



Sentinel

What shall we make of this movement?

Japie Grobler

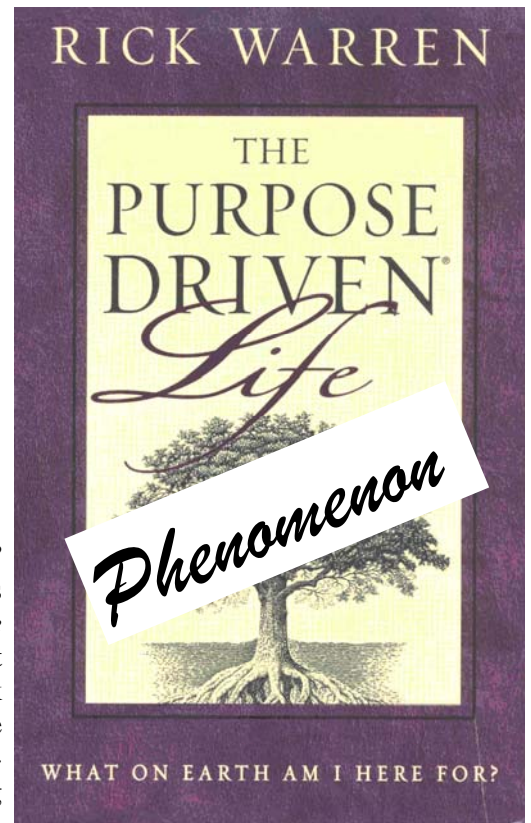
Ever since the publication of the article *Purpose Driven or Spirit Led?* in *Sentinel* 4th quarter 2003 we have received a number of comments which range from the positive about Warren's books, especially *The Purpose Driven Life* and hence negative critique on the article. But then there was also the opposite. The positive comments on the book motivated me to the point I realized I had no option but to buy the book and read it, because that is exactly what the pro-purpose-driven-lifers were all about—how can you publish something without having read the book?

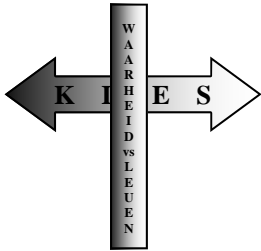
At this point I need to say that I had an uneasy *feeling* when Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church* appeared first on the scene and people started to talk about it. However, I was not that concerned but after *The Purpose Driven Life* came out and more and more churches were climbing on the PDL bandwagon I realized my uneasiness with the whole Purpose Driven-mania called for more investigation. It was no great surprise when I found numerous Christian websites where criticism against this whole PDL affair was expressed. Many of these sites are those of sound Biblical pastors. You only need to enter the words Purpose Driven Life on a search engine (google.co.za or google.com) and then make your pick. Obviously, just like with Scientology for instance, there will also be the positive PDL sites. All you have to do is to logically and with discernment consider what pops up on your monitor.

After I had read the book carefully and with discernment I was left with three main concerns. These being; 1.) Nowhere could I really notice a clear preaching of the Gospel; 2.) The liberal use of paraphrase translations of Scripture and; 3.) The affinity with psychology, especially the views of Carl Jung. However, it must be conceded that the book contains some good points and ideas. These are not what cause concern. It is the not-so-good things in the book that should be of concern to pastors, churches and Christians. We should also bear in mind the truth about a little leaven that leavens the whole lump. Can it truly be argued that we should take the good out of it, and reject the bad?

Warren Smith writes in *Deceived on Purpose* (Mountain Stream Press, 2004:171-172): "What I had discovered in my reading was that the spiritual foundation of this whole Purpose-Driven movement could be found in the writings and teachings of Robert Schuller's 50-year ministry...An acquaintance of mine wondered if I was treating Rick Warren unfairly by linking him so closely with Robert Schuller. 'After all,' he argued, 'Rick Warren is bringing a lot of people into the church. There is a real excitement about the Gospel and huge numbers of people are 'coming to the Lord.' Even if he has accepted some of Schuller's questionable teachings, look at all the good he is doing.'

(Continued on page 6)



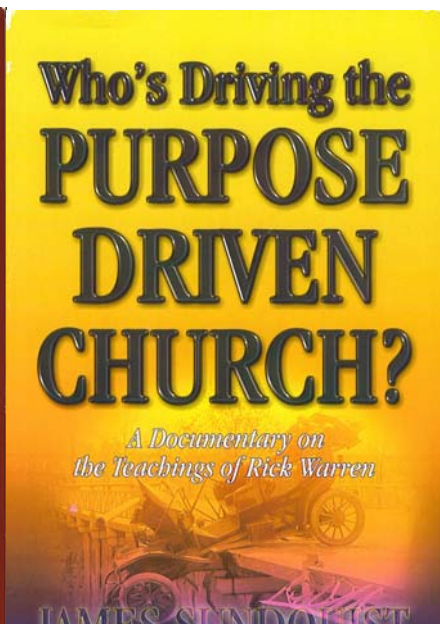
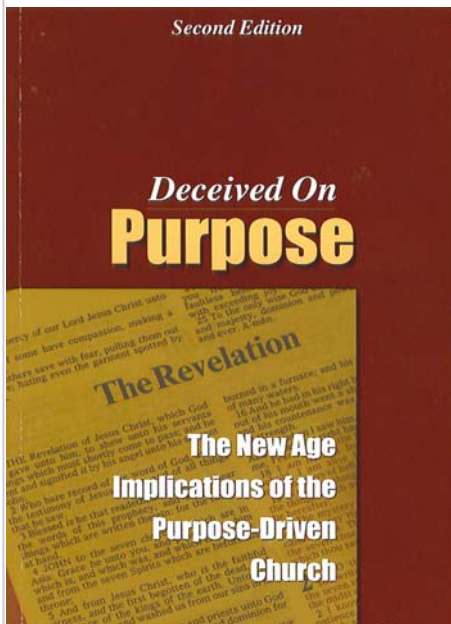


'n Interkerklike Evangelisasie en Uitreik-aksie/An Interdenominational Evangelization Outreach
Sentinel is die tydskrif van **KIES** en word kwartaaliks gepubliseer om die gemeenskap in te lig en te waarsku teen misleiding, die ware Evangelie te verkondig en die Kerk bewus te maak van die gevare wat die dwaalleer van die kultes en andersins inhou. *Sentinel* is the mouthpiece of **KIES** and is published quarterly to inform and warn the community against deception, to spread the true Gospel and to alert the Church against the heresy of the cults and otherwise.
Skryfaanhalinge, tensy anders vermeld, is uit die 1983 Afrikaanse Vertaling/Scripture quotations, unless stated otherwise, are from the NASB.
KIES funksioneer as 'n arm van die Ned Geref Gemeente Edleen en is verantwoordelik vir eie finansiering en is dus ten volle afhanklik van die vrywillige donasies van *Sentinel* se lesers en ander ondersteuners.

