

The Self-Righteousness of Young-Earth Ministries

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First Published 8 September 2003

Answers In Creation Website

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I recently read a letter on the Answers in Genesis website, in which Ken Ham talks about the present day church, and the efforts of the church to embrace new technologies to advance the Gospel.¹ In short, he claims that these high-tech efforts amount to nothing more than a “band-aid,” meant to fix an ailing church.

It is true that today’s church is ailing. One only needs to look at how the church is losing its influence in American society, from the removal of the Ten Commandments in public places, to the banning of prayer during school functions, to the rampant, misleading lawsuits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. Everywhere you look, religious freedom is under attack, and the church is reeling to try and breach this ever-widening gap.

To what does Ken attribute this ailment within the church? He blames the church itself....*“the church has compromised with millions of years/evolutionary ideas, which over generations have undermined the authority of the Word of God.”*

I must have been sleeping when the courts outlawed prayer in schools back in the sixties, because I missed the part of the lawsuit that said, “We can’t pray because of evolution.” And I must have dozed off when CNN covered the recent removal of the Ten Commandments monument from the Supreme Court building in Alabama, because I don’t recall the lawyers saying the Commandments must go because we know the earth is millions of years old.

He goes on to explain that this compromise has led to society rejecting the Bible as authoritative, and that the morality codes of the Bible, such as marriage, are no longer accepted, all supposedly because of evolution or old-earth beliefs. As far as I know, none of the states which have approved same-sex marriages have done so on the basis of evolution.

Stop Spreading Mis-Truths

Many old-earth Christians are here to say “Not so fast, Mr. Ham.” We are here to proclaim that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, and our morality has not slipped one bit due to evolutionary, old-earth beliefs. If you want to blame someone for the condition of American society, don’t point fingers at the church! It is the members of the church that were standing on the footsteps of the Alabama Supreme Court recently, protesting the monument’s removal. Are they to blame for America’s condition? No.

I’m sure Mr. Ham would point to the many liberal churches that don’t believe in his kind of religion, which can best be characterized as fundamentalist Baptist. As a person who has attended many independent, fundamental Baptist churches (I was married in one,

and have attended many over the years), I am here to proclaim that you can be fundamental, and believe in an old-earth. Aside from my old-earth belief, everything else about my faith can be summed up as “independent, fundamental Baptist.” I find it strange that “I” am to blame for the degrading social condition of America.

Who to Blame?

Who does the Bible say to blame when society does not follow the Word of God? Who do you think is behind the breakdown of the church’s influence in America? One only need look in the direction of God’s enemy, Satan. The many lawyers who are responsible for a major part of our legal system’s denial of Christianity are unwitting pawns of the devil himself. The atheists who bring these frivolous lawsuits are, despite their denial of any higher power, merely puppets for the evil one. Christ said in Matthew 12:30, “He that is not with Me is against Me...” They are not working for Christ, therefore they are against Him, whether they realize it or not.

Solution

Yes, we have liberal churches that don’t recognize the inerrant Word of God. Churches are not without their faults. However, this is especially true of the independent, fundamentalist Baptist churches, and any others that like to point fingers at the liberal churches, and blame them for America’s social decline. It’s time that ALL of America’s churches recognize their self-righteousness, which is especially rampant in fundamentalist circles. If they spent less time pointing fingers, and more time working together with others, we may get somewhere! As an old-earth believer, I’m more than happy to work alongside young-earth believers in winning souls for Christ...too bad it’s not the other way around.

I realize that in saying this, many of you are saying that I am self-righteous. I admit it...after all, I think I’m 100 percent correct in stating the earth is 4.5 billion years old. However, I’m willing to “meet in the middle” with the young-earth believers. They can continue to believe in a young earth...all they would have to do is concede that there is no problem with being an old earth believer and believing in an inerrant Word of God.

Conclusion

There is no problem with believing in an old-earth, and believing in an inerrant Word of God (I’ve been doing it for over 20 years). For many years, young-earth ministries have made it their business (a profitable one, at that) to stamp old-earth believers into the ground. It’s about time young-earth Christians wake up, and start working with us, and not against us...together, we can reach many for Christ.

¹ answersingenesis.org/docs2003/0906letter.asp