

# THE CHURCH: GOD'S INSTRUMENT FOR HEALING TRAUMA

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So much has been learned about the concept of trauma in recent decades. Its affect on human development and behavior has forever changed the way we look at people. We have learned to move the question from "What's wrong with that person?" to "What happened to that person?" Understanding trauma helps us change the lens through which we view human behavior. The next time you are faced with human behavior that you don't understand, try changing the question as described above. Quite often, trauma explains human behavior when there is no other explanation. Note that I'm not saying trauma excuses human behavior. Rather, it can sometimes help explain it.

Trauma has been defined by Bessel Van Der Kolk as occurring when "both internal and external resources are inadequate to cope with external threat." (1989)

Or to put it another way, we have a burden that we are simply unable to bear. And until and unless we have someone(s) to help us through that burden, it will overwhelm us.

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## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." (Matt. 4:17)

Israel had longed for and watched for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Daniel spoke of an everlasting kingdom which would be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. John came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matt. 3:2) The message of Jesus from the beginning of his ministry to the end was about the Kingdom of Heaven. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'" (Matt. 7:21)

After Jesus' resurrection he indwells as king in his people. He explained, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20, 21) We are in the kingdom and the kingdom is within us and the eternal Kingdom is coming with great power and glory when Jesus returns.

"For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins." (Col. 1:13, 14) "So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:10, 11)

Elizabeth Brown , Texarkana

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## THE CHURCH: GOD'S INSTRUMENT FOR HEALING TRAUMA, p. 2

A clearer purpose of the church could not be defined. As Paul would tell the Galatians, *"Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ."* (Gal. 6:2) Certainly through his own life experiences, Paul learned the value of having brethren to help carry you through difficult times. There is no shame in being overwhelmed. It happens to all of us, often in the form of financial difficulties, disease, death, divorce, family issues, mental illness, loss of a job, etc... We are faced with numerous external threats throughout our lives that send us reeling in shock. They leave us unable to move forward. They leave us frozen in place developmentally. Don't ever feel ashamed for feeling or being overwhelmed. There is no sense of personal guilt in that whatsoever.

In God's perfect plan, He created a spiritual family that is designed with and charged with carrying us through overwhelming times. It is His church. He added us to that spiritual family when we were born again. He signed our spiritual birth certificate just as surely as our physical parents signed our physical birth certificate. God lays claim to being our Father, our parent. And as such, he seeks our best interest just as surely as our earthly parents did (or should have, as the case may be).

In His divine wisdom, He created a support system larger than anything we could have by our natural family. That's why we find the word "brethren" used so frequently in the New Testament. It's why New Testament writers consistently use the phrase "one another." We are family, wherever we find ourselves in this world. We are brethren, no matter what language, country, or type of government we live under. And it is the resource of that spiritual family that God expects to be the source of healing for trauma we face in life.

He expects us to step up as brothers and sisters and be there for one another when we encounter life's burdens.

This is not an option. It is a solemn charge given to us by God through inspiration. We don't have the choice to "pass by the other side" as the Priest and Levite did in the story of the Good Samaritan. When we encounter brethren who are overwhelmed, it is our family responsibility to help them carry their burden.

How sad that too often, we have made the overwhelmed feel guilty for being overwhelmed. We have far too many times sought to place blame rather than bear burdens. Scripture didn't tell us to conduct an investigation to find out the source of one's burden. God doesn't put us in the position of passing judgment on what brought the burden about. He simply tells us categorically to bear one another's burdens. And it is doing exactly that which fulfills the law of Christ.

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**If you can't explain it to a six-year-old, you don't understand it yourself." Albert Einstein**

**That must mean a whole lot of scientist don't understand the theory of relativity.**

## THE CHURCH, p. 3

## GROWING UP

The supreme example of burden bearing is Jesus Himself. As the prophet said, *"Surely our griefs He himself bore, and our sorrows He carried..."* (Isaiah 53:4) He did this even while we were *"yet in our sins."* (Romans 5:8) Aren't you glad that Jesus did this without any regard for how unworthy we were to have it done? That is the definition of grace and mercy. And what He did for us, He expects us to do for others.