Disclaimer

The opinions or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of the relevant author(s) and, unless clearly stated to the contrary, do not constitute the opinion or view of **KIES**, its controlling body, management or contributors.

Redaksioneel/Editorial



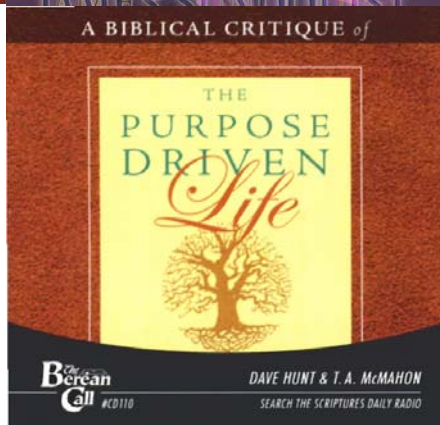
In this issue we are dealing with the Purpose Driven phenomenon, a movement that is spreading to such an extent that you cannot ignore it at all. You stand amazed at how many churches have completed, are busy with or are planning to do this 40-day thing.

A number of books that deal with this subject and another trend, contemplative prayer, have recently appeared on the scene and are all worth reading.

From The Berean Call a set of four CDs have also been released.

The above two books, are by Warren Smith and James Sundquist and then there are the books on contemplative prayer etc., by Ray Yungen, *A Time of Departing* and Brian Flynn, *Running Against the Wind*. The CD-set and all the books are available from The Berean Call, Suite 368 Private Bag X043, BENONI, 1500, tel: 011-425-2938, hgevers@absamail.co.za

If The Berean Call cannot help with the books, then try Sarel Roeloffze of



Chick Publications at tel: 011-867-6305, or 083-259-1561 or E-mail him at chick@absamail.co.za.

The centre page article is by Paul Proctor and has been published by permission.

I came across his articles on the Internet and liked what I saw, so more of his articles will probably be used in future issues of *Sentinel*.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Editors:
 Japie Grobler (*Sentinel*).
 Rev Johan Botha (Theological)

Address: P O Box 8009
 EDLEEN
 South Africa
 1625

Tel/Fax: +27-11-394-3080

E-mail: kies_ciec@telkomsa.net

Website: http://www.gksa.org.za/kies

Street Add: Ned Geref Kerk-Edleen
 cnr. Amarillo & Ilex Rds
 EDLEEN
 Kempton Park

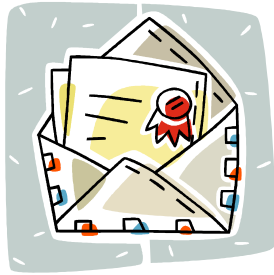
Donations: **KIES/CIEC**
 Standard Bank
 Midrand
 Code 1155
 Ac No: 20-247-350-3

Make cheques out to: KIES

Advies oor Kultes/Advice about Cults:

Algemeen/General

- Japie Grobler* 011-394-3080
- E-mail: kies_ciec@telkomsa.net
- Dr Henk Stoker*
- E-mail: stoker@mweb.co.za
- Israelvisie/Israeldwaling
- Louis Kruger Tel: 082-336-2597
- Jehova se Getuies/Jehovah's Witnesses
- Christine Haarhoff Tel: 012-661-8542
- E-mail: ngkrhk@mweb.co.za
- Japie Grobler* (Sien bo/See above)
- Dr Henk Stoker* (Sien bo/See above)
- Nuwe/Ou Apostels/New Old Apostles
- Japie Grobler* Tel: 011-394-3080
- Kittie Pienaar Tel: 011-679-4898
- E-mail: pinekit@mweb.co.za
- Psigiese Beheer/Mind Control & Uitleidingsberading/Exit Counselling
- Dr Stephan Pretorius*
- Tel: 012-542-4172
- E-mail: pretosp@unisa.ac.za
- Dr Rienie Venter
- E-mail: ventema@unisa.ac.za
- New Age & Onderwys
- Sarel vd Merwe Tel: 011-472-6964
- E-mail: sarelwtl@telkomsa.net
- Satanism/Occultism
- Ado Krige Tel: 083-226-2319
- E-mail: ado@intekom.co.za
- Vrymesselary/Freemasonry
- Japie Grobler*
- * Indicates Board Members



Letters/Briewe

Watch your tone:

I understand the concept of the web page and used the content to 'talk' to a friend of mine with a dilemma in going to the OAK as his 'wife to be' wants him to join her church. I also read the criticism from previous members with regard to the article. I must say I found the answer of Japie Grobler full of sarcasm, snide remarks and downright irritating. To withstand in the face of onslaught and criticism one needs to look at what Jesus would have done and a more loving, truthful, knowledgeable and direct answer would have been much more appropriate.

No matter how stinging the attack or how much your blood boils you cannot answer in the 'tone' as answered - it totally discredits you. I also read some of the articles and find them a bit 'fault finding' instead of 'looking at the good side'. I am now going to read your article on 'Purpose driven life'. I had a very positive outcome and it took me much longer than the 40 days - I also was urged not only to read the phrased text, but read full sections before and after the phrases and a lot of answers were revealed in these texts. I had a complete turn around in my life because of that book and am also very wary of hidden misconceptions and falseness and therefore I will read your article carefully.

Please, information is very important - be lead by the Holy Spirit and do each project with the love of Christ as your guide. I am currently in a Presbyterian church as a matter of info - used to be with NG. I left them because Jeremiah states that the Gospel is for 'all nations' not just a certain color. I presume this has also lead the NG Church to undergo the recent changes within their structures. I am confronted with transformation every day and I can honestly say we need to, like in the article of the Free Masons, state clearly our beliefs and not 'just keep quiet' when people are expressing themselves as to what they believe is right for the church (I hope you catch this - I don't really want to put it specific).

So thanks for the info and watch the condensing tone - God is greater than all and the church body is to honour God and no 'man-made' ritual or belief should intervene in our focus on the Lord.

Regards
Adriaan Callow

Suster word Jehova se Getuie:

Ek doen navraag oor ondersteuningstelsels nadat my suster betrokke geraak het by 'n persoon wat behoort aan die Jehova Getuies.

