

Contending Earnestly for the Faith

(Progressive vs. Historic Christianity)

Introduction

Part 1

I. A New Wave of 'Christianity'.

Deconversion and Deconstruction

II. What is *Progressive Christianity*?

"There is a growing movement in the church that seeks to re-interpret the Bible, re-assess historic doctrines, and re-define core tenets of the faith. All the while, this movement identifies itself as "Christian," claims to follow Jesus, and boasts a high view of Scripture." Alisa Childers

Denials/affirmations

Inspiration – the Bible is not the inspired, inerrant, or authoritative.

- originated with men seeking to understand God, helpful but fallible.

Original Sin – we do not have an inherited sinful nature. Downplays fallenness.

- man is basically good at the core and can become better.

Virgin birth, sinlessness, Deity and Resurrection of Christ – typically denied.

- Jesus is a good moral example. Jesus is often presented as the "Cosmic Christ", a model and exemplar of someone who was christened as both human and divine, and we can follow his example by finding the divine within ourselves.

Trinity - a denial of the deity of Jesus would naturally be a denial of the Trinity.

- pluralistic – no one religion holds ultimate truth when it comes to God.

Atonement – substitutionary atonement is viewed as unnecessary and even horrific.

Sexuality – a denial of biblical boundaries for sexuality and gender.

- affirms LGBTQ relationships and marriage.

Salvation – not personal salvation from sin by the work of Christ. Hell is rejected.

- universalism – social gospel, critical theory is often embraced.

Exclusivity – denies that Jesus is the only Savior and way to God.

- All roads lead to God, we are all children of God, everyone has a seat at the table. All creeds and religions are true in their own way and the people who embrace them are equally accepted by God.

III. Is *Progressive Christianity*, Christianity?

Cf. Gal.1:6-9; 1 Cor.15:1-4; Jude 3

IV. What are the Dangers of *Progressive Christianity*?

Cf. 1 Tim.4:16; 2 Tim.4:1-4; 2 Pet.2:1; 3:16,17