

The Trend Of Ecumenism

Ronnie Wolfe – 1-21-2019

Ecumenism is a natural trend for human society. It has always been an inclination of the flesh to gather all peoples of the world together to become one cosmopolitan bunch. It is true both in the political and the religious realm.

I just today finished a book entitled “Luther And The Reformation,” and the force of the book was to show, not only Luther’s contribution to Protestantism, but also his contribution, along with other Protestants, toward bringing all religions together to live and work together in agreement, using America and religious liberty as an example of how all religions can “get along.”

One must remember the wickedness of the whole world in Noah’s day as a result of there being a conglomeration of peoples working in tandem to effect that strange fire which God would not accept from man, bringing down upon almost the totality of mankind the wrath of God, which was wrought through the events of the flood, yet showing God’s mercy to a few, that is, eight souls saved by water.

We see the same endeavor attempted in Genesis Chapter 10 at the tower of Babel, where the entire world population ventured to build a tower to their own honor and glory, rejecting God’s own glory and arrogating his glory to themselves, which is the character of those who think and acts as brute beasts, God’s action following with divided languages and the scattering of the multitudes to all corners of the earth.

In more modern times, almost every religious group thought of itself as the only right way; and, as a result, each one thought his religion should be the government of its own country. The *a priori* example would be that of Catholicism, admitted by all. The name *Catholic* itself intimates a form of ecumenicalism, although not actually so. Their teaching is that the whole world should acquiesce to the doctrine of that Church and none other. The name’s literal meaning is taken from two Greek words, the first is *KATA*, which means *according to*, and the Greek word *HOLOS*, which means *the whole*. This word is that from which we get our word *holistic*. In other words, Catholic doctrine teaches that the *whole*, or *universal* population should be made to comply with their doctrine.

The origin of this type of thinking came, no doubt, from those in New Testament times, whom Peter warned against in 1 Peter 5:3 *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock*. No man’s conscience should be controlled by another person or by a government or religion. This was also the error of the Protestant Reformation: they neglected to see the error in this lording over others, so they also lorded over others and endeavored to make each of their Protestant religions the religion of the state—marriage of State and Church. This, then, would place every disparate religion under the control of one religion. Catholics and many Protestants despised the thinking of the Anabaptists, who thought and taught the freedom of conscience and of religion.

Ephesians 4:3 is used many times to vindicate the idea of ecumenism, a word which means “the entire inhabited world.” The verse says, Ephesians 4:3 *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* But peace is never to be sought at the expense of truth. In ecumenism, that is exactly what must happen. In Scripture, this unity of the Spirit and this bond of peace is to be kept in the local church (Ephesus was a local church), not in a worldwide church with conflicting doctrines and spurious leadership.

Another verse that is used to substantiate the claims of the ecumenical movement is Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* The error here is found in the phrase *this gospel*. In the ecumenical realm many times *another gospel* is preached, or a mixture of gospels is allowed. But there is only one gospel, as we know.

The modern Ecumenical Movement, most say, began in 1910. Wikipedia has an article on this movement stating “The 1910 World Missionary Conference, or the Edinburgh Missionary Conference, was held on 14 to 23 June, 1910. Some have seen it as both the culmination of nineteenth-century Protestant Christian missions and the formal beginning of the modern Protestant Christian ecumenical movement, after a sequence of interdenominational meetings that can be traced back as far as 1854.”

An article reprinted in The Sword Of The Lord this week states the following:

The Parliament Of The World’s Religions International Interfaith Movement Convenes

In 1893, during the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, thousands gathered over 17 days in September to witness a “*World’s parliament of Religions.*” For many Americans, it was their first encounter with Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews and other people of non-Christian faith . . . According to the organizers, the Parliament would “bring about a real fraternity of nations and unite the enlightened peoples of the whole earth in a general cooperation for the attainment of the great ends for which human society is organized.” They would “unite all religion against all irreligion” and secure “the coming unity of mankind in the service of God and man.”

This year (2018) on the 125th anniversary of the original meeting, thousands of people gathered in Toronto, Canada, over seven days in November, to continue the work of building religious fraternity

In Toronto, the thousands of attendees (nearly 10,000, according to the organizers) were a mixture of the world’s religions . . . from the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto and the American Sikh Council to the Alliance for Inclusive Heathenry [*German Paganism*] and the Interfaith Vegan Coalition. The only groups conspicuously absent were politically or theologically conservative ones.

-Gene Zubovish, religionand politics.org

In my opinion, it will be only a matter of time until the influence of this organization will affect even the “politically and theologically conservative ones.”

No wonder the Bible encourages us to *earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints* (Jude 1:3).