Ek is dringend op soek na iemand vir raad en bystand ivm die hantering van sulke gevalle. Ons as gesin het al van enige hoek af probeer om die misleiding van hulle kant af te noem, maar geen sukses nie. Die twee mense het verloof geraak en op die oomblik voel dit asof sy weggliip van ons en ons geloof en dit waarmee sy uit 'n geloofsoogpunt groot geword het. Ons het hulp nodig - is daar iemand wat ons asb kan bystaan en van raad kan voorsien om te help verhoed dat sy die grootste fout van haar lewe maak en dis om haar geloof en God te verrai? Ons gebede voel op die stadium so klein en onwaardig.

Groete
Anel

Ons help met graagte as jy kan laat weet waar die hulp benodig word. In watter stad of dorp is julle en veral jou suster hulle?

Kyk gerus op ons webwerf vir inligting oor die Wagtoring Organisasie. Ek kan nog met baie meer help. Jy is meer as welkom om my te bel.

Red

Booklet please:

Can you please e-mail or mail me the booklet that covers the reviews of the book: "The Purpose Driven Life"

Annalies Rochér

Groete uit Namibië:

Goeie môre en in die besonder baie dankie vir die moeite wat julle doen met die uitgawes van *KIES* se tydskrifte en traktate.

Hier in die verre noorde van Namibië is die artikels baie!!!! welkom en gebruik ek dit nie net soms nie maar gereeld vir enige moontlike jeug en lidmaat aksie. Soos julle reeds weet is die Israel visie op die stadium baie sterk hier by ons en word dit al amper nie meer snaaks om te hoor dat die of daardie persoon oorgegaan het na die sekte nie. Daarom was die artikel wat julle vir my gevonkpos het 'n paar maande terug nie net gepas nie maar lewensnoodsaaklik.

Slegs verlede week sit 'n vrou in my studeerkamer en vertel met lus hoe hulle van die AGS gemeente oorgegaan het na die Israel visie omdat hulle nie meer die "gemengde" eredienste kon hanteer nie.

Maar verder vertel sy met nog meer oemf hoe sy nie te veel wil weet wat in die Israeliete se siening aangaan nie want dit sal die Here wil dat sy dit moet ondersoek en daarvoor het sy nie lus nie. My mond het net oopgehang. En na rede wou sy ook nie luister nie. Selfs die waarheid was vir haar te veel en het sy gou daarna eerder geloop as om met die feite op die tafel te werk. Nou nog ril ek oor die naïwiteit van die dame.

Maar terug by my skrywe aan u. Ek sou graag wou sien dat die briewe kolom terug verskyn in die nuusbrief. Dit gee meer kere as nie vanuit 'n ander hoek ook die saak meer lig.

Ek is, soos julle reeds weet baie lief vir Afrikaans en sal enige poging om dit te bevorder ondersteun. En daarby wil ek voeg dat ek nog steeds bereid sou wees om die artikels te vertaal vanuit Engels en Nederlands na Afrikaans. Andersom met meer moeite dalk ook.

Groete en seënwense
Ds Arno Nieuwhof
Grootfontein
Namibië

Unsubscribe:

After receiving KIES' latest newsletter on the Global Day of Prayer (July-September 2005), I think that I would prefer to have my name removed from your mailing list as I am in general disagreement with KIES' propagation of anti-Warren articles which, as I've pointed out to you before, are based on misrepresentations, misquotations, and sloppy research disguised as "discernment".

Please don't take this request of removal personally. I hope the two of us can still remain on friendly terms.

Yours in Christ
Michael

Om in te teken/To subscribe

Sentinel is tans nog gratis beskikbaar. Dit word moontlik gemaak deur die gereelde donasies van lesers en ondersteuners. Stuur net u naam en posadres om dit gereeld te ontvang. Ons verkies elektroniese pos aangesien dit onkoste verminder. Skryf in per Epos.

Sentinel is presently still distributed free. This is made possible through regular donations of readers and supporters. To regularly receive it merely furnish us with your name and postal address. We prefer electronic mail as this reduces expenses. Subscribe per E-mail.

The People's Church

Published by permission per E-mail of Paul Proctor

Paul Proctor
July 3, 2002
NewsWithViews.com

I Walked through the doors of The First Baptist Church in the spring of 1995 after having been somewhat of a prodigal son for roughly 10 years. I had recently rededicated my life to Christ and wanted to once again be a part of a loving church family. As I entered and sat down to the joyful noise of a magnificent choir and orchestra praising God in song, my heart and soul were filled with wonder, excitement and great expectation. I was truly being prepared for worship.

When the preacher finished his sermon, I was spiritually refreshed and energized for the week ahead. His message had been clear, powerful, convicting, biblical and full of the Holy Spirit. Over time I grew to love this brother in Christ because of his faithfulness and passion for the gospel. After visiting the church for some months, I knew I had found a church home.

A couple of years later, the pastor invited me to lunch at a nearby country club he frequented where he mentioned in passing his desire to eventually do away with the First Baptist Church name and simply call it "The People's Church", claiming "that's what everyone called it anyway". Still taken by the man's persona, I smiled and nodded in approval as he told me of wanting to take the church in "a new direction", away from the Southern Baptist stigma that he felt had somehow hindered us in the past and move on to greater things. Unfortunately, he didn't elaborate on what that "new direction" was and I mistakenly assumed that he meant toward a non-denominational identity.

In the coming weeks and months a new message began emanating from his pulpit not unlike what had been coming from, of all places, the presidential podium of Bill Clinton during the height of his scandals. A re-occurring theme of "tolerance, diversity and unity" seemed to permeate almost every sermon. It became increasingly clear to me that the pastor's "new direction" was worldly and that he was now being guided by someone or something other than God. Friction grew between the two of us over the course of time as his sermons turned away from the gospel that leads to repentance and faith in Christ to the social psychology of get-alongism. Sure, the Bible calls us to live in peace with one another, to keep and maintain healthy relationships with our

brothers and sisters in Christ, but NOT at the expense of God. The pastor I once held in such high regard began reciting "group-think" platitudes like: "YOU CAN'T BE RIGHT WITH GOD AND AT ODDS WITH EVERYONE ELSE", meaning it was now time for us all to compromise our conscience and convictions for the collective. This is the "Consensus Process" at work, a 200 year-old socialist brainwashing technique known by social psychologists the world over as the "Hegelian Dialectic", developed by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel in the late 1700's that involves the practice of compromise to achieve social harmony between opposing groups and/or belief systems. The "Hegelian Dialectic" is especially damaging to those of the faith who are compelled by the process to accept the unacceptable in order to gain the approval of the group. It is the herd mentality of humanist thinking and an abomination before God.