What a beautiful example of a fully functioning family when we witness a church committed to bearing burdens, to helping one another, to coming together rather than splitting apart. The healthiest families I know are the ones who are committed to each other as family members. They band together. Nothing has overtaken us in this life that God's church cannot help through the healing process. What a blessing that we have this priceless resource to share on our journey through this life!

Glenn Newberry, LPC

Past President of Foster's Home for Children

**WE HAVE THE TRUTH,  
LOGIC AND ACTUAL  
SCIENCE ON OUR  
SIDE.**

**WE WILL NOT LOSE IF  
WE USE IT.**

"For many years I was weak in knowledge and adolescent in faith, but willing to work collaboratively with others – especially older adults – and eager to share with others whatever could be learned that proved useful for the common good.

Meanwhile, I observed that some who seemed to have little useful to share remained unproductive and held uncompromising opinions rooted in pride of personal knowledge; while some quietly succeeded through patient and persistent collaboration with others having an attitude of humility in fellowship and mutual edification.

By choosing the path of interdependence among those having knowledge and good will, I can now attest to the many unanticipated benefits which accrued to my companions, myself, and untold others over my years. As I now continue my search for "new horizons" as a disciple of Jesus Christ and student of God's Word, I find that I continue to grow in knowledge of truth, wisdom, trust and faith in God's provident grace and purposeful plan for my life – yesterday, today and tomorrow. I now know and believe "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) In my "old age" I am still eager to share with others – especially the younger generations – whatever I have learned that may prove useful for their common good, and in so doing, I remain eager to learn from others still more that proves to be useful for our common good.

Above all the knowledge and skills that mankind may pursue for our common good, the greatest good is to be found in learning to love one-another as ourselves in the same Spirit of reconciliation as that made available to us all by the love and grace of God, The Father.

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio

## CHURCH GROWTH: 9 Reasons Churches Stop Evangelizing Well

In reviewing a church's history, it's much more likely to find them an evangelizing church during their early years than their later ones. Frankly, most churches lose the evangelistic passion that marked them in their beginning. Here are some reasons why:

- 1. In their early days, reaching lost people is part of their vision – but that focus decreases as the church grows.** No longer are they driven to evangelize as much once the church reaches critical mass.
- 2. As the church matures, leaders give their attention to internal matters.** Questions like what type of polity will we have, when will we build (if we do), what curriculum will we follow, and others divert attention from evangelism.
- 3. Pastoral care requires more time as the church grows.** It's really a simple formula: more people in the congregation = more needs to meet and more requests for care. It's tough to meet those needs and evangelize, too.
- 4. Leaders fail to equip others to help them do ministry.** Instead of delegating work so they can keep casting vision for evangelism, they wind up carrying all the responsibilities themselves. Evangelism almost always takes a back seat then.
- 5. Fellowship—as great as it can be—becomes self-protective.** That is, the church loves to be together because it feels like a "safe place" from a messed-up and chaotic world. Churches in protection mode seldom invite outsiders to join them.
- 6. Transfer growth takes their attention off evangelism.** The church might well be growing, but it's growing by swapping sheep with other congregations. That growth—consistent though it may be—lulls the church to sleep evangelistically.

**7. The church plans so many activities that members have no time left to develop relationships with non-believers.** The growing church offers more activities, and they often quietly expect members to participate in everything. The result is busy members who don't know non-believers.

**8. Nobody's paying attention to conversion numbers.** They may have been burdened about those numbers during the early days of the church, but not so much anymore. Accountability decreases, and so does evangelism.

**9. Leaders don't teach enough about the lostness of human beings.** I'm convinced many members believe good people are going to heaven apart from a relationship with Christ—and only consistent biblical teaching will change their perspective. Too little teaching on this topic leads to too little evangelism.

What would you add to this list?

