

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #31

“Woke Jesus”

The False Messiah of the Christian Left

I. Introduction

I would like to recommend the writing of Lucas Miles, Lucas Miles is the Senior Pastor of Nfluence Church in Granger, Indiana. He is one of the many young American pastors who are rising up to speak truth to this generation.

In his book, “The Christian Left: How Liberal Thought Has Hijacked the Church”, Pastor Miles asks a critical question about our country...one many of us are asking:

Lucas Miles, “The Christian Left: How Liberal Thought Has Hijacked the Church”
“So how did a nation built upon Judeo-Christian values, ratified by a Declaration of Independence signed by over 29 members of the clergy, and later established with a motto of 'In God We Trust'...

Lucas Miles

...arrive at the place where the future of the Church is at stake and faith in Christianity is in potential disrepair? Certainly we could blame external factors...but I'd like to start by looking at a less obvious culprit: the church itself.

I believe this is a biblical approach; after all, God says His people are the head and not the tail; and judgment begins at the House of God. If you want to consider the condition of any nation you should begin with the Church. With that in mind...

The title of our teaching for the next few weeks is taken from Pastor Miles’ most recent book...

“Woke Jesus”

The False Messiah of the Christian Left

Consciously or unconsciously, the modern American church is contributing to our cultural decline worshipping a “Woke” version of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Woke Jesus: The False Messiah of the Christian Left

A. Paul's Fear For God's Church

1. My text is taken from the Apostle Paul's 2nd letter to the Christians at Corinth...

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2. Paul pictures the church as 'betrothed' to Christ...

a. In Israel, a virgin who was engaged to be married was considered already married even though the union had not been physically consummated.

b. Paul's fatherly fear for the Bride was that in the same way Satan seduced Eve, so he might seduce the Church through corruption of the mind.

c. The next verse tells us his fear was false teaching!

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if he who comes preaches *another Jesus* whom we have not preached, or if you receive *a different spirit* which you have not received, or *a different gospel* which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

d. Paul's concern was for people who would put up with preaching of 'another Jesus', a 'different spirit' and a 'different gospel'.

2 Corinthians 11:4 NIV

...you put up with it easily enough

3. My favorite translation of the verse is from the New Living Testament...

2 Corinthians 11:4 NLT

You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach...

4. What did Paul mean when he warned about 'Another' Jesus?

B. "Another Jesus"?

1. Paul is warning us that it is possible to put our faith in 'another' Jesus...a 'different' Jesus than the genuine Jesus.

a. Over the years I've made a list of the many versions of Jesus in the Church. Maybe you've heard of them...

"HIPPIE JESUS"

Teaches everyone to 'give peace a chance'; imagines a world without religion; reminds us 'all you need is love'

"TOUCHDOWN JESUS"

Helps athletes run faster and jump higher than non-Christians; He also decides who will win the Super Bowl

Then we have an "Americanized" version of Jesus

"AMERICAN JESUS"

- **Promises we won't suffer great tribulation**
- **Promises to rush in and rescue (rapture) us before things get real bad**
- **Cannot Christianize the world until He is personally present**

The last few years we've seen the politicized Jesus...

"DEMOCRAT JESUS"

Hates: Limited government and budget limits

Loves: Shutting down pipelines, giving away free stuff, and printing money

"REPUBLICAN JESUS"

Hates: tax increases and liberal Democrats

Loves: family values, owns lots of guns

“SOCIALIST JESUS”

- **Loves to redistribute wealth and support abortion rights**
- **Hates free speech, fossil fuels and Donald Trump**

“THERAPIST JESUS”

Helps us cope with life’s problems, heals our past, tells us how valuable we are

In the last couple of years we have entire denominations now worshipping...

