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Ecumenism

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Ideas Have Consequences. Let Us Spread The Christian WorldView!

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Ecumenism: An Introduction

Ecumenism is a relatively new word, but is a very ancient idea. The word comes from a Greek word (oikoumene) that refers to the entire inhabited world. When it used in English, it refers to the idea that the whole world, its peoples, religions, cultures and philosophies should be brought under a one-world umbrella.

However, this is easier said than done because most people are staunchly committed to their variety of religion, philosophy, or cult. They consider all the other religions, sects, and cults as false and full of error. Thus anyone who suggests that all ways of thinking should be brought under the same umbrella is bound to face hostile opposition.

Therefore almost all movements that aim at any sort of united setup usually present themselves in a camouflaged manner. Christian Ecumenism is a good example of this hide and seek.

The ultimate aim of Christian Ecumenism is to create a one-world all-embracing religion under a single one-religion priesthood. However, since such a concept is anathema to people of every religion, and more so for Christians, Christian Ecumenism presents itself as a movement that aims to make different denominations more friendly and accommodating towards each other. However, their ultimate aim is far different, and it is obvious to any person who cares to read what Christian Ecumenists write in their specialized magazines and journals.

History Of Ecumenism: The attempt at bringing a one-world religion was made for the first time by Nimrod, the towering figure in the Babel story of Genesis. About him we read in Genesis 10:

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city. 13 And Mizraim begat Ludim, and



Figure 1: Uniting all religions into a One World Religion is the ultimate goal of Ecumenism

Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, 14 And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.

He was the founder of the kingdom of Babel, and it became a mighty city. Even today many larger towers can be seen in ruins, excavated by archeologists. It is out of this massive city-culture and building activity that the tower of Babel came. The tower was man's first attempt at unification. What is more, it was a unification against God and that is why God scattered them throughout the world.



BABYLONIAN GODDESS SEMIRAMIS AND GOD-INCARNATE SON



INDIAN GODDESS OEVKA AND INFANT KRISHNA



INDIAN GODDESS ISI AND INFANT ISWARA



EGYPTIAN GODDESS ISIS AND SON HORUS



ROMAN CATHOLIC MARY AND GOD-INCARNATE JESUS



GODDESS DIANA OF EPHEBUS

Memory of Semiremis and the Son-God manifests in all world-religions as the mother-son duo and the above picture depicts some examples of this

History has brought in a good amount of information about Nimrod and his religious activities. We learn from history that he married his own mother Semiremis and that together the Mother/Wife-Son/Husband team ruled over the people for a long time. They introduced numerous religious practices, some most abominable, that have survived even into the twenty-first century. Since they were able to rule practically over the whole inhabited world, and since this whole world had this one-world religion, this religion went with them all over the world at the dispersion at the Tower of Babel. As a result, one can find many common threads among peoples and religions of the world.

God did not allow this attempt at unification of rule and religion, but man's attempt to do so did not die with that. Numerous one-world accommodationist and inclusivists religions have been invented in the last 4000 or so many years, but none of them was able to catch the fancy of people because they tried to unite people of all religions. Obviously, people within each religious group dislike the idea of uniting with people of other religions. Many one-world one-religion visionaries understood this problem in recent centuries and focused their energies on ecumenism only within individual religions. However, at the back of this they had a subtle game-plan.

The plan was to weaken the resistance to unity by first encouraging the unity and unification of only one's own group instead of speaking about the unification of all groups. They reckoned that most people would not resist unity within their own groups. They also reckoned that such moves for unity would prepare their minds to a wider unity later. This is the background behind the Christian Ecumenism that we see today.

Modern Ecumenism: The modern Christian Ecumenism was started by Nicolaus Ludwig a Moravian Church thinker in the 18th century. He wanted to unite all churches into one "Church of God".



"Nimrod shed innocent blood and Rebelled against Jehovah God."

Figure 2: Pictures of men from the time of Nimrod

In 1800s many organizations such as Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the World Student Christian Federation spread the concept of unity and prepared young minds towards Ecumenical thinking. In 1910 there was a massive World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh that finally opened the way for a formal Christian Ecumenism. World Missions Conference was the largest Protestant gathering ever, and the need to unit was repeatedly stressed by speaker after speaker.



