

## Theological Liberalism

### What we are not talking about:

Liberal views on government, taxes, or other political views. Not talking about Christians who disagree about something in the Bible. Not talking about people who reject Christ.

### What we are talking about:

People who call themselves Christians but deny scripture and the orthodox Christian teaching on the primary doctrines of Christianity.

### Why?

Trying to adapt to the culture

Trying to appeal to an increasing non-Christian culture

### **Beliefs**

- Theological liberalism rejects the final authority of God's Word
  - They do this by interpreting scripture according to modern experiences
  - They do this by interpreting scripture according to popular reasoning
  - They do this by interpreting scripture according to science
- Theological liberalism rejects God's supernatural and miraculous work in history.
  - The crossing of the Red sea is just a metaphor for gaining freedom.
  - The resurrection of Christ is merely a symbol of hope in difficult situations.
- Theological liberalism rejects the Bible's teaching on the person and work of Christ.
  - Jesus is a good moral teacher but not the son of God.
  - The cross is an example of God's love, but not a propitiation for God's wrath.
- Theological liberalism rejects the Bible's teaching on judgment and eternity.
  - Downplays hell or rejects hell
  - Softens the holiness and wrath of God
- Theological liberalism rejects certain teachings in scripture when they become unpopular.
  - Redefine biblical ethics
  - Especially when it involves sexuality

- Theological liberalism rejects the teaching of the church down through history.

Theological liberalism is not Christianity and must be rejected (Galatians 1:6-10).

## Ku Klux Klan

The KKK comes from the Greek word *kuklos* which means "circle or wheel".

### History

First Klan 1865-1871

This group grew out of the aftermath of our civil war. Alarmed at the changing social scene with the freeing of the slaves and Northerners known as carpetbaggers taking advantage of the southerners, many ex-confederate soldiers and sympathizers formed the KKK.

On December 24, 1865, in Pulaski Tennessee, the Klan was created. It was a white supremacist group and its first leader was Bedford Forrest. Forrest was a confederate General and a very good general. He had been a slave trader involved in railroads and a very tough man.

In the civil war, he killed in hand to hand combat 31 men and had 30 horses shot out from under him.

The Klan used violence to keep the black population in their place. They killed black people, burned houses to intimidate the black population. The first Klan ended around 1871 when the federal government came down on them under President Grant.

Second Klan 1915-1944

In 1915 a movie came out called the Birth of a Nation, which glorified the original Klan. The second clan grew very fast probably because of the declining morality, defiance of prohibition, and criminal gangs. There also was a growing power of Catholics and American Jews. This Klan became nationwide in its reach in the 1920s.

Religion was a major selling point; the Klan embraced Protestantism. Their cross was a religious symbol, and their ritual honored Bibles and local ministers. The **Indiana Klan** was the most prominent KKK in the nation.

Probably because of leadership problems, D.C. Stephenson, the Grand Dragon in Indiana was convicted of rape, kidnapping, and murder of Madge Oberholtzer, which **helped destroy** the second Klan.

Third Klan 1970- to present

The modern Klan is composed of **small independent** chapters across the United States and they are in a steady decline, but they raise their ugly head every once in a while.

## **Beliefs**

The KKK take **Bible passages** and twist them to support their prejudices.

They believe that **Satan** had a sexual relationship with Eve and bore Cain from whom the **Jewish race** came from.

The Klan teaches that the Jewish people then ran into the forest and had sex with animals and that is where all the other **racess** come from. The white race came from Adam.

Jesus was from **Adam** and was not Jewish but was part of the Aryan race.

Let's be clear on something, racism is a result of the **fall** and is **sin**.

In Jesus' day, it was us and them. It was not so much the color of your skin but what people you belonged to.

*Ephesian 2:12-14*

*remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*

There is no room in the church for **white supremacy** or racism of any kind.

## The Prosperity Gospel

The prosperity gospel says that God's aim is to make believers **healthy and wealthy**. The prosperity gospel believes that God chooses to bless his children with prosperity in body, mind, and bank account. All you have to do is get on board.

### History

The origin comes from the last turn of the century with the Pentecostal **healing** and **new thought** mind power movements. The prosperity gospel took root in the 1950s and the 1960s. In the 1970s and 1980s, it got even more radical- they said that a prayer for blessing offered in faith will **automatically** bring that blessing, usually health or wealth. Then in the 1990s it expanded to **weight loss**, **improved self- esteem**, and emotional healing.

### Teachings

The atonement secured, not only our salvation for our souls, but also **health and wealth**. God's aim is to make believers healthy and wealthy.

*1 Peter 2:24*

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

"By whose stripes you were healed" **does not** teach physical healing in the atonement. Reflecting Isaiah 53:5, Peter uses this figurative language to communicate forgiveness of sins.

Employing synonymous parallelism, Isaiah uses four statements to describe forgiveness of sin through the death of the Messiah, the Suffering Servant.

"Wounded," "bruised," "chastisement," and "stripes" all describe the same thing, namely, Messiah's death. Similarly, "transgressions" and "iniquities" are parallel, as are "peace" and "healed." Thus, as Isaiah's use of "healed" refers to forgiveness of sins, **not remission** of disease, so too does Peter's. Christians do not **escape** the effects of disease by their identification with Jesus on the Cross.

Distorted view of the trinity- the Father and Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct persons but rather **manifestations** of God.

The prosperity gospel takes texts out of context to prove their teaching.

- They ignore the shift in scripture from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
- In the O.T. there was a material reward for spiritual obedience. The reason was that the nations could see God's blessing on his people.
- In the N.T. there is a lack of promises of material rewards for spiritual obedience.
- It ignores what Jesus said and the apostle Paul (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 14:33, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 2 Timothy 4:20).

It perverts our understanding of wealth or the lack of it.

- Wealth is not always a sign of God's approval.
- Poverty is not always a sign of God's disapproval.

Instead of trusting God for our needs we use God for our wants.

It overlooks the design of suffering.

- Christians may suffer despite their righteousness (Job 1:1).
- Christians may suffer because of their righteousness (John 15:18-20).
- It fails to acknowledge the necessity of suffering (Acts 14:22; Romans 8:16-18; 1 Peter 4:12-14).