

The Unmasking of Universal Reconciliation

Message #1

What is UR? Why is it heretical? What does the Bible say?

1. Why is it so important to address *The Shack* and its author Paul Young?

It is the most important book advocating UR in the last 200 years since John Murray brought UR to America from England. It has sold over 20 Mill copies. Note his 21 troubling statements (*TS*, ix-x)

2. Definitions: What is UR? How does it differ from U in general? See 10 distinctives, *BDS*, 226-7; PP?

3. Why did I write about UR in 3 successive books (2010, 2017, 2018)? Note subtitle of 3rd bk

a. my friendship w/ PY; jointly started think tank in Ptld (M3 Forum);

b. his 103 p paper (2004) embracing UR and rejecting his evangelical heritage; it's troubling, heretical statements (*BDS*, pp xvii-xviii)

c. his paper available on my website: burningdowntheshackbook.com. Another story to tell 3 Examples of UR belief/teaching that go to the heart/essence of Christianity: 3 primary doctrines:

A. The distortion of the meaning of the divine persons of Trinity, as revealed in *TS*

1. Portrays the trinity as 3 persons: large, black woman as Papa; Jewish carpenter as Jesus; SE Asian woman as HS. Papa says: "you don't know me????")

2. Claims Jesus Christ never drew on his deity during his lifetime

3. Papa bears marks of crucifixion, claims co-crucifixion with Jesus Christ

4. Faults:

a. Portraying Triune God as 3 separate persons violates 2nd Commandment re images (goes beyond personifications-PY's defense). Ex 20:4-6

b. On a few occasions Jesus revealed his deity: Jn 10:30; Mk 2 (forgiving sins); Mt 26 (claim to be "son of man coming on clouds of heaven"; Jews considered this blasphemy)

c. Father's co-crucifixion (patipassianism, p 27) ch declared as heresy; Father separated from JC at crucifixion; note Jesus' quote of Ps 22:1—Mt 27:46

B. The distortion of how the love of God relates to his holiness (see *BDS*, 29ff)

1. PY claims that "love is holy" and that "mercy triumphs over justice" (Jam 3:13) defines God's character.

2. UR repeatedly claims that God's holiness is subverted to God's love

3. Faults

a. Both love and holiness are equal attributes of God; without such God ceases to be God Note Lev 19:1; 1 Jn 1:5; 4:8, 16;

b. Great text of Jn 3:16 (God loved world) is followed by 3:17-18, 30 (God judges, condemns)

c. Jam 3:13 concerns what we should do; it is not a definition of God's character/deeds

d. Jesus taught more about hell and judgment than about heaven: account of sheep and goats (Mt 25:46—most difficult text for UR; use of *kolasis*, "punishment"); parables of rich man & Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31; use of *basanos*, "torment")

and worthless servant (Mt 25:28, to suffer weeping and gnashing of teeth [fr Isa 66])

e. Thus, Jesus expresses the strongest statements in the Bible re judgment and hell

f. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah illustrate principle of Gen 18:25

C. The distortion of the meaning of reconciliation

1. Papa in the *TS* states that she is “totally, finally, completely” reconciled to the whole world, not just to those who believe (*TS*, 147, 192), based on Col 1:10-20

2. Faults

a. NT use of term is limited (8x; only in NT, of all the world’s literature, only in Paul)

b. Maker, doer of reconciliation is God alone (not people)

c. Obstacle is sin (which PY does not recognize sin is failure to accept one’s being a child of God—so in *Lies*, as shown in next message)

d. Need for reconciliation: God is angry, wrathful; has strong, settled opposition, hostility toward people because of their sin (*BDS*, 152)

e. God’s wrath is the obverse of his love

f. Reconciliation is both objective (God’s work in Christ) and subjective (our reception)

g. Available, provided for all in Christ (Col 1:19-20) but actualized only by faith (v 21-23)

h. Hence Paul’s command: not recognize your reconciliation (so UR) but “be reconciled” (2 Cor 5:20)

i. Reconciliation (which means to be in a peace relationship with God) follows justification which comes by faith (Rom 5:1); yet UR has no place for faith or justification, hence no relationship (which *TS* makes a big deal about; but it is all without a basis)

j. Illustration of Dr withholding the key to cure a disease; so UR withholds the key of faith for true reconciliation/relationship with God

Conclusion: what are some practical issues/questions involving UR?

1. PY’s advocating a “pure relationship with God” without hierarchy/authority involved is a vain hope and impossible (apart from first being justified by faith)
2. To claim that *TS* is just fiction and harmless is wrong headed. It is theological fiction (note story behind the making of *TS*) and propagates heresy attractively (as others before it)
3. URs have a record of obfuscating: “where do you stand? We don’t. We move.” So PY
4. UR has a vaulted view of itself (as all heresies)—it is the wave of the future, of a new Reformation; and PY is a new ML (so a follower of PY on his website)
5. For further info see appendices in *TS* and on website (burningdowntheshackbook.com where there are reviews of PY’s novels, *Crossroads* and *Eve* [heretical]) esp appendices 4 (necessity of belief in hell) (more on this later) and 6 (discussion guide for *BDS*)