

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

LOVE WINS! GOD WINS!

All the fuss and hype from emergent heretic Rob Bell has predictably caused a media uproar but in some ways it has also exposed a divide over an important idea. God is love - agreed. God will win - agreed. Yet the real issue hiding here, and what is so foundational for Bell's universalism, is that of "love" itself. What does it mean? Why is this so important?

For Bell, and it seems for many in the larger alleged Christian community, love can be understood as mere acceptance or inclusion. I have seen the same thing in the new age community for years. Love becomes "wholeness" or embracing the all in all that the world represents. Since God is in everything for the new age (Pantheism) - and oh, by the way, for Bell as well - then God "embraces" all that there is - and so should we! "Real love" then, is never found in division or exclusion. Unlike the star player who refuses to pick the little kid for the baseball game, God is now seen as one who always accepts, always includes, and always supports, regardless of belief, behavior or, dare I say it - sin. Bell's endorsement of uber new ager Ken Wilbur indicates just how strongly he holds this. Simply put, Wilbur embraces many levels or stages that consciousness goes through before it arrives at the final stage, that of complete oneness. Like Shirley Maclaine, innumerable gurus, and now, pathetically, some who call themselves Christian - God's love can be reduced to an inner-directed quest for acceptance by the All for Itself. Confused? You should be. After hearing and reading this kind of stuff from new agers, Hindus, Buddhists and so on - it never makes any sense. If God is everything (Pantheism) or is in everything (Pantheism) then it must be the case that everything is embraced. God could never

reject God. And this can be seen all the way from the Bhagavad-Gita of Hinduism - to the Sutras of Buddhism - to the slightly disguised musings of Paul Young in *The Shack* - and of course to Bell himself.

One might ask - is any of this in the Bible? Well, this is where the joys of postmodernism come shining through! Since according to pomo thought there is no true understanding or interpretation of anything (with the notable exception apparently of pomo writers and the emergent wannabees who think their writings are true about the universe, not subject to multiple layers of interpretation) then readers of a text are "free" to interpret from their community in any way they deem fit. So now the Bible, as Bell says, is an "eastern" text. No more black and white - instead now there are numerous layers of possible understandings and interpretations...and the Bible can mean anything! Jesus didn't die for our sins (apparently Maclaren and Bell DO think there are bad interpretations after all!) but instead "showed sacrificial love in the face of a totalizing, imperialistic, hegemonic force" (like, for them, the US today!) - or as we used to say - the Roman Empire. Jesus talks about hell numerous times, describes it many times - the eternal consequence of rebellion against a Holy God, etc. - but now instead we can say that "hell is about our behavior here" and that "virtually all people will be embraced by God in an ultimate sense." You get the idea.

So if the Bible doesn't really offer us any knowledge about these types of questions - then we must find answers somewhere. What has happened in all this is that mysticism has replaced study of the word of God. Since in their new view words cannot tell us anything anymore -

the mind is now replaced with "the heart." The mind then must be turned off so that we can embrace the heart. All symbolism aside - this simply means that we cannot know God or know about God by thinking or by rational means - so we are now free to embrace irrational or mindless techniques that will help us experience the reality of the divine. Since all ideas about the divine imply cognition of some sort, and that of course is now "bad" - instead we must gain our ineffable (indescribable in words) experience of the divine through mindless or mind-numbing meditation. Led by writers like Richard Foster, Dallas Willard and others, practices have come flying into the church like *lectio divina*, yoga, mindless repetition of phrases (Can't be so obvious as the Hare Krishnas here - so let's just chant "Come Lord Jesus" instead of "Hare Hare Krishna Rama") the labyrinth - and so many other techniques. We no longer need to worry about loving the Lord with all our mind - as the mind is now rejected. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi must be chuckling in his imbecility! Zen Buddhists such as alleged Catholic mystic Thomas Merton would be so proud - while the mind of the American churches is being turned into mush, with pastors/seminary teachers who are supposed to be protecting the flock - often leading the meltdown!

By contrast the Bible says that real love is about doing what is best for the other person. By definition then you MUST discern and divide. For example, to really love an abused wife is not to be open to multiple layers of interpretation but rather to tell the husband to STOP beating his wife! This doesn't seem to be hard to understand and even pomo philosophers ought to be able to figure it out. In Ephesians the Apostle Paul said to quit

stealing and work for your bread. One behavior was wrong and the other behavior was right. Ooh daring stuff here! He said to not get drunk but instead be filled with the Holy Spirit. Apparently Paul didn't get the memo from Bell. Solomon prayed for wisdom to understand the difference between right and wrong so that he could lead the people. Obviously The Shack was not available for Solomon to read.

God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins, not because of colonizing imperialism (Hey, how could even that be wrong in a pomo world?) but because He loved us. That is real love. If love were about acceptance then Jesus would not have had to die. Bell spends a lot of time misunderstanding the word eternal at the end of Matthew 25, but apparently he missed the earlier part of the passage where even Bell can't hide behind his lack of

understanding of the Greek language. In the beginning of the judgment passage Jesus said, "And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats, and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." (Matt 25:32,33) It is Jesus himself who will and does divide.

Consequences are forthcoming from this division – some good and some truly bad. Bell wants to wash all this division out. But it doesn't take a PhD to know that there is a difference between those who murder and those who are murdered. And, no Rob, everything is not "spiritual" and God is not in everything nor is God the father of everyone. Jesus did not say when you look in the mirror you see God! He said when you look at Jesus you see the Father!