“LGBTQ JESUS”

- **Affirms all forms of ‘love’ as legitimate love**
- **Wants everyone free to decide their gender and sexual preference**
- **Above all, this is a Jesus who never judges**

2. All these types of ‘another Jesus’ are out of balance at best and downright heretical at worse; but there is a new version of Jesus that is the most dangerous of all:

“Woke Jesus”

Woke Jesus is the false Messiah of the ‘left-wing’ of the Christian church, also known as:

- **Progressive Christianity**
- **Emergent Christianity**
- **Liberation theology**
- **Black liberation theology**

3. Many times, those who preach the ‘Woke Jesus’ will not openly refer to themselves by these terms because that would expose their evil agenda.

a. Instead, they will twist language and use terminology that on the surface sounds very Christian indeed...

The Mantras of Wokeism

- **Black Lives Matter (Who would dare to disagree?)**
- **Social justice (So what’s the alternative...social injustice?)**

- **Pro-choice (Are you opposed to someone's personal freedom?)**
- **Equity for all (You think they mean 'equality', which is equal opportunity; but what they really mean is 'equity' is equal outcomes')**

4. Actually, all these terms are twisted today into talking points for the Christian left, which is..

Lucas Miles, "The Christian Left"

The Christian left is a growing constituency of professing Christians who have adopted, knowingly or unknowingly, leftist, socialistic, and communist thinking, ideals, values, and innovations.

a. These values have crept into the church like the Trojan Horse of old.

Lucas Miles, "The Christian Left"

These modern day 'Trojan Horses' of the Christian left have been activated and placed on display by mainline Christian institutions, faith-oriented content creators, and even the local church—in many cases without their knowledge.

Lucas Miles, "The Christian Left"

These Trojan Horses have been constructed with the deceptive lumber of superior morality and 'love', elevated knowledge, and holy language that calls into question anyone who disagrees with the Left's moral stances.

5. Here is some of the high-sounding presentations from Woke pulpits...

Preaching Points of the Christian Left

- **Jesus accepts everyone**
- **Jesus would never stand between any two people who love each other**
- **Jesus accepts all foreigners and strangers; after all, Jesus Himself was a refugee**

Preaching Points of the Christian Left

- **God doesn't create walls to keep people from coming to Him**
- **Some people are just born gay (or bi or transgender)**
- **A real Christian accepts everyone**

6. Arguments like these have allowed the Left to systematically hijack the biblical message and seduce the Bride of Christ by ‘spiritual extrapolation’.

Lucas Miles

Spiritual extrapolation is the process by which one seeks to discover a deeper revelation of the Word by starting with a biblical truth but over time extrapolating the revelation of that truth, until the end doctrine has progressed beyond what is found in scripture and the individual eventually ends up in error.

7. The people preaching ‘Woke Jesus’ use spiritual extrapolation to redefine essential biblical doctrines like ‘love’, ‘freedom’, and ‘sin’. For example...

C. The “Love” of the Left (What the Left Means By ‘Love’)

Lucas Miles

The Left’s version of love is often described by terms such as *acceptance, tolerance, and freedom of choice.*

1. If you cannot accept me and tolerate my behavior you do not love me; if you deny my freedom of choice, you do not love me.

a. Notice that the Leftist’s language of love leaves no room for disagreement; conservative Christians are castigated if they question their definition:

The Liberal Left will ask...

- **How can you love ‘undocumented citizens’ (illegal immigrants) without giving them free passage into our country?**
- **How can you love those who identify as LGBTQ without affirming their sexual preferences?**
- **How can you be loving toward a woman with an unwanted pregnancy without defending her right to an abortion?**

b. The litmus test for the Leftist’s version of love is acceptance, tolerance, and freedom. *But what do they mean by freedom?*

2. The Woke Jesus/Christian Left's redefinition of love forced them to come up with a whole new definition of freedom.

Lucas Miles, The Christian Left

The Left's new form of love is: "To agree with me is to love me. To contradict me is to hate me. Therefore, you must allow me to indulge in my personal freedoms, regardless of the negative impact my indulging may have on me or anyone else."

a. Love in the Bible is about self-sacrifice, not self-indulgence; but...

Lucas Miles

The love of the left is without parameters; it is void of rebuke or warning and embraces truth only as long as it doesn't violate personal preference.