Figure 3: Nicolaus Ludwig, Count von Zinzendorf, (1700–1760) the father of Christian Ecumenism

A good number of evangelical and conservative Christians sensed the danger of Ecumenism and opposed it, but the two worldwars created an atmosphere of gloom in which the idea of Church Unity found a warm welcome. The World Council of Churches was formed in 1948 for this purpose and they in turn encouraged the formation of National Council of Churches in individual countries worldwide.

WCC had huge reserves of funds right from the beginning, and they used it to establish Ecumenical organizations, magazines, and professional societies worldwide. They gave liberal funding and scholarships to influential people who would campaign for ecumenism in their own countries. Thus the influence of ecumenism kept increasing continually. Eventually, churches that were totally opposed to each other such as Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox, Mar Thoma, etc started joining hands. Priests from these churches were encouraged to extend the hand of friendship with the leadership of Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren, and other churches that have kept away from Ecumenism. This has resulted in an increasing presence of priests from these churches in the spiritual programs organized by the New Testament pattern churches. The attitude that “we all are one” has been growing as a result of this.

Doctrinal Stand Of Modern Ecumenism: The majority of WCC member churches deny one or more of the fundamental doctrines. For example:

- They deny the infallibility and the divine inspiration of the Bible. They teach that the Bible is merely a work of human authors, many of whom made considerable alterations in the biblical books that existed at their time.
- They deny the inerrancy of the Bible, and claim that the Bible is full of scientific and historical errors.
- They deny the doctrine of Creation, Eden, Sin, and Fall, and label the first eleven chapters of the Bible as a myth penned by human authors.

- They scorn at the idea of justification by faith.
- They deny the doctrine of Trinity.
- They deny the Virgin Birth of Christ, and many of them deny that Jesus is God.
- They deny the second coming of Christ.
- They consider evangelism as a serious crime against society, and claim that Christians need to accommodate to Pluralism, Inclusivism, and Universalism.



Ecumenism Demands that churches abandon their unique doctrinal stand. In essence this has meant that churches should increasingly become Roman Catholic in their doctrines.

[Picture: <http://www.patriarchate.org/>]

Influence Of Ecumenical Thinkers On New Testament Pattern Churches: When good and bad food are mixed with each other, it is always the good food that loses the race. When truth and error are mixed, it is always truth that is lost. This is very much obvious in the Christian community as a result of Ecumenism. Consider the following points.

- Ecumenist groups are gradually taking over theological education among the Protestants. They then force students from Bible-believing churches to toe their radical theological line if they want to get a degree.
- Numerous God-fearing students who enrolled in Ecumenical seminaries in the last 3 decades returned to their churches as totally radical, godless, and skeptics about the Bible. In turn they are now converting their followers in these Bible believing churches into radicals and rebels.

- As a result one can see articles and books among us that question Canonicity, Trinity, and inspiration of biblical books.
- Messages from our pulpits increasingly question the uniqueness of the Bible, its Canonicity and inspiration.
- Separation has become anathema to many. Since topics like believers baptism, tongues, security of salvation, justification by faith etc. create hindrance in fellowship between churches, most believers prefer to remain silent on these topics. Interestingly, the Ecumenical churches do not remain silent for the sake of New Testament pattern churches, but rather the compromise takes place the other way round.
- More and more New Testament pattern Bible schools and seminaries seek the endorsement of theologically radical accrediting agencies because the “approval” of the radicals is considered something highly desirable.
- New Testament distinctives are being ignored and suppressed from the pulpits, so that a generation that does not know fundamental truths is growing in New Testament pattern, Bible-believing, churches.

Visible Results Of Ecumenism: Within a few decades, the Ecumenical movement has been very successful in attaining its goals. Consider the following examples.

- Bible Societies worldwide were formed to print the unadulterated Bible with 66 Canonical books. However, now most of them have started printing the Bible with non canonical apocrypha books added.
- Ecumenical churches worldwide have welcomed pagan religious rituals into the church. Thus demonic invocations, pagan worship songs/prayers/chants etc are increasingly used in churches.
- Organizations are coming up that promote the mingling of the Christian faith with non Christian religions. A good example is the Christava Vedanta Veda in India. This organization tries to integrate the Vedanta Philosophy with Christian theology. This was seen in one of the Christava Vedanta Veda meetings held at Bible Society of India, Kottayam branch (India) where before this meeting the Christian priest there made the audience chant a Hindu worship song.



Figure 4: The Hindu god Prajapati was promoted as Christ by Christava Vedanta Veda

- An increasing number of Christians are now reluctant to share the gospel with non Christians, lest they be offended.

