

TEN FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LUTHERANISM AND OUTREACH

By Pr. William P. Terjesen

"Get 'em into the church with contemporary worship and meeting felt needs, THEN teach them Lutheran doctrine later." **False Doctrine!**

TRUTH: That just results in an ignorant and unconverted membership who later strenuously resist Lutheran doctrine and practice.

"Closed communion is anti-outreach, anti-mission." **False Doctrine!**

TRUTH: If closed communion is biblical and true, it cannot be against the true mission of the church. God's truth cannot work against itself. Anyone who is driven away by closed communion is driven away by biblical doctrine and practice, and is NOT the kind of person you want in your church anyway. ...unless you LIKE a church full of "alligators".

"Evangelical Style, Lutheran Substance." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: Evangelical style begets evangelical believers. Lutheran doctrine gets short shrift. Where do *you* see all the zeal for Lutheran doctrine in evangelical style Lutheran mega-churches?

"While we obsess over the Benke matter, souls are being lost. Let's stop this and get on with the mission." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: No soul is lost because God's people contend for truth against error. Contending for the truth against error is part and parcel of the church's mission. However, souls could and do go to hell for syncretism and the belief that the Muslim god is also the true God. Anyone who teaches or acts in a way that encourages that belief is in grave spiritual danger.

"The Lutheran liturgy works against the great commission." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: The Lutheran liturgy is 90% Scripture arranged in a law/gospel manner and is evangelical to the core. Therefore, it cannot work against the conversion of souls. What it works against is the entertainment of the decadent.

"If we forbid participation in interfaith services etc., we miss many opportunities for outreach." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: Every Lutheran pastor on earth could immediately cease participation in all

interfaith "once-in-a-lifetime events", even all *civic* events for that matter, and not one of the elect would be lost. There are so many legitimate opportunities for genuine witness out there, that the failure of a Lutheran cleric to show up at an interfaith thanksgiving service, an ecumenical prayer breakfast, or even a Kiwanis club luncheon for that matter, would not negatively impact the mission of the church IN THE LEAST.

"For the sake of the lost, we should emphasize only the positive, and not talk about the harder to accept aspects of our faith. After all, we don't want to drive people away." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: That's what cultists do - hide the truth until the fish is caught. Orthodox believers can simply tell the truth openly and honestly, because truth is truth. "But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God" (2Co 4:2 esv).

"If we insist on a six day creation, not letting Masons be members, saying the Pope is the antichrist, we'll never win anyone to our faith." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: While we don't want to talk about these things obsessively or beyond their proper biblical and theological context, we need not be ashamed of any Lutheran doctrine. Truth is truth. Jesus told us that His sheep hear His voice, those who aren't, don't. Tell all the truth, properly distinguishing between the law and the gospel, and let the Lord sort it all out.

"In today's world we can't limit the role of women the way we used to. It'll drive people away." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: If the classic biblical position on the role of women is the truth, then it is not negotiable. If people don't like it, too bad. It's God and His Word they don't like! Remember, feminism is a satanic ideology, not a benign political opinion.

"We need to structure our leadership for mission. Forget letting the sheep judge their shepherds. Forget the Royal priesthood. We need CEOs and a compliant funding base." **False doctrine!**

TRUTH: Today denominations are run by atheological, bureaucratic organization men – including, it appears, the "LC-A-Mess". There's an institution to be maintained; a bureaucracy to sustain! Theology is only useful if it works to that end! Don't be fooled by Mission talk. Too often it's just a guilt trip used to get your money. Rust never sleeps!

I could go on and on. You don't have to scour websites to find liberal shenanigans introduced in the name of "Mission". It's all around us. It's gotten to the point that whenever someone mentions the so-called "Great Commission", I check my back pocket to see if my wallet is still there.