You see the Bible is FULL of godly men who stood alone and died fighting the heresy of the herd mentality, including Jesus Himself. Being "at odds with everyone else" is EXACTLY what got Him nailed to a cross! He said: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14) This certainly doesn't bode well for pastors whose primary agenda is church growth and big numbers.

It was not a tolerant Jesus who cleared the temple in Jerusalem of moneychangers with a whip or a tolerant John the Baptist who publicly railed against King Herod for marrying his brother's wife or a tolerant Paul that stood up against Peter for alienating uncircumcised believers or tolerance that got most of the disciples beheaded or crucified in the early days of the church. Yet, here we are entering a new millennium, crossing that illustrious "Bridge To The 21st Century", as a re-invented church of tolerance, diversity and unity. As the doors are all thrown open to anyone and anything, I ask you, is the church affecting the culture or is the culture infecting the church? Who is proselytizing whom here? Look around

and tell me what you see.

It wasn't long before a vulgar campaign for cash began at The People's Church as if someone was running for political office, complete with banquets, dinners, awards, lots of flattering speech, testimonials, presentations, private meetings and special attention given to the church's "big givers", (their term, not mine) all to benefit a massive new building program that would put us in a high-tech "worship center" and twelve million dollars in debt.

Today when I walk into that entertainment complex on Sunday morning where a sanctuary used to be, I see a lot of cushioned movie theater seats where pews used to be; a big multi-media projection screen where a wooden cross used to be; a half dozen choreographed entertainers performing to applause where a choir used to be; a jazz/rock band playing solos where an orchestra used to be; a young female singer leading simplistic chants before a confused audience, where a music minister used to lead great hymns of worship and praise to God and where a charming "facilitator" in a golf shirt preaches that we should all GO ALONG TO GET ALONG, where a once humble man of God in a suit and tie used to courageously proclaim the Word of God.

Just the other day I was listening to a pre-recorded radio program on the internet called "Steel On Steel" hosted by John Loeffler. He was interviewing a former teacher and expert on European history and philosophy by the name of Dean Gotcher about the "Hegelian Dialectic" or "Consensus Process" and how it has successfully been integrated into the government, the media, the military, law enforcement, public education, colleges, seminaries and even the church to centralize everything and unify us all into the socialist mindset of global governance. The global-socialist goal is and always has been a one-world government and a one-world religion. They have used the "Hegelian Dialectic" for centuries to control large populations around the world and steer them toward a "New World Order". Near the end of the hour-long program, he casually mentioned a couple of Christian organizations that were known for seducing churches into this "Consensus Process" with "progressive" church-

growth programs where compromising brings in big numbers. The temptation of such worldly fruit is obviously hard to resist, even among the most faithful of pastors. Nonetheless, doing unholy things in the name of Christ does not make them holy.

When Dean Gotcher mentioned one of those organizations as being "The Willow Creek Association", bells began ringing, lights began flashing and all of a sudden five years of confusion, contention and controversy between my pastor and me were INSTANTLY brought into complete clarity. OF COURSE! The People's Church belonged to the Willow Creek Association! Once my eyes were opened to their carnal ways through additional research, combined with all that I had learned over the years about global-socialism, I became convinced that we, (the church) had been brought into the "Consensus Process" by way of a socialistic humanist organization posing as a Christian ministry, complete with "change-agents" and facilitators" (wolves in sheep's clothing) that I myself had encountered personally from Sunday School to Sunday worship. Apparently, THIS was the pastor's "new direction" for The First Baptist Church. It came as no surprise to later discover that Willow Creek's founder, Bill Hybels is a dear friend and personal minister to the nation's most renown socialist and "facilitator", Bill Clinton. NOW I KNOW why my pastor began sounding so "Clintonesque" in his Sunday morning sermons some three or four years ago.

As I went on to research The Willow Creek Association, I discovered that thousands upon thousands of established churches around the country were being transformed into sensory driven "seeker churches" EXACTLY like ours under the guidance and direction of this organization, all with the same tolerance, diversity and unity theme, liberal worship format, scripturally shallow teaching, heavy on the comfort and light on the conscience, equipped with huge multi-media projection screens, large sound systems, exotic music, no choir, female ministers, feelings-motivated skits, dance interpretations and heavily burdened with millions of dollars of debt from building state-of-the-art entertainment venues they call "worship centers". I think the revolving disco ball sparkling overhead at our dedication service a couple of years ago was a REAL poignant moment for me personally.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the

will of God abideth forever." (1st John 2:15-17)

I have long-since worn out my welcome with certain members of the church staff by repeatedly protesting our involvement in these ecumenical movements and carnal extravaganzas beginning with the "men's movement"; that emotionally driven, highly advertised, celebrity endorsed, spiritually misguided and now financially bankrupt organization known as "Promise Keepers". The "Consensus Process" or "Hegelian Dialectic" teaches "facilitators" to isolate, intimidate and even shame their critics into silence and cooperation with "hurt feelings" as their license and authority. This too is carnal. Those seeking group acceptance and approval are powerless against it. Frankly, I'd much rather have God's acceptance and approval than the herd's. You see The Willow Creek Association always emphasizes "felt needs", unity, harmony, peace and human relationships over everything else...Just like the United Nations. But, that's not the Gospel.

"Consensus" is all about compromising toward "group-think" not God think. It is conformity to the collective through peer-pressure. This is the very heart of the heresy. Centralization toward globalism is the reason for consensus and explains why so many big corporations have merged into government-controlled monopolies; why the two major political parties have become almost indistinguishable; why national borders have become virtually meaningless; why national sovereignty is being surrendered to the United Nations; why the Constitution is being ignored by our own president; why "The Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders" is meeting in August to christen a One World Religion and world leaders from 160 nations are meeting in September at the UN. for "The Millennium Summit" to initiate World Government, complete with its own criminal court, tax system and standing army. Unfortunately, the nasty little secret about the consensus process is that any and all issues discussed usually have a pre-determined outcome provided by the attending "facilitator". Imagine that! Conscience and compromise can NEVER co-exist. They are ALWAYS incompatible. One MUST surrender to the other for there to be unity. Consensus therefore, will ALWAYS lead it's followers away from biblical absolutes and Authority (i.e., "Thus sayeth the Lord....") to obtain the acceptance and approval of the group.

