

God Hates Religion (part 2 of 4)

By Jim Fowler, contributing writer

Absolutism

God is absolute. All other absolutes are derived from His absolute character. But when any man, or grouping of men, think that they have determined the absolutes of God absolutely, and set about to impose them absolutely on others, then you have the absolutism of religion.

It is the natural propensity of man to want to get everything figured out. We have a "lust for certainty." We want everything to be "cut-and-dried," black and white, right and wrong, with no loose ends. We do not like paradox, antinomy, or dialectic.

Most men cannot accept that the Infinite God is bigger than their finite ability to understand. So we set about to reduce God to fit within our rationalistic and intellectual reasoning. We reduce God to fit within our mental "box," then we nail it shut, construct our creed, and absolutely affirm that we have God figured out. We have reduced God to no bigger than our cranial cavity.

Religion advocates the absolutism of a particular belief system. We formulate our doctrine (our theology) and demand that others affirm it absolutely as we do, with no variation - no freedom of thought or opinion and no doubt (for doubt would indicate that one does not believe it absolutely.)

Such absolutism is the basis of "fundamentalism." Fundamentalism is a religious idolatry that tends to worship a particular formulation of fixed fundamentals of faith. These fundamentals usually include both the detailed doctrines of a belief system, as well as the meticulously prescribed behavior patterns of an ethical system.

Religion employs the absolutism of a particular and prescribed moral law, a closed system of ethics. These behavioral laws (judicial, theological, or sociological) are comprised of do's and don'ts, thou shalt and thou shalt nots, rules and regulations, and codes of conduct. They are legalistically applied with rigid inflexibility and with perfectionistic expectations of absolute obedience.

Such absolutism in belief and behavior leads to the absolutism of exclusivism: "We are absolutely the only ones who have found truth; Ours is absolutely the only way." Thus, religion begins to employ the rejective "tests of fellowship" which demand acceptance of their belief system and conformity to their behavior patterns, or else they will disallow you to be a part of their socialistic group identity. They disallow individualism and freedom of thought. Identity is found in the whole. Any deviations are met with condemnatory judgmentalism and guilt manipulation unto conformity. Severe forms of corrective social "discipline" are employed to keep people "in line," subscribing to the absolutism. Threats of excommunication from the authorities in charge are used to create absolute conformity and absolute obedience.

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