

Conquering Our Generations Ism's

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Credit to Dr. Randy Adler for first introducing this concept to me. Under the leadership of Moses and Joshua, the 1st Church of the Old Testament had to overcome the "ITES"... the Moabites, Ammorites, Hittites, etc. Under the leadership of Jesus, the 2nd Church of the New Testament must overcome the "ISM's" of our day. It is important, as God's covenant people, that we are relevant to our society and culture. We must know our enemies and knew them well. We must "serve OUR OWN GENERATION by the will of God."¹ Our enemies are the "ISM's." An ISM is any ideology of thought or philosophy that exalts itself against the word of God.² "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of [ISM's], casting down [antichrist philosophies and every ideology] that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."³ (Brackets my own paraphrase substitutions.) But before we can destroy ISM's, we must identify and expose them. Every ISM has some element of truth to it. But, as the saying goes; beware of the half-truth..you may have hold of the wrong end. Here is a list of some of the major ISM's that are "going for the throat" of our society; sucking the lifeblood out of people.

Secular Humanism⁴ - The worship of self. There is no supreme God. Man is his own standard and judge and is in control of his own destiny. Man is answerable to no one but himself. Man cooperating with man can change the world. No Creator. No Heaven and Hell. No need for a Redeemer. No sin. Everything is relative. The pulpit of humanism is government education and universities.

Socialism⁵ - The worship of social equality. Utopia society. No social classes. No risks to living. No free enterprise. The problem with socialism is that when you deny men free enterprise, you deny them their right to be free moral agents. In doing so, you attempt to rob men of being made in the image of God with a free will.

Communism⁶ - The worship of SOCIALISM CONTROL, and DICTATORSHIP. Since socialism is impossible, someone must rise as a dictator to enforce the degradation of men to robotons. Political force and military might become gods.

Darwinism⁷ - The worship of evolution. Man was not created by God and in the image of God. Man evolved from protoplasm, then to ape, and finally to man as we know him today. Man is merely an advanced animal. "Our ape, which art up in a tree, hallowed be thy monkey hair. Thy evolution come, thy futility be done. Give us this day our daily ration of bananas. Forgive us our bad breath as we forgive the gorillas' warfare. Lead us not into the jungle but into the inner city. For thine is the jungle, and the protoplasm, and the textbook forever and ever. aMEN!" (Excuse me, I mean "APEn"!)

Hedonism⁸ - The worship of pleasure. IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT. Do what's best for ME, MYSELF, AND I., The TRINITY OF SELF. Pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification of the five physical senses. Immediate convenience and pleasure is god over long term consequences. Hedonism has produced sexual immorality, divorce, breakdown of the family unit, homosexuality, pornography, etc. The pulpits of Hedonism are the major television networks, cable TV, Christian networks that have compromised their programming, popular music and country/western music.

Intellectualism⁹ - The worship of higher learning and technology. The belief that mind power and technological achievement are the ultimate answers for society. Education, of course, is a gift from God. And technology is a tool from God. But there is no redemption in high technology. There is no salvation in higher learning. And a computer is a vain thing for safety.

Gnosticism¹⁰ - The worship of Bible PRINCIPLES instead - of the Bible PERSON. Bible principles are great. But the truth, however, is that nothing of eternal value can be accomplished by Bible principles without also being in vital union and communion with the Bible person of Jesus Christ.

Dualism¹¹ - The worship of religion as separate from all other compartments of life and creation. This ISM holds to dogmatic ideologies of "separation of church and state", "separation of church and job", "separation of church and money", "separation of church and the arts", and "separation of church and history." Dualism confines Christianity within the four walls of the Sunday morning sanctuary.

Feminism¹² - Worship of women's rights. Equal Rights Amendment. No difference between a man and a woman except sexually. No difference in domestic roles. The truth is, however, that God created woman equal with man, but different from man. Women are already free through Jesus. In attempting to exalt themselves above men, these women are putting other women back into bondage, by robbing them of uniqueness, distinct privileges and scriptural honor.

Mysticism¹³ - Worship of spiritual mystery. Mysticism has birthed Buddhism, Hinduism, Greek and Roman pluralism, and all the American cults such as Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Armstrongism, Christian Science, Masonry, Eastern Star, the New Age Movement, and a host more ad infinitum ad nauseum.

Satanism¹⁴ - The worship of Satan and/or spiritual powers. Satanism is the root of all levels and degrees of occult activity - magic, horoscopes, palm reading, crystals, dungeons and dragons games, demonic looking toys, most of the theatre and opera, Halloween, witch covens, ESP, seances, poltergeist and horror movies, the current trend of child abduction and sacrifice. The pulpit of Satanism today is movies and video stores, as well as rock music with its undertones, overtones, back-masking and outright blasphemies. Satanism is targeted towards our youth and middle-aged people.

Modernism¹⁵ - The worship of modern religious experience over Bible standards. In this ideology, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are reduced to natural phenomenon that can be explained. "Prophecy" is reduced to "eloquent speaking ability." "Interpretation" is reduced to "bilingual ability." "Gifts of healings" is reduced to "medical doctors and nurses." "Working of miracles" is reduced to "miracle drugs." The "word of knowledge" is reduced to "college degrees." The "word of wisdom" is reduced to "psychiatrists and psychologists." "Discerning of spirits" is reduced to "ability to know right from wrong." And "tongues" is reduced to "Well, uh, tongues is just... uh... uh... lets just skip over that one because the Bible says love is more important!"

Thresholdism¹⁶ - The worship of God only in the past or future instead of IN THE NOW. Thresholdism is always putting God off to ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PERSON, or ANOTHER PLACE. Thresholdism talks about "the good ole days" or the "sweet bye and bye." Thresholdism says, "We're right on the brink of the move of God. At any moment, God is going to do something great!" By thinking that you are always on the threshold, you miss out on the move of God right now. Thresholdism fails to see the present opportunity and puts people into an everlasting, never-manifesting religious "hype."

CONCLUSION

There are many more ISMs to conquer than listed here. As the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must boldly confront these ISMs. As we yield to the SPIRIT OF ELIJAH, God will anoint us to confront our generation's ISMs by calling the people to cease from being halted between two opinions.

SCRIPTURES

1. Acts 13:36, 2. Col 2:8 (AMP), 3. II Cor 10:4-5, 4. Rom 1:21-23 and II Tim 3:2 (AMP), 5. Gen 11: 1-9 12, 6. Gen 10:8 (Nimrod was said to be the dictator of the Babel), 7. I Tim 6:20 (KJV) and I Tim 1:4, 8. II Tim 3:4 (AMP), 9. Col 2:8 (AMP), 10. II Cor 3:6 and John 15:5, 11. Psalm 24:1 and Isaiah 58:7, 12. Eph 5:22-25 and Gal 3:28, 13. Col 2:18 and I Tim 4:1-5, 14. Deut 18:9-14 (LB), 15. II Tim 3:5 (KJV), 16. II Cor 6:2