We all want to be loved don't we? Some of us are desperate to be loved. It is undoubtedly why so many have given their lives to the entertainment and film

industry and made Hollywood their "Emerald City". They have been taught throughout the 20th century that if they could only be a "big star" they would be loved and accepted by everyone. The desire to BE LOVED is natural but loving those that don't agree with us is unnatural and difficult. Jesus said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself". Yet, millions of children for over half a century listened and learned as The Wizard Of Oz told the Tin Man: "...a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." This is consensus over conviction, covetousness over conscience and flesh over spirit, the heresy of Hollywood and the wages of Willow Creek...following the crowd and the culture in order to be loved and accepted.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12)

The bottom line is this; Willow Creek is a showboat, sold as a Christian cruise that in time will be remembered as another Titanic. The First Baptist Church is truly becoming "The People's Church", because that is exactly who they have chosen to follow and obey...PEOPLE. Needless to say, after 5 long and frustrating years aboard this wayward vessel, I'll be going in search of a humble fishing boat where the waters are calm, the nets are full, the crew is faithful, and Christ is the captain, because as Paul Harvey says: "Now I know the REST of the story".

"They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand." (Isaiah 44:18)

© 2002 Paul Proctor - All Rights Reserved.

Paul Proctor, a rural resident of the Volunteer state and seasoned veteran of the country music industry, retired from showbiz in the late 1990's to dedicate himself to addressing important social issues from a distinctly biblical perspective. As a freelance writer and regular columnist for News With Views, he extols the wisdom and truths of scripture through commentary and insight on cultural trends and current events. His articles appear regularly on a variety of news and opinion sites across the internet and in print. Paul may be reached at watchman@usa.com.

<http://www.newswithviews.com/religion/religion9.htm>

(Continued from page 1)

“What immediately came to mind when he made that statement was the illustrative example I heard so often when I first came into the faith [out of the New Age]: a glass of water that is 99% water and 1% arsenic will still kill you 100%...The Bible holds to the same principle in regards to doctrine. Doctrine that has been tinged with even the slightest bit of untruth can ultimately result in great deception. That is why the Bible severely warns that even ‘a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.’ and that is why Jesus specifically warned us to beware of the ‘leaven’ of *false doctrine* that can be taught by religious leaders (Matthew 16:11-12, *Italics* in original).

“I told my acquaintance, who was trying to be ‘positive,’ that the Bible is clear that truth cannot be mixed with untruth or half-truth in bringing people to the Lord. That’s how people end up being spiritually deceived...once the door to false teachings is opened ever so slightly, it just keeps opening wider and wider.”

Taking a closer look:

We need to look at some examples that should point these concerns out and hopefully will lead to a better understanding and possible relook at this very popular book.

Early in the book Warren says this “is a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey.” He states: “By the end of this journey you will know God’s purpose for your life... and most important, prepare you for eternity.” (p.9) It is important, according to him that you must enter into a covenant with him and a partner to commit your life for the next 40 days. Because after reading a chapter each day for 40 days you will have “discover[ed] God’s purpose for your life.” (p.13)

Warren writes on page 9: “Don’t you think it would be wise to set aside 40 of those days to figure out what God wants you to do with the rest of them (having referred to the average lifespan of 25,550 days)?... Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for his purpose, he took 40 days.” He then refers to the following: 1.) “Noah’s life was transformed after 40 days of rain; 2.) Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai; 3.) The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land; 4.) David was transformed by Goliath’s 40-day challenge; 5.) Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal; 6.) The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave

the people 40 days to change; 7.) Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness; 8.) The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.” (p.10)

Not a single example he cites has anything to do with anyone of these persons having discovered God’s purposes for their lives. All we have to do is to look at Scripture. Let us just consider two or so of these. There is no evidence that it took the people of Nineveh 40 days to change. Jonah’s wearing of sackcloth indicates that repentance came early during his preaching. Jesus, most certainly was not empowered by His 40 days in the wilderness, and this is probably Warren’s most serious error. Jesus, being God, was all-powerful from the beginning. He also knew His purpose for having become a man. “*For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world...*” (John 18:37) Now please go and check out the other examples in Scripture in their entirety and in context.

To use these examples and twist their Scriptural meaning to motivate people to sign a covenant and make them think that all that is required for God to change their lives is 40 days, is immoral and deceitful. There are people around, and you may be one of them who can testify that it took almost your entire life for God to transform you into the person you are now.

He also states on page 11: “Real spiritual growth is never an isolated, individualistic pursuit.” Did Jesus not teach us to go into our prayer closets when we pray? Did He not separate Himself in Gethsemane when He prayed before His crucifixion? Was Paul not isolated in preparation for three years before he began his ministry? Only after this time did he realize he was to preach to gentiles—his purpose. John was exiled to Patmos. How many Christians experienced real spiritual growth in solitary confinement in prisons in non-Christian countries?

“Rick Warren’s generalization is not only biblically incorrect, it is an insult to all those saints who suffered separation (isolation) for the cause of Christ, the very assurance Paul gives in Romans: ‘*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*’

” (James Sundquist, *Who’s Driving The Purpose Driven Church?*, self published, 2004:23)

When someone signs a covenant with a church he/she is committed to that church nevermind where it will take them to in the future. Did Christ not say we are not to make oaths but let our yes be yes and our no be no?

Use of various translations:

At this point we need to consider the effect of paraphrased translations of the Scriptures.

Tim McMahan of The Berean Call writes in *Showtime for the Sheep?*: “Problems...occur primarily when men deviate from the objective to the subjective, i.e., when they go from the science of accurately translating the Hebrew and Greek languages to following their *feelings* in regard to what the text says—and, ultimately, what it means. Although some translations lean toward subjectivity, that error is pervasive among the many popular *paraphrases* used today. Unlike translations, which are a collaborative by a panel of scholars with expertise in the original languages (the New World Translators excepted), paraphrases are usually the product of one man’s ‘vision.’ Eugene Peterson’s widely used *The Message* is a prime example of how extraordinarily subjective a paraphrase can become and still have the audacity to be promoted as God’s Word.” (Pub., by The Berean Call, 2004:39)

Warren writes on p.11: “The best way to explain God’s purpose for your life is to allow the Scripture to speak for itself, so in this book the Bible is quoted extensively, using over one thousand different verses from fifteen different English translations and paraphrases. I have varied the versions for various reasons...” He explains his reasons in appendix 3 on page 325: “First, no matter how wonderful a translation is, it has its limitations... Second, and even more important, is the fact that we often miss the full impact of familiar Bible verses, not because of poor translating, but simply because they have become so familiar!... I have deliberately used paraphrases in order to help you see God’s truth in new fresh ways.” Some of these paraphrases are extremely liberal, like the *Living Bible* and *The Message*. He quotes from *The Message* over 90 times in this book. To understand the flaws of *The Message* the following examples should give you some understanding.

