

What the Bible Actually Says:
Man and Eternal Life

Introduction

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Pastor Story

NOTE: Jesus told one of the malefactors who were being crucified along with him that he would that day be with Christ in paradise.
Yet, he had not been baptized. (Luke 23:43)

- In my mid thirties
- Investigated Protestant churches
- Attended Protestant schools
- Attended a Baptist church
- Met with pastor (hour or so)
- “Is baptism required for salvation?” *Pastor: “Yes”*
- “What if one doesn’t hear the good news?” *Pastor: “Then they go to Hell”*

Not Baptized?
Then they go to Hell
What do you think?

Started Thinking about Churches

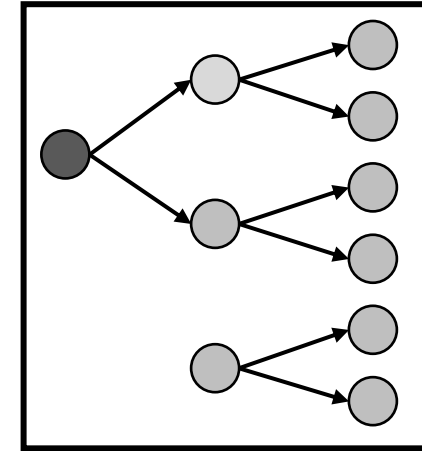
- Why did I get such an answer?
- Why are there so many churches?
- Can they all be right?
- Are they teaching the Bible faithfully?
- What could be causing this?



How Did We Get Here?

- Started with one church
- Divisions occurred
- Completely new starts occurred

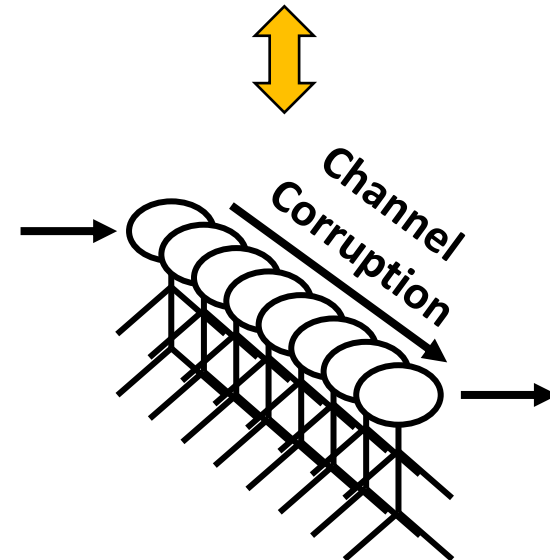
Original
Church
1



Today's
Churches
~32,000

-
- Doctrine became corrupt
 - Groupthink holds groups together

*Initial
Message*



*Final
Message*

***What is the chance that any group
faithfully teaches Biblical doctrine?***

We Study Man's View; Not God's Word

- People are misleading others about what the Bible says:
 - Authors present their own views in place of what the Bible says
 - They write out their views and interpretations
 - They suppress the Bible to secondary importance by using just references to it
 - **You read what they say, not what the Bible says**
 - Problematic doctrine examples are:
 - [Once Saved, Always Saved?](#) (some call this a dangerous doctrine)
 - [Three-in-One Trinity?](#) (no one even knows what this could possibly mean)
- This is causing an incorrect understanding of the Bible in those others
- Let's stop listening to what men say the Bible says!

Trinity Doctrine Example

Man Says:

The New Testament states that there is only one God (Matt. 23:9; Mark 10:18; 12:29; John 5:44; 17:3; Romans 3:30; 1 Cor. 8:4; Gal. 3:20; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; 2:5; James 2:19; 4:12; Jude 25). It goes on to make clear statements about the divinity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and, therefore, introduces the concept of the Trinity, although it does not actually use the word "Trinity".

Bible Says:

The one God is the Father

Not a three-in-one we don't know what it is! (John 17:1-3; Rom 15:6; 1Cor 8:4-6; Eph 4:4-6)

In this example, the author has conveniently left out information that conflicts with his view.

Fundamental Teaching Affected!