Chuck Lawless

**IF YOU DON'T STRIKE OIL IN  
20 MINUTES, STOP BORING.**

**BILLY GRAHAM**

## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION # 108: WOODPECKER'S TONGUE

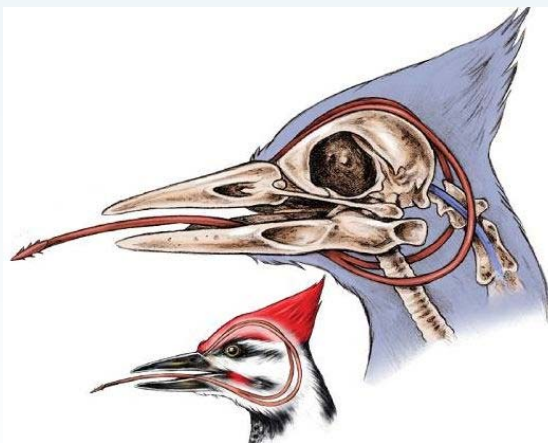
When we hear a woodpecker pecking at a tree, it is usually pecking to find an insect larvae tunnelling within the tree. Apparently the woodpecker can hear the larvae crawling inside the tree or can at least detect from the echo where a hollow in the tree is; and knows about where to peck. You have to imagine that when the larvae hears or feels the pecking coming, it tries to go someplace else down its tunnel.

A woodpecker will peck at a rate of about 20 times per second and about 12,000 times a day to drill a hole in the tree to intersect with the larvae's tunnel. Each time it will sustain a collision with the tree with an impact of 1200 g or 1200 times the force of gravity. Astronauts sustain an acceleration of about 3 g's when taking off in a rocket. NFL football players colliding will generate impacts of 80-150 g's, frequently receiving concussions. Oddly enough, concussions in a football player is considered bad, and it boxing it is the goal. The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) standard suggests that for a full body acceleration on an average person of 75 g's will cause severe injury or death.

Most likely when the woodpecker gains access into the larvae's tunnel, the larvae is not there but has moved away down its tunnel. The woodpecker must then put its tongue down the tunnel to find the larvae. The tongue of the woodpecker is up to 2.8 times the length of its beak (or mouth) to go down the tunnel and find the larvae.

Our tongues are about the length of our mouth. When you stick your tongue out, it is

mostly pivoting from the attachment. Unlike the tongues of humans, which are primarily muscular, the tongues of woodpeckers are rigidly supported by a cartilage-and-bone skeleton called the hyoid apparatus (shown in red). A protractor muscle (not seen in graphic) which is attached to the tongue retracts to extend the tongue forward like a spear.



artwork by ASHLEY HULL

When the tongue finds the larvae, it is not sufficient to lick the end of the larvae, it must engage the larvae. It cannot wrap around the larvae to grab it as the tunnel will only be the diameter of the larvae. The woodpecker solves this by the design implementation of a barb on the end of its tongue. It literally spears the larvae to engage it. It doesn't get a million years to evolve a barb, if it doesn't spear and engage the larvae when it reaches it, the woodpecker doesn't eat.

It can be said that some other birds share these same features to a lesser extent. However, each of the hyoid apparatus, the protractor muscle, and the barb are specific design problems with specific DNA programming which could not have happen by accident when they first happened. Once created, there might be some evolution in size, but accidental evolution cannot design them.



(Image credit: Courtesy of WilmerLab at Ohio University; insert from Shutterstock)



## WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO SERIES

Fifty years ago we could take it for granted that most people we met believed in God, were of the Christian religion, and that society in general supported church work. Today atheistic evolution is openly taught in schools and we are getting progressively less support for religious practices. After you have established a relationship with a prospect, this series will provide concise Christian apologetics.

This 3 lesson Wings of Eagles DVD personal evangelism series are addressed to our contemporary situation. They can be easily shown in a personal evangelism encounter or a Bible class lesson.

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A comparison of atheistic evolution with the reality of a god existing, leading to the conclusion that a god exists.