The Message is a particularly worrying translation by Eugene Peterson. Space unfortunately prohibits a lengthy discourse. The rendering of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 should be sufficient warning against the use of the translation which Warren resorts to so freely and quotes from more than any other.

The Lord's Prayer

*"Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best—
as above, so below.
Keep us alive..." etc.*
(As quoted in Smith, p.30,
bold print in original.)

Smith writes: "[What] jumped out at me, [was] his use of the phrase 'as above, so below' instead of 'heaven and earth.' When I was in the New Age, it was well understood that the words 'above and below' had metaphysical/New Age connotations and were routinely substituted for 'heaven and earth.' In fact, the term 'as above, so below' was a commonly accepted New Age phrase.

"The fact that this whole 'above' and 'below' issue was presenting itself on the first page of the first chapter of Rick Warren's book was unsettling. Was I reading too much into this?... can there even be a good reason for inserting an occultic New Age term into the middle of the Lord's Prayer?"

"Ronald S. Miller had written, 'Thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt, the great master alchemist Hermes Trismegistus, believed to be a contemporary of the Hebrew prophet Abraham, proclaimed this fundamental truth about the universe: 'As above, so below; as below, so above.' This maxim implies that the transcendent God beyond the physical universe and the immanent God within ourselves are one. Heaven and Earth, spirit and matter, the invisible and the visible worlds form a unity to which we are intimately linked.' ...

"The phrase 'AS ABOVE, SO BELOW' headlined a page from a Theosophical website containing 'esoteric' teachings...in a quote from Theosophical founder Helena Blavatsky's pioneering New Age work, *The Secret Doctrine*:

'Above, the son is the whole KOSMOS;
below, he is MANKIND.'

(Smith, pp.30-33, capitals and italics in original.)

In Romans 8 Paul is contrasting the old man versus the new. He uses the word "flesh" (Greek = *sarx*) to indicate that

man's nature changes when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the reborn person. *The Message* translation distorts the meaning of the original to indicate that it involves what you think of yourself; exactly what psychology is telling people.

As far as John 10:30 and 14:28 are concerned, it is obvious that once again *The Message* gives a completely different meaning to the original.

Now compare the translations:

Message	NAS
"I and the Father are one at heart and mind."	"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)
"The Father is the goal and purpose of my life."	"...the Father is greater than I." (John 14:28)
"But God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourselves than of him."	"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you." (Rom 8:9)

Lets look at two other glaring examples (not quoted by Warren):

Phil 4:7: *Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you you down.*" Compare the *NASB*: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Then there is John 1:14: "*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*" *NASB*: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Can such a translation be trusted?

It should be clear now that we must look more closely at some of the references Warren quotes in his book.

On p.64 Warren quotes from the *Contemporary English Version*: "*The Lord is pleased only with those who worship him and trust his love.*" (Ps 147:11) This translation leave out the very important "*those who fear Him.*" This is how a literal translation, the *NASB*, renders this verse: "*The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.*"

On the same page he quotes from a translation not identified: "*The Father seeks worshipers.*" (John 4:23) This translation is in harmony with Universals' theology. But a proper translation, like the *NASB*, causes problems: "*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.*"

We find yet another distortion on page 68: "*By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told...As a result Noah became intimate with God.*" (*The Message*) Is this what Scripture says? Let us see how the *KJV* renders is. "*By faith Noah, being warned by God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*" No indication of Noah becoming intimate with God, which anyway adds an irreverent connotation.

Psalm 14:2-3 (p.76) from the *Literal Bible* is yet another example: "*The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who are wise, who want to please God.*" The *KJV* says: "*The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They have all turned aside; they are all together become filthy. There is none that doeth good; no, not one.*" Or as per the *NASB*: "*The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.*"

With Warren leaving out "the critical qualifier in verse 3 that says none seek after God...the reader is left with the impression of deciding for himself if he is one of those who wants to please God. Mr. Warren doesn't tell you that the Bible says there are *none!* But this is not altogether surprising because the heart of the Purpose Driven theology is to stay positive, which is exactly the theme of his reverend colleague, Dr. Robert Schuller." (Sundquist: 35)

On page 86 we find Warren making much of friends and/or friendship with God: "*Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.*" (Romans 5:11, *New Living*

Translation) “Friendship with God is possible only because of the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus. *‘All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends.’* (2 Cor 5:18a, **Today’s English Version**) “The old hymn says, *‘What a friend we have in Jesus,’* but actually, God invites us to enjoy friendship with all three persons of the Trinity: our Father (1 John 1:3), the Son (1 Cor 1:9), and the Holy Spirit. (2 Cor 13:14)” Interestingly Mr Warren does not say which translations these last three quotes were taken from.

He then carries on, “Jesus said, *‘I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you.’* (John 15:15) The word for *friend* in this verse does not mean a casual acquaintance but a close, trusted relationship.

“That God would want me for a close friend is hard to understand, but the Bible says, *‘He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.’* (Ex 34:14, **New Living Translation**)”

Once again we need to look at what Scripture really says, so that we can evaluate what Mr Warren is saying.

Ex 34:14, “...you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” (**NASB**) No indication of God being passionate about His relationship with man. It clearly says that God wants people to worship only Him as the only true God!

John 15:15, “Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.” Jesus was speaking with His disciples, who spent some three intimate years with Him prior to His arrest and crucifixion. Bear in mind that even Judas, who later betrayed Him, must have been among them. Obviously He was in a different relationship with them than the general populace. Also remember that Jesus was here speaking as a Man. This can be seen from Matthew 11:19, “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” Here He is not only called a friend of tax collectors and sinners but a glutton and a drunkard as well. Note the important qualifying words; “**they say**”.

We need to ask, do the words glutton and drunkard make of Him a drunkard and a glutton?

