

"Pitting Evangelism Against Discipleship"

Pastor Steven Furtick of Elevation Church in Charlotte, NC is a living incarnation of the seeker-sensitive deeds NOT creeds thinking that has invaded the church.

He recently preached a sermon series entitled "Confessions of a Pastor" and he did all of us a huge favor. He candidly and passionately articulated his disdain for doctrine, discipling and feeding God's sheep with God's Word. (some video from the sermon is posted below)

I've seen this over and over again with churches that have gone Purpose-Driven. Sound Biblical teaching is replaced with self-help 'practical living' sermons, hymns and songs with ANY deep doctrinal content are replaced with me-centered 7/11 songs, and those who complain about the lack of doctrinal depth and missing Biblical content are mocked and ridiculed and forcibly shown the door. But, normally this is done in private. Furtick, in the video below, decided to do this in public.

Listen carefully and you will hear how Furtick and others like him, justify their entertainment-driven, relevant, self-help topical services. Its all in the name of evangelism and 'kingdom multiplication'.

The most telling quote from Furtick's diatribe is:

"If You Know Jesus This Church is NOT for you!"

His attitude is this:

"We don't teach from Books of the Bible because it gets in the way of evangelism."

"We don't offer different kinds of Bible studies because it gets in the way of evangelism."

"We don't teach doctrine because it gets in the way of evangelism."

If you want to be fed God's word or have the Bible explained to you then you are a fat lazy Christian and you need to shut up and get to work or you need to leave this church because we ONLY do evangelism."

Notice also that "serving in the church" is the ONLY benchmark.

Furtick accepts as a good work for Jesus. What about serving Jesus by being a good spouse, parent, child, student, employee or business owner?

Furtick and countless others like him, in their myopic obsession with evangelism and numbers have literally ignored their duty to feed and care for God's sheep and make disciples.

What is at stake is the Gospel itself because the people who attend these churches won't have enough Biblical grounding to withstand even the most ridiculous 'wind of doctrine'. These men, by pitting evangelism against their Biblical duty to 'make disciples' are setting the church up for Total-Apostasy.

Please take the time to read the scriptures passages I've supplied below the video. The contrast between the two is stark.