

Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God? Noah W. Hutchings

While the title of this article may be offensive to most Christians, thousands, if not millions, of church members are converting to the new religion of Chrislam. Much of the impetus behind this apostasy is that our president has evidently made a special effort to entertain Muslim leaders at the White House, observed Ramadan, and has been shown on national television bowing to the king of Saudi Arabia. The president's many accommodations to Islam have prompted Col. Steve Bauer, special White House aide under five presidents, to conclude that "we have a Muslim in the White House."

The principle prophet of Islam was Mohammed, a cut-throat leader of a band of Arab tribesmen who robbed, pillaged, and raped without number the caravans and villages of the Middle East. In the seventh century, Mohammed also pillaged and destroyed hundreds of Byzantine churches, killing untold thousands of Christians in the process. Many of the magnificent churches in Turkey are still Islamic mosques. Without the victory of the French army at the Battle of Tours under the leadership of Charles Martel, all Europe would be Islamic today. Even so, Islam is again advancing in Europe today through birth multiplication.

Sir Winston Church said of the religion of Islam:

How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live.

A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity. The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong

to some man as his absolute property—either as a child, a wife, or a concubine—must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men.

Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith.

While Muslims and Christians worship only one God, the differences are poles apart. The words in Arabic on the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem state: "Allah [god] has no son." Also, the moral standards and social ethics of the two religions are entirely different. Those who try to incorporate the worship of Allah into Christian doctrines and worship can no longer be considered "Christian," yet many churches, including even some entire denominations, are becoming members of the Chrislam camp. We reference Chaplain Austin Miles' article entitled "Presbyterians Boost New Chrislam Religion!":

The off-base Emerging Church is encouraging pastors to embrace an ecumenical concept of combining Christianity and Islam, actually partnering with Islam, to launch a new religion called . . . Chrislam—which would combine the two. So far, they have managed to gather 130 Christian leaders who collectively state that Muslims and Christians worship the same God. No they do not! Allah was the Arabic name for a higher power, or a god. Mohammed's god was Allilah, the moon god which conveniently became the generic name for a god, Allah. This is why a crescent moon and star is on the flag of Islam and mosques. Let this be clear. . . .

Brian McLaren, the leader of the Emerging Church movement, wrote on his five-part blog entry why Christians

should join with Muslims in the Ramadan fast. As to be expected, another leader in that Emerging Church movement is Dr. Tony Campolo. Campolo says he is not convinced that Jesus lives only in Christians. In his distorted view, an Islamic “brother” who has fed the hungry and clothed the naked clearly has a personal relationship with Christ, only he doesn’t know it. How’s that again? . . .

These preachers who have jumped on the bandwagon have the misguided notion that the church must adapt to a changing society. THIS IS FALSE. The church was never called to adapt to society but to encourage society to adapt to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The problem in all of this lies in those who presumed themselves to be spiritual leaders and chose the ministry as a career rather than being CALLED to the ministry. . . .

The Sunday, February 26, 2012, edition of the *Orange County Register*, page 8, carried a lengthy religious item headlined “Rick Warren Builds Bridge to Muslims.” The opening paragraph to the article is as follows:

The Rev. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest and one of America’s most influential Christian leaders, has embarked on an effort to heal divisions between evangelical Christians and Muslims by partnering with Southern California mosques and proposing a set of theological principles that include the acknowledgement that Christians and Muslims worship the same god.

Within the article, Dr. Warren is referenced as saying that he still believes that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and that there is no other Name under Heaven whereby we must be saved. Right off the bat we have a conflict, because the basic and fundamental Muslim belief in Allah, their Babylonian moon god, is that it is blasphemy to say that god could have a son. The Muslim religion also states that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross; someone else took His place. In the Koran, Jesus is cast in the role of a minor prophet, and even though He will come back, He will come as an aide to the Muslim Mahdi. After killing everyone who is not a Muslim, Jesus will kiss the feet of the Mahdi. This is what the Shiite branch of Islam believes, and I assume it is the same with the Sunni branch. But Dr. Warren does not explain exactly how Allah of Islam and the God of our Bible could be the same deity.

Dr. Warren recently spoke at the national convention of Southern Baptist pastors. His church, Saddleback, is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. Also, most Southern

Baptist churches have used his books relating to Purpose Driven doctrine as a basis for church study and worship. We could imagine a resulting firestorm that could be created with millions of Southern Baptist church members threatening to leave their churches. However, on Monday, March 5, Dr. Warren stated that he never said that Christians and Muslims worship the same God.