1 John 1:3: “*what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*”

2 Cor 13:14: “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*”

2 Cor 5:18: “*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*”

Only one person was ever called a friend of God, and that was Abraham. “*And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*” (James 2:23)

You will notice that in all the references Warren quotes in his book (1 John 1:3, 1 Cor 1:9, 2 Cor 13:14 and 2 Cor 5:18) the word *friend* is not used in literal translations. The reason being that different Greek words are used. Abraham was called a *philos* (friend) in James 2:23. But in 1 John 1:3, 1 Cor 1:9 and 2 Cor 13:14 different words; *koinonia* (communion or fellowship) and in 2 Cor 5:18 *katalasso* (reconciled) and *katallage* (reconciliation) are used. It becomes clear when the context of the references Mr Warren quotes are considered that he forces the meanings through the use of liberal paraphrase translations to add meanings that are NOT implied by the context. Is this honesty?

And so there are numerous other twistings of the Word of God in this book to suit whatever Mr Warren is trying to imply. It cannot be stressed enough that his Biblical quotations cannot be trusted. We have to check the proper meanings in good literal translations. If you have the book or have even completed a 40-day Purpose Driven course then you are seriously urged to go through the book again and compare the scriptures he quotes with a good more literal translation and check out the meanings and their implications for yourself.

Mike Oppenheimer of Let Us Reason Ministries (<http://www.letusreason.org>) very aptly writes in his article *The Purpose Driven Life — Book Review* the

following: “The way Warren advocates certain scriptures is weak as he tries to attach them to the same basic premise he is presenting throughout his book, even when they do not fit.”

Unity is important to Warren. From what he writes on page 161 one gets the impression that a member of Saddleback is not allowed to query false doctrine: “God wants unity, not uniformity. But for unity’s sake we must never let differences divide us.”

To become a member of Saddleback Valley Community Church Warren requires individuals to sign a covenant (p. 13, be under discipline pp. 132-137)¹ and also to determine how and where best to use a person in his church to have his personality profile determined, (his S.H.A.P.E.-programme, starts on day 30, p.234) so that he/she can be placed in an applicable position in church. Is this what God requires of people before He can use them?

The S.H.A.P.E.-programme:

Purpose #4 starts on page 227—Day 29: Accepting Your Assignment.

On page 229 he quotes: “*He saved us and called us to be his own people, not because of what we have done, but because of his own purpose*” (2 Tim 1:9, **Today’s English Version**).

“*You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you.*” (1 Peter 2:9, **God’s Word Translation**).

“*Now you belong to him...in order that we might be useful in the service of God.*” (Rom 7:4, **Today’s English Version**).

Let us see what these Scriptures really say from the **NASB** translation for instance.

2 Tim 1:9: “[W]ho has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.”

1 Peter 2:9: “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”

Rom 7:4: “*Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised*

from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”

Then on page 234, Day 30 — Shaped for Serving God starts.

On page 236 the individual letters of S.H.A.P.E. is explained:

- S = Spiritual Gifts—God-given abilities to do Kingdom work.
H = Heart—Areas of passion or burden in your life.
A = Abilities—Skills you have developed or acquired.
P = Personality—Your natural bent.
E = Experience—Both good and bad.

Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit as He wills. (1 Cor 12:11) There is not a single Scripture that instructs us how to find our gift. When the Holy Spirit gives a gift it is perfect, simply because He is God.

About the **H=Heart**, Warren writes on pages 237 & 238, “Your heart represents the source of all your motivations—what you love to do and what you care for most...Your heart reveals the real you,” and “God has given each of us a unique *emotional* ‘heartbeat...’ “How do you know when you are serving God from your heart? The first telltale sign is *enthusiasm*” (*Italics* in original.)

By nature we humans can be very enthusiastic but not about the things of and for God. It is ignorance on Warren’s part to make this analogy. It is also natural for us to be very motivated about all kinds of things BUT the things of God.

Why does Mr Warren ignore a very critical factor about the human heart? “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*” (Jer 17:9, **MKJV**)

A = Abilities: “Rick Warren stated on page 75 in *The Purpose Driven Life* that ‘there are no unspiritual abilities, just misused ones.’ Then on page 242 he states that there are both ‘natural’ and ‘spiritual’ abilities. Well if all abilities are spiritual i.e., no unspiritual abilities) then it logically follows that all ‘natural’ abilities are spiritual. This is clearly a contradiction on Warren’s part and totally confusing. Then he goes on to say on page 242 that ‘natural’ abilities... are just as important...as your spiritual gifts.’ Even if we were able to sort out all of the confusion here of what Warren really means, he would still be wrong. Spiritual ability must always be more important than natural ability and reign supreme over it. If this were not true, then non-

believers who also have the same natural abilities as believers would be viewed in the church as important as Christians. There is not a single scripture to support Warren’s glaring error of doctrine here, but there are plenty of Scripture examples to prove that spiritual abilities exceedingly outweigh natural abilities in importance.” (Sundquist: 144)

P = Personality: When the actual personality profile questionnaire, that also does not appear in *The Purpose Driven Life* book, is downloaded off the internet, the same as with the S.H.A.P.E. questionnaire, we finds it is a questionnaire within a questionnaire. (www.unl.edu/navs/resources/shape.pdf, or from the saddleback website)

“Rick Warren, in talking about the P component in *The Purpose Driven Life*, uses the same terminology coined by Carl Jung. Rick Warren contrasts Introvert/Extrovert and Thinker/Feeler... exactly the terminology and meaning promoted and intended by Carl Jung. (Sundquist, :151) “God made *introverts* and *extroverts*. He made people who love *routine* and those who love *variety*. He made some people ‘*thinkers*’ and others ‘*feelers*.’...The Bible says, ‘*God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.*’²

“The Bible gives us plenty of proof that God uses all types of personalities. Peter was a *sanguine*. Paul was a *choleric*. Jeremiah was a *melancholy*. When you look at the personality differences of the twelve disciples, it’s easy to see why they sometimes had interpersonal conflict.” (Warren, :244-245, *italics* in original.)

Were the conflicts because of their different personalities or because of their different interpretations of doctrine, and because of their sinful human natures?