#### WHICH GOD?

A comparison of the various offerings to be the god, leading to the conclusion that Jehovah and Jesus are God.

#### WHATS NEXT?

A brief history of the world and of Christianity leading to a discussion of how to find Christ's church.

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Hello, this is Maxine -- I have questions!



If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?  
Why is it that, no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?



## Foster's Home for Children

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For more information, contact Glenn Newberry, President, at 214 536-6172.



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On the [occgrowth.org](http://occgrowth.org) website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled:

### MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their "curb appeal".

A project of the OC Church Growth Think Tank



# **WHICH GROUP?**

## **THE APOSTACY**



**SUMMARY:** The Apostacy was already happening in the first century, and God's judgments were already happening in the first century. Would we in our well educated, Bible literate status expect a more lenient judgment?

### 1. CHRIST APPROVED THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

On the day of Pentecost 50 days after Christ's resurrection, the apostles established Christ's church (kingdom) on earth (Acts 2). The remainder of the New Testament after Acts 2 describes the church which Christ approved in the first century.

We know that the church of the first century was pleasing to Christ, and therefore a church established today which is similar to the first century church will also be pleasing to Christ. We can question whether a church today which chooses for itself teachings it prefers rather than submitting to simple New Testament truths will be pleasing to Christ.

### 2. THE NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTS APOSTATE CHURCHES AND CHRISTIANS

- a. Acts 20:28-32 wolves will come in among you
- b. I Timothy 4:1-3 Pay attention to deceitful spirits, hypocrisy of liars, forbid marriage, abstain from foods, (Celibacy of priests, fish on Friday)
- c. II Timothy 4:1-4 Accumulate teachers in accordance with their own desires, will turn aside to myths (A myth is a popular belief or tradition which has grown up around someone or something. I.e. the assumption of Mary's body into heaven was earliest recorded in A.D. 451 in the Greek Orthodox Church and in A.D. 600 in the Roman Catholic Church. It became official Roman Catholic doctrine in A.D. 1950, see World Book)
- d. II Peter 2:1-3 False teachers
- e. See also: Gal. 1:6-8, II Thes. 2:3-12, & II Tim. 3:1-9.

### 3. APOSTASIES BEGINNING IN THE FIRST CENTURY

- a. I Cor. 1:10-15 Men calling themselves after other men's names
- b. I Cor. 5:1-3 Tolerating immorality in the church
- c. I Cor. 11:18-29 Abuse of the Lord's Supper
- d. I Cor. 15:12-19 Teaching that Christ was not resurrected
- e. Gal. 5:4 Falling from grace for they were trying to bring God's old law into the new church
- f. Heb. 10:25 Forsaking of the assembly
- g. Col. 2:18 Delighting in self abasement and worship of angels
- h. Rev. 2:2-5 Left first love, although cannot endure evil men

# **WHICH GROUP?**

## **THE APOSTACY**

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- i. Rev 2:14 Following Balak, 2:20 Tolerating the "prophetess" Jezebel
  - j. Rev. 3:2 Spiritually dead although having a reputation for being alive, Rev. 3:16 Lukewarm
4. THE BIBLE INDICATED JUDGMENT ON CONGREGATIONS IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Each of the following judgments happened even in the lifetime of the Apostles.

- A. Gal. 1:8 NASB "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"
- B. Revelation 3:16 NASB "So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."
- C. Revelation 2:5 NASB "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent."
- D. Revelation 22:18-19 NASB "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will *take away his part* from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

We can find no cases in which God made an instruction, people ignored it, and God was pleased. Can you expect anything less when we are literate, well informed, and have multiple copies of God's Bible in our hands?

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## AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

Each Wed. NE Houston Preacher's Meeting, Location varies  
11:00—1:00, Contact cell (713) 201-2417, [marcusbarnum@gmail.com](mailto:marcusbarnum@gmail.com)

2nd Tues. NW Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**THE TWO ABOVE ACTIVITIES ARE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND ARE  
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