Dr. Warren was quoted, as I reported on page 135 of my book *The Dark Side of the Purpose Driven Church*, as saying:

We now have “purpose driven” churches in 122 countries. And if I were to ask every “purpose driven” church in America to raise their hand, it would shock America because we don’t tell them to change their label. On the front it says, “Lutheran, Second Methodist, Holy Power Episcopal, you name it; Four-Peas-in-the-Pod Four Square”—it’s got everything! Every name you can imagine. And we have Catholic “purpose driven” churches. . . .

And I don’t make any apology in saying to you that the “purpose driven” paradigm is the operating system of a 21[st] century church. I believe that because we now have 36,000 case studies, and it’s in every country.

And so it doesn’t demand that they change from being Lutheran or Methodist or Nazarene or Assembly of God or Baptist or whatever. I don’t really care what your *doctrine* is. What I care about is, do you have a process by which you bring people into membership, build them up to maturity, train them for ministry, send them out on a mission, for the glory of God?

—*Foundation Magazine*, Nov.–Dec. 2004

Dr. Warren was also quoted in the November 1, 2005, edition of *Time* as saying :

. . . What if in this 21st century we were able to network these churches providing the . . . manpower in local congregations. Let’s just take my religion by itself. Christianity . . . The church is bigger than any government in the world. Then you add in *Muslims*, you add in *Hindus*, you add in all the different religions, and you use those *houses of worship* as distribution centers, not just for spiritual care but health care. What could be done? . . .

So, it is understandable how the reporter for the *Orange County Register* could have been confused about Dr. Warren’s remarks relating to Christians and Muslims worshipping the same god. If so, he would not have been the first. We would not call Dr. Warren a liar, but he does seem to have a short memory.

According to the Unreasonable Faith blog, in October 2008 Dr. Warren, on “Larry King Live,” said about Proposition 8:

I am not an anti-gay or anti-gay marriage activist. I never have been. I never will be. During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never once even gave an endorsement in the two years Prop 8 was going.

But then on April 8, 2009, he reportedly said:

Let me just say this really clearly. We support Proposition 8. And if you believe what the Bible says about marriage, you need to support Proposition 8. . . . We should not let 2% of the population change the definition of marriage that has been supported by every single culture and religion for 5,000 years. This isn't a Christian issue, it's a humanitarian issue. . . . So I urge you to support Proposition 8 and pass that word on. I'm going to be sending out a note to pastors on what I believe about this, but everybody knows what I believe about it.

Also, Dr. Warren came back from a tour to Syria with his Islamic neighbor and claimed that he was misquoted by the Syrian press.

In 1980, I led a tour that included Syria. Our tour stopped at a high school in Homs. The children were delighted to see us and try out their English on the tour group. The month after we were in Syria, Assad sent his troops into the city and slaughtered 25,000.

We quote from an article by Joseph Farah, founder and CEO of World Net Daily, dated November 11, 2006:

For a long time I've held off criticizing mega-church leader Rick Warren, author of the best-selling *The Purpose Driven Life*, even though I have been sorely tempted.

When he joined up with now-disgraced National Association of Evangelicals leader Ted Haggard to suggest man-induced global warming represented an impending calamity, I didn't say too much. I questioned it, but I let it go.

When he joined Haggard again in writing an open letter to President Bush urging government action to fight global poverty, I didn't say a word—even though I thought it ironic. After all, it is the church's responsibility to help the poor. It is not government's responsibility.

But now that Rick Warren has traveled to and provided legitimacy to a hostile foreign government, presided over by a brutal fascist dictator who hates Jews, threatens Israel,

subverts neighboring Lebanon, imprisons and terrorizes its own citizens and even kills them in massive numbers when they stand up in revolt—now I have to denounce this impostor in the strongest terms possible.

It is my biblical mandate to do so. . . .

Here's what we know now.

The official press in the Syrian police state is suggesting Warren is taking sides with Syria against his own country with regard to issues in the Middle East. The reports indicate we can soon expect Warren, upon his return to the U.S., to lecture Americans about our abusive role in the region.

The Syrian newspaper *Umar Jaftali* quotes Warren as saying: “Washington is wrong not to hold dialogue with Syria, which wants peace. I call on the Americans to visit Syria and meet its beautiful people. I will tell the Americans that their idea about Syria does not reflect the truth.”