The concepts of *sanguine, choleric, melancholy, etc.*, are also psychological terms and refers to the idea that all humans can be placed in one of *Four Temperaments*. The Myers-Briggs Temperament Indicator (MBTI) and the shorter version known as the Keirsey-Bates Temperament Sorter are both used by psychologists to determine a person’s personality profile or temperament. However, it is interesting to read what Dr Pittenger wrote in 1993: “...the Myers-Briggs™ instrument generates sixteen distinct personality profiles based on which side of the four scales one tends

toward. Technically, the instrument is not supposed to be used to spew out personality profiles and pigeonhole people, but the temptation to do so is irresistible. Providing personality tests and profiles has become a kind of entertainment on the Internet. There is also a pernicious side to these profiles: they can lead to discrimination and poor career counseling. Employers may hire, fire, or assign personnel by personality type, despite the fact that the MBTI® is not even reliable at identifying one’s type. **Several studies have shown that when retested, even after intervals as short as five weeks, as many as 50 percent will be classified into a different type.** There is scant support for the belief that the MBTI® would justify such job discrimination or would be a reliable aid to someone seeking career guidance.” (As quoted in Sundquist, :150-151)

E = Experience: Warren writes on page 246: “You have been shaped by your experiences in life, most of which were beyond your control.³ God allowed them for his purpose of molding you. In determining your shape for serving God, you should examine at least six kinds of experiences from your past:

- “*Family* experiences: What did you learn growing up in your family?
- “*Educational* experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
- “*Vocational* experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
- “*Spiritual* experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
- “*Ministry* experiences: How have you served God in the past?
- “*Painful* experiences: What problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have your learned from?”

Warren then explains how your past, bad and painful experiences are mostly used by God to prepare you for ministry. You must not hide your bad experiences but use them to serve others. He then refers to Paul on page 247: “Paul understood this truth, so he was honest about his bouts with depression. He admitted, ‘*I think you ought to know, dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise*

the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect him to do it again and again.” (2 Cor 1:8-10, *Living Bible*)

The *NASB* rendering: “For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;”

It does not appear as if Paul was writing to the church about their experience, but rather that God got the honour, for He saved them.

How many of us can really tell about our experiences and what worth could such experiences be in ministry? Is the fact that He changed us, from the old man that we were to the new creature in Christ not what it's all about? Think about it—how many bad choices have you made in life and had to live with their consequential experiences?

Did God use the past life experiences of any of the prophets and/or the apostles so He could use them for His work, or did He use them after He had changed them into the persons they became?

What about New Age and other connections?

Warren refers to Dr. Bernie Siegel on p.31 in the hope it would lend greater credence to his idea of a purpose driven life as promoted in this book of his. “[Siegel] is a New Age holistic doctor and influential New Age leader. In his books and workshops he encourages people to do guided meditations and visualization. As he once did and made contact with his own personal spirit guides. Siegel openly endorses the teachings of A Course In Miracles which preaches another Christ. He also serves on the Board of Advisors of Jerry Jampolsky's the Course in Miracles-based Attitudinal Center. Just another incident of a lack of discernment? Maybe, except there are many more examples.” (Oppenheimer, Book Review article.)

On page 102 & 103 we read: “My friend Gary Thomas...discovered that Christians have used many different paths for 2,000 years to enjoy intimacy with God...In his book *Sacred Pathways*, Gary identifies nine of the ways people draw near to God...” Thomas not only quotes Carl Jung favourably in this book, but also “suggests the use of ‘Dancing Prayer,’ not

in bodily movements, but to imagine in our minds dancing with God and allowing Him to lead. Then he gives instructions on ‘Centering Prayer.’” (Oppenheimer) Just a question: Do we “discover” God through ways we envisage or through Jesus Christ as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit?

On page 125 Warren writes: “As Mother Teresa said, ‘It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters.’ Love is the secret of a lasting heritage.” This sounds all so good, but. We can love for the wrong purpose—to coin a phrase. It is well-known that Mother Teresa was not concerned about leading people to Christ but rather said that people can be good Buddhists, Hindu's or whatever faith they practiced. Her implication is clear; all paths lead to God. *Time* wrote in an article 12 April 1989 what she said: “All is God—Buddhists, Hindu's Christians etc. All have access to the same God.”

Draw your own conclusions with regards to these connections, while not forgetting that Warren referred to Gary Thomas, a New Ager, as “my friend.”

Is this perhaps because of these influences that he specifically chose to use the quote from a *New Century Version* translation of Ephesians 4:6: “*He rules everything and everywhere and is in everything.*” That is pure pantheism—a New Age and Eastern concept of God that teaches that God is within His creation. God is everywhere but NOT in everything. Here is the *MKJV*: “one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in **you** all.” When you check this out, note that Paul is addressing the believers—verses 1-5 makes this clear, and the word **you**, in bold in the quote is the key.

We also find that he promotes other New Age concepts.

Breath prayers (p.89): Mike Oppenheimer writes in his article: “Warren presents prayer mantras bordering on positive confession type decrees: ‘One way is to use ‘breath prayers’ throughout the day, as many Christians [actually Catholic mystics] have done for centuries. You choose a brief sentence or a simple phrase that can be repeated to Jesus in one breath. ‘You are with me’. ‘I receive your grace.’ ‘I'm depending on you.’ ‘I want to know you.’ ‘I belong to you.’ ‘Help me trust you.’ Pray it as often as possible so it is rooted deep in your heart.’”

Warren carries on: “Just be sure your motive is to honor God, not control him...Practising the presence of God is a skill, a habit you can develop.” What happened to Jesus' promise: “...I am with you all the days until the end of the world.” (Matt 28:20)? And Paul's words to the Corinthians: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Cor 3:16) Does what Warren say mean that some people can really master the skill and so ensure God's presence all the time, while those of us who fail to acquire the skill will never experience the presence of God?

“Because Rick Warren and other church leaders don't seem to discern the deception, they are unfortunately becoming a part of the deceptive process...their inability to spiritually discern what is happening is placing the Church in grave danger. They, don't seem to understand how our spiritual Adversary want to use the Purpose-Driven Church for his own ulterior purposes...There is a false Christ on the world scene, and he is using ‘purpose’ as a ploy to seduce the world into accepting the compromised principles of his New Spirituality.” (Smith, :147-148)

Footnotes:

1. Disciplining people ala Purpose Driven style resulted in 165 members being ousted from Gardendale Baptist church (in Corpus Christi, Texas on 18 July 2004, information on www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/articles/0,1641,CCCT_811_3050141,00.html) In light of his opinion on unity does this not make sense?
2. 1 Cor 12:6, *New Testament in Modern English*, by J.B. Phillips. “And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.” (*Authorised Version*) Here is the translation from a good paraphrase, the *NIV*: “There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” Does this have anything to do with different personalities. To make sure check out the context by reading the surrounding verses.
3. Warren references as footnote 11 Romans 8:28-29 from an unidentified translation here but does not quote it. “And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose.” (*ASV*) It is clear from this reference that these are people who have been saved by God through Christ Jesus. It has no bearing on unbelievers. Warren's whole purpose with the Saddleback church philosophy is built on the ideas of Bill Hybels and Robert Schuller to give people what they want so as to get them to attend church.