3. Another sign of the Woke Christian Left is the refusal to embrace the concept of personal responsibility for sin.

- a. "It's my environment"
- b. "I'm a victim"
- c. "I was born this way"
- d. The Woke Jesus of the Christian Left does away with our responsibility for sin by defining it out of existence.

Lucas Miles

In order to maintain libertine positions on gay marriage, illegal immigration, or abortion, these activities can no longer be defined as sin but rather as just another social progression of the fluid morality that guides us all.

The Woke Jesus is a False Messiah teaching 2 errors on the subject of sin:

- **Sin is not real: Sin is subjective; a social construct (What's sinful for you may not be sinful for me)**
- **Sin doesn't matter: Because of the finished work of the Cross, sin no longer matters for the believer (Teaching of "Hyper-Grace"; "Hyper-Calvinism")**

4. Review: The Woke Jesus of the Christian Left redefines biblical terms like love, freedom, and sin, which is the 1st of 3 ways to know if your church is ‘Woke’.

3 Ways to Know if Your Church is ‘Woke’

- 1. Listen to the language: are they using the language of critical theory of CRT? social justice, microaggression, white fragility**

(The Woke Church is always a champion of Critical Race Theory including BLM)

3 Ways to Know if Your Church is ‘Woke’

- 2. How are they handling social issues like distortions of gender and sexuality? What is their position on abortion?**

(Woke Jesus supports all the above)

3 Ways to Know if Your Church is ‘Woke’

- 3. How do they handle the Word of God? Do they believe it is inerrant and absolute truth?**

Cornelius Van Til

The Bible is authoritative on everything of which it speaks. Moreover, it speaks of everything.

Lucas Miles, “Woke Jesus”

Every error in life is made by either abandoning scripture or misinterpreting it.

5. The modern American church must wake up to “wokeism”; and God is raising up many young Pastors like Lucas Miles who are ringing the warning.

Pastor Jeffrey D. Johnson, Grace Bible Church, Conway, AR

“Suddenly, so it seems, almost everyone has gone woke. Wokeness, a progressive and liberal ideology, is threatening to take over every sphere of life —politics, commerce, sports, social media, and, sadly, even the Church.

Pastor Jon Benzinger, Redeemer Church, Gilbert, AZ

Woke theology, like the Judaizing heresy in the Book of Galatians, is an irredeemable poison being injected into the Body of Christ by leaders who should know better.

Pastor Jeffrey D. Johnson, Grace Bible Church, Conway, AR

Because wokeness has become the new morality, the Church can no longer stay neutral. Christians can no longer remain on the sidelines.

Pastor Jeffrey D. Johnson, Grace Bible Church, Conway, AR

And since the very Gospel is at stake, it's high time for all who name the name of Christ to defend the name of Christ from this great threat to the followers of Christ. This is the battle of our generation."

III. Close

A. Review

1. Paul had a hard word for Christians who...

2 Corinthians 11:4 NLT

You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach...

2. There have been many 'different Jesuses' but none more dangerous than the Woke Jesus of today's Christian Left...

"Woke Jesus"

Woke Jesus is the false Messiah of the 'left-wing' of the Christian church also known as:

- **Progressive Christianity**
- **Emergent Christianity**
- **Liberation theology**
- **Black liberation theology**

3. Woke Jesus is the greatest danger to the church in our day.

Lucas Miles

Woke Christianity succeeded in finding a false Messiah because it was never looking for the real One.

4. Entire denominations are worshipping a Woke Jesus, a false Messiah that promises what it cannot deliver.

Lucas Miles

Only the Risen and Victorious One can issue justice, forgive sins, and grant eternal life. No one else has anything to offer, no life they can give. They may promise a perfect society but they will deliver nothing but endless tyranny.

Lucas Miles

As the true Messiah, Jesus traveled space and time to redeem His children from the stronghold of sin and death and established a Kingdom that will endure forever.

5. I will close with another word of warning from the Apostle Paul...

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Closing Prayer

Title