- The most serious concern is that *fundamental doctrine* has been affected!
- We don't know who we are anymore!
- We don't know what eternal life is anymore!
- This has the potential to significantly impact our lives!
- Something needs to change!

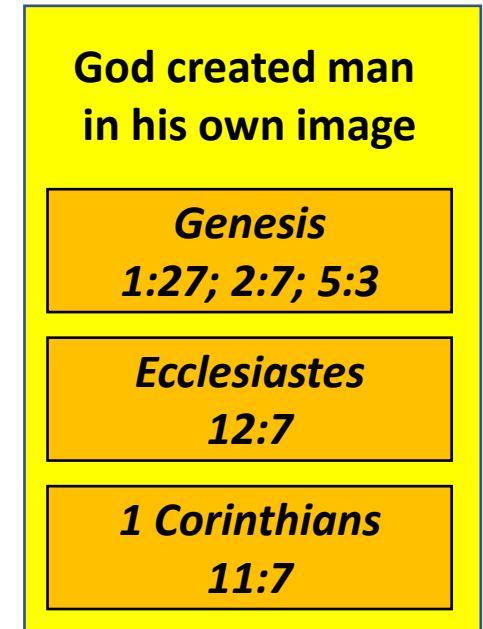
We have lost our way!

I have never used so many exclamation points before! But they seem appropriate :)

Truth Acquisition Requires Using the Bible

- Must use only Bible to assert facts
- Bible is not topically organized
 - Must review entire Bible for each topic
 - Using the Bible to make assertions is work intensive
 - Can it be simplified?
 - Hard to see any other way;
If you want to know the truth, you must use entire Bible

Example
OT & NT



Three books of the Bible required.
Two OT and one NT.
To explain topic properly.

What the Bible Actually Says (WTBAS) Approach

- Approach: What the Bible Actually Says (WTBAS)
 - Only Bible text is used to make assertions
 - Commenting does not exceed what the Bible asserts
- Benefits
 - Puts Bible text front-and-center
 - Allows reader to judge if text is what the Bible actually says on a topic

***What the Bible Actually Says
Approach***

Man is in the image of God, body and spirit

- God created man in his own image

So (a & b) God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:27)

- Man's body was created from the earth

And the Lord (a) God formed man of the dust of the ground, and (b) breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)

- Man's spirit came from God

Then shall (a) the dust return to the earth as it was: and (b) the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Eccl 12:7)

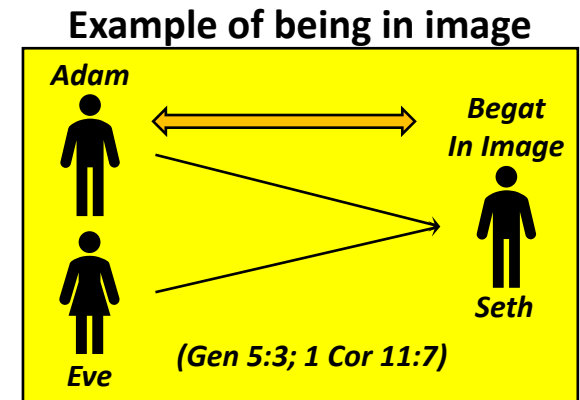
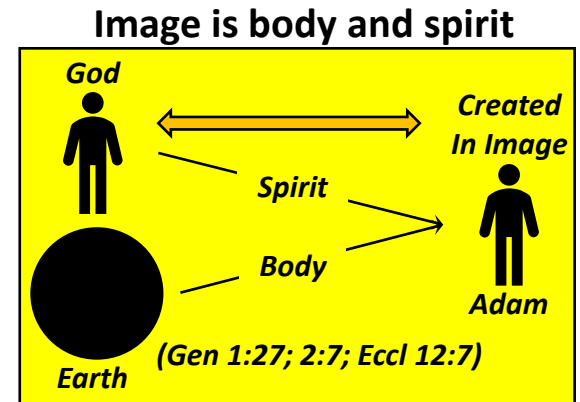
From (a) & (b):
Only thing "created" was man's body.
Spirit came from God.

- Adam is the image of God as Seth is in the image of Adam

And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: (Gen 5:3)

- Even after the Fall, man is in the image of God

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. (1Cor 11:7)



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