Real love is not acceptance. This is why when Jesus spoke publicly for the first time he said, "Repent." When John the Baptist spoke publicly he said, "Repent." When Peter preached publicly he said, "Repent." When Paul spoke to the Athenians he said, "Repent." Now either they were wrong - or perhaps the emergents are wrong? The substitutionary atonement of Jesus on the cross for our sins opens the door for us to become God's children – but it doesn't insure it. This is why the Gospels scream out over and over again – "Believe in Jesus!" The Emergents scream out over and over again – "You don't have to believe in Jesus!" This issue is so important because Eternity hangs in the balance for each one. The scriptures say to believe – the emergents say belief is not necessary. Who will you believe?

Coming Events

June 4-5 - The Peoples Fair in Downtown Denver

June 7,14,21 - Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew

June 24-25 – World Religions Conference at Horizon Christian Fellowship, Littleton, CO I will speaking on the New Spirituality/Age, Mike Gendron on Roman Catholicism, Bill McKeever on Mormonism and more.

June 26 - July 20 - Mission trip to the Philippines!

July 30 - Horizon College Denver Booth at Heaven Fest

Aug 14 - Word of Life Community Church, Kansas City

Aug 15-18 - Witnessing to Mormons, Unity, and IHOP in Kansas City

Aug 22 - December 9 - Horizon College Classes, History of World Religions, Romans

More Info at www.horizoncollegedenver.org

Prayer Requests

We thank the Lord for the gracious giving that He has given us through so many of you. As always we are still in need of raising new support - In just the past few months we have lost three churches and one individual which we need to replace as well as try to get up to full support levels. Please prayerfully consider whether the Lord would have you become a part of our mission efforts.

1. We thank the Lord for so many good things that are happening. Terri has put off the surgery again but she is doing ok and is going on the Philippines mission trip with me! Scott is in the Army reserves, working, and still hopes to go regular Army. Shawn and Kelly are in Albuquerque scheming to take over Apple Corp and thriving in their church. Andy is working three days a week at a library and loves it. Gabe and Shaina are stationed in Springfield, MO where he is serving his 2nd tour with the Marines. Joey is going to school at Metro State and working part time. Rose and Tyler are not doing well. Please pray for them. Johanna is not doing well again and she and Kevin have moved out. Pray for her repentance and restoration in her relationship with the Lord. Jonathan is still struggling with his emotions, attitudes and rage against God and his family. Please pray for him and for all these requests.
2. We thank the Lord for help with the cost of the trip. We ask that y'all pray for a safe and productive time in the Philippines and that we honor the Lord with everything we do. Pray that the Lord will go before us and prepare the ministry opportunities that we will encounter there.
3. Please pray for some friends and co-workers who have serious health issues. Pray for many who have pressing chronic issues such as Sherri C, Liz H, Sheila H, Gordon L, Rebecca G, Joanna V, Charlene E. and others.
4. Pray for the miracle of repentance and reconciliation in the marriages or now ex-marriages of Greg and Karina, Mike and Julie, Tim and Rachel, and way too many others. Pray for healing in their families and for restoration of their walks in Christ.
5. Pray for the salvation for the Muslims, Gnostics, Mormons, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as our homosexual transvestite nun friend, some Japanese Buddhists I talked to recently at the psychic fair (especially Robert Fukada) and a lady from Eckankar and many others wiccans, new agers and others. Pray for Eran - a Sephardic orthodox Jew from my class now wants to come back over for dinner!. Pray for the members of the Remnant Fellowship cult that we met with recently. Pray for Mustafa - an Imam that I talked to in Kansas City. Pray for another non-Christian Chris who also came for Thanksgiving. Pray for Frank and Amber from the Goddess fair. Pray also for Ashley and Bill - two members of the Church of God world mission cult from Korea that we are trying to reach. Also pray for Sarah who has joined a nasty little cult up by Ft. Collins. We pray the Holy Spirit grabs their hearts and minds and brings them into the Kingdom
6. Pray for the Haven staff. Pray for their support raising efforts. Pray for their ministry and for all of us as we go to different events. Pray for the Lord's grace and mercy to mark everything that we do.
7. Please pray for our many friends and children who are serving with our military. The reality of militant Islam is that we are now in what many think is another chapter of a very old war. Pray for soldiers like Chung, Zach, Carlos, Matt, Josh and Nick. Pray for John H who is currently in Iraq. Pray for sailors like Josh N. Pray for Marines like our son Gabe, and Donovan and Matt. We thank the Lord for all of them and so many others who serve us all.
8. We are thankful to the Lord for a person who told us recently that they had included us in their will/estate. Others might prayerfully consider giving to Haven and to other ministries in this way. It saves money on the estate taxes and the money goes to Kingdom related ministries as opposed to bloated bureaucracies!



NON PROPHET SECTION

Can there be any doubts? Harold Camping has taken top honors in our Non-Prophet section for falsely (again) predicting the second coming of Jesus this past May 21. Not to worry though, he doesn't let abject failure get in the way of hyping another date, now Oct 21, 2011. He is using some of the exact same language that the Jehovah's Witnesses are infamous for, a "spiritual appearance" after the failure of the predicted physical appearance...the faithful can have "More confidence" and so on. It's like he's grabbing old Watchtower magazines and running with them. Not to mention (but I will anyways) the fact that he has become a multi-millionaire over the past decade making false predictions. Pretty good for someone with no biblical training whatsoever (shameless plug for why you should take classes at Horizon College Denver!).



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FROM:

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