The Ultimate Goal Of Ecumenism: Most Christians love to have some kind of a unity among the churches, and therefore they jump with joy at the mention of ecumenism. However, the ultimate aim of ecumenism is NOT unity among Christians. We should know the following things



Figure 5: A Unity Necklace!

- The ultimate aim of ecumenism is to bring in a one-world religion with one head, one name.
- This is the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy that eventually the revived Mystery Babylon will rule the world.
- Since people of any religion never accept union and unity with people of other religion, the first step is to unite groups within one religion. This both unites them under a head, and also prepares them for uniting with people of other religions.
- The ultimate aim of Christian Ecumenism is to bring the whole of Christendom under the control of the Pope, and the Roman Catholic church has asserted this on hundreds of occasions.
- Meanwhile the Roman Catholic church is in dialogue with Muslims and other world religions for some kind of a mutual fellowship which, they hope, will pave the way for a one-world religion.
- Thus the ultimate aim of Ecumenism is to bring in a one-world religion or a one-world religious unity under a single leader. This, obviously, would only help the one-world religion of the Anti Christ as prophesied in the Bible.

Doctrinal Errors Of Ecumenism: God does not want His children to mingle right with wrong, and apostate with the committed. However, the Ecumenical Movement is founded upon totally erroneous and apostate grounds and we need to understand it from the Scripture itself.

- The Ecumenical Movement does not call upon those who embrace error and heresy to abandon it to come to the right path for mutual fellowship. On the contrary, they invite Bible-believing Christians to abandon the fundamentals of faith to enter into mutual fellowship with those who embrace error. However, the Faith that has been entrusted to us is to be fought for, and not to be compromised with. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me

to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). If anything declared as “essential” by the Scripture is to be discarded for unity, then it is both false unity as well as anti Christian unity.

- The Bible clearly instructs that God’s children are not to join hand with false teachers and heretics. Jesus warned about them during His earthly ministry (Mat. 7:15-17) as well as in His messages to the seven churches following His resurrection and ascension (Rev. 2:2, 6, 14-16, 20-23). The Scripture is full of warning about False teachers (1 Corinthians 15:12; 2 Cor. 11:1-4, 12-15; Galatians 1:6-9; 5:7-12; Philippians 3:17-21; Colossians 2:4-8, 20-23; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:5-13; 4:3-4; 1 John 2:18-27; 4:1-3; Jude 3-19). Since the Ecumenical movement has been initiated, pioneered, nurtured, and developed by false teachers who deny the inspiration and infallibility of the bible, and since the majority of them deny fundamental doctrines such as Trinity and the vicarious death of Christ, it is against the explicit commands of the Scripture NOT to join hands with them.
- While on one side the Bible asks God’s children not to join hands with those who teach and practice error, it also instructs on the other hand to separate from error. We see this in many places. “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17). Since Ecumenism demands that those who teach the truth should integrate themselves with those who teach and practice error, and since they also maintain that it is those who teach the truth who have to abandon their doctrinal stand, the Biblical instruction is to totally separate from this kind of people, movements, and organizations.
- Instead of Jesus Christ who is the true head of the Church, the Ecumenical movement demands that the church submit to the authority of human leaders. Worse, the ultimate demand is that all churches submit to the Roman Pope as the head of the unified church. This is totally contrary to the Scripture. In that sense, Ecumenism is moving towards becoming the Mystery Babylon, the Mother of all harlots.



Summary: Unity is always good, but unity at the cost of truth or unity that is contrary to the clear principles of the Scripture is evil. Unfortunately, Ecumenism is a type of unity that demands that God’s children abandon truth. It is also a unity created by abandoning the fundamental principles of the Scripture. What is more, the ultimate purpose of Christian Ecumenism is not unity among Christians, but rather to bring all “Christians” sects under the control of the Roman Catholic church and the Pope. Thus Ecumenism is not for God’s children.

About The Authors



Dr. Johnson C. Philip and Dr. Saneesh Cherian have been co-workers since 1995. Together they have authored dozens of books, ebooks, and thousands of articles. Their main commitment is to defend the faith and doctrine that was once delivered to New Testament believers.

Dr. Philip is based in Kochi, India and Dr. Cherian is based in Maneed, a rural township about 30 kilometers from Kochi. Almost all their writings are available free, and these are being uploaded at <http://FreeEbooks.ltz4u.com> from where you can download them totally free.

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