of Churches, freemasons, Promise Keepers) (Romans 16:17; Galatians 1:6-8; 1Timothy 1:3, 6:3-5)”

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