Here's what the Syrian Arab News Agency reported:

- “[The] American delegation stressed that the American administration is mistaken not to hold dialogue with Syria.”
- “Pastor Warren hailed the religious coexistence, tolerance and stability that the Syrian society is enjoying due to the wise leadership of President al-Assad, asserting that he will convey the true image about Syria to the American people.” . . .
- Warren was quoted as saying: “Syria wants peace, and Muslims and Christians live in this country jointly and peacefully since more than a thousand years, and this is not new for Syria.” . . .
- It was reported he told Syria's Islamic grand mufti that there could be no peace in the region without Syria and that 80 percent of Americans rejects what the U.S. administration is doing in Iraq.

- He praised Islamic-Christian coexistence in Syria.

If I were a betting man, I would wager that Warren will come home and allege he was widely misquoted. He probably was. I HOPE he was. But here's the problem: When you place yourself in the position of being used—and you ARE used—whose fault is it?

Mohammed, the founder of Islam, plundered, raped, robbed, destroyed hundreds of Byzantine churches, and killed thousands of Christians. Today Muslims are still killing Christians in Egypt and the entire Middle East.

Professor Douglas Groothuis, Ph.D., Denver Seminary, on the subject “Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God,” wrote:

... What are the teachings that each religion takes to be absolutely true? Although Islam and Christianity are both monotheistic, their views of God differ considerably. Islam denies that God is a Trinity—that one God eternally exists as three co-eternal and equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Islam also rejects that God became a man in Jesus Christ (John 1:1-18). These doctrines are cornerstones of Christianity. But God cannot be both a Trinity (Christian) and not a Trinity (Islam). This is matter of simple logic; it has nothing to do with religious intolerance or being “rigid.”

For Christianity, humans are corrupted by an inherited sinful nature that cannot be overcome by any human means (Ephesians 2:1-10). But Islam denies that humans have a deeply sinful human nature, claiming that we sin because we are merely weak and ignorant. Christianity teaches that salvation is secured only through faith in the achievements of Jesus Christ—his life, death, and resurrection (John 3:16-18). Islam, however, implores its followers to obey the laws of the Qur’an in the hopes that they will be found worthy of paradise. Since these two views contradict each other, both views cannot be true. . . .

Neither Christianity nor Islam can logically endorse the other religion’s distinctive claims and practices without denying its own.

Much more needs to be discussed concerning Muslim and Christian relations in a religiously pluralistic world. However, we must conclude that despite their common monotheism, Islam and Christianity have very different views of God, worship, and mission. Therefore, it is unreasonable to claim that they worship the same God. Although Islam and Christianity are both monotheistic, their views of God differ considerably.

Therefore, it would seem to me, as well as others in the ministry, that for Dr. Warren and his Muslim friends to worship the same god, then he must convert to Islam, or his Muslim friends must convert to Christianity by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This would seem to include the membership of Saddleback Church, and the membership of all Purpose Driven church memberships.

In 2005 I wrote *The Dark Side of the Purpose Driven Church*. Due to a request for a tract on the same subject, I wrote one: “Is Your Church Going Purpose Driven? How Can You Tell?”

In 2005 Dr. Warren said that he had trained over 400,000 pastors; recently he raised that number to over 600,000.

The training includes, of course, how to take over a church and change it from tradition worship to the Purpose Driven model.

Here at Southwest Radio Ministries we have helped many churches avert the PDC takeover. A deacon of one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in the convention called me and asked for my help, because the pastor was changing to a PDC format. He said they had my tract, “Is Your Church Going PDC?” I told him the church would have to get rid of the pastor, because he would not change. I told him to duplicate my tract, give it to every church member, and then schedule a meeting. The pastor wrote a thirteen-page rebuttal, put my tract on the cover, and stated: “The author of this tract is ignorant, un-Christian, and mentally ill.” But the church voted on a Wednesday night, and on Thursday the *Baptist Press* carried the headline “Pastor Cox Resigns.”

Those churches that have accepted the Chrislam apostasy that Christians and Muslims worship the same god should no longer be considered a Christian church. The jury is still out on Dr. Warren’s ecumenical efforts. A special publication by Appraising Ministries (3/2/12) does seem to indicate that ecumenical meetings with Muslims at Saddleback do seem to teach that Muslims and Christians worship the same god. Rick has also said that the five fundamentals of the Christian faith are too narrow and legalistic, and that Christian fundamentalists are the greatest enemy we have in the nation (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1/8/06). The Purpose Driven Church movement has destroyed more churches than Islam or communism. I, too, have some good Muslim friends who were my guides, but I don’t want to spend eternity with them in a Muslim Hell.

Paul warned, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

And the faithful are warned: From such turn away.

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