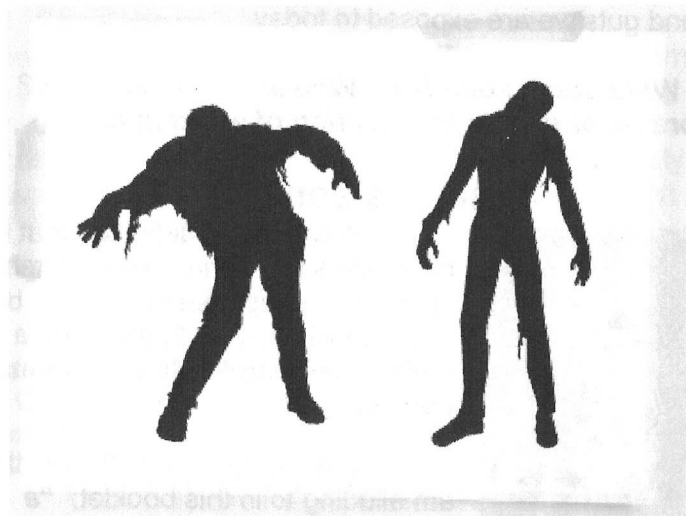


Zombies in the Church!!



By
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Not a Zombie!

Zombies in the Church

Here I go again plunging into the depth of controversy. I guess I'm programmed in some way or other to **rocking the boat of the status quo** of churches. No, I'm not against churches but I am disturbed by the many flaws that I see plaguing churches. What I touch upon in this booklet and in the majority of my other material focuses especially upon those churches and Christians who view themselves as: theologically conservative: Fundamentalist, Evangelical, Charismatic associated in some way or other with the "Religious Right."

I am most familiar with this part of the Church because, I, too, am a theological conservative in my doctrine.

But zombies in the church?

When I was a kid I remember enjoying some of the old films that portrayed Hollywood's version of zombies, vampires, Frankenstein, etc. That was before the days of TV and the blood and guts we are exposed to today.

What about zombies? Who and what are they? Are they for real or simply the creation of weird minds?

What is a Zombie?

A dictionary definition that I have gives two definitions of zombie: "1. a corpse supposedly brought back to life by witchcraft. 2. **informal a lifeless or completely unresponsive person.**"

It is the second definition that I am alluding to in this booklet: "**a lifeless or completely unresponsive person.**"



The **Christian zombies** that I am referring to are not the ones portrayed by Hollywood nor are they such as the **Haitian zombie** portrayed in this picture.

The concept and belief in zombies is rooted in Afro-Caribbean religious beliefs. It is associated with the religion and practice that we know as Voodoo. Often it is an admixture of heathen-pagan animism and Roman Catholicism. However, **the zombies** that I am referring to are normal **church folk** often wholeheartedly involved in their particular church or sect. In fact, **they have bought into** the program and belief-system of whatever is being taught by the leadership of their brand of Christendom.

Probably the first thought that many of us have when we think of the **zombie mentality in Christendom** is that which occurs in the cults. Often cult leaders who possess incredible charismatic personalities are able to draw unto themselves people who for all appearances lose their own identity as they buy into the beliefs and practices advocated by some particular leader. We have seen some people go to their deaths as they have followed such leaders. Immediately we think of such groups as the *Jim Jones group* and the *Heaven Gate cult*. But there have been and continue to be many, many others. Some known, others hidden from public view nevertheless are very active in their recruiting efforts especially among young people. However, **the zombies** that I am referring to are church attendees and members of **some of our churches** that do not fit strictly into the cult-mold, rather are theologically conservative in their doctrine. A great many of them are part and parcel of the charismatic movement.

Christian made zombies

Undoubtedly the vast majority of Christian zombies would be horrified that anyone, let alone a fellow believer in Jesus Christ, would view them as people who have become zombies in the Church.

Unspoken Protestant hierarchy

Since the days of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century the majority of Protestant Christians have opposed the concept of the papacy and its hierarchy. In the guise of promoting the New Testament doctrine of the "Priesthood of all believers" Protestants have largely rejected developing systems of hierarchy. However, with the rise of denominationalism

has become in reality in various Protestant denominations. It exists in local churches. **Unbiblical hierarchy is alive and well** in the vast majority of Protestant churches. This includes not only those groups adhering to an Episcopal polity but also includes both Presbyterian and Congregational Church Polity. It is **also evident** in many non-denominational churches where there is often the dominance of a personality cult.

The Covering concept

In the name of accountability the concept of **“covering”** has come into being. **This concept** is prevalent among a great many Charismatic and Pentecostal Christians. Repeatedly in attending conferences among these Christians I have heard people referring to their covering. I’ve been asked frequently as to *who is your covering?* I’ve also been asked by others to be their covering.

Pray tell, **“Where do we find this concept of covering taught in the New Testament?”** The New Testament is the final guide and authority for biblical Christians.

I fear that this covering idea, though it sounds good, yet has and is becoming **a means of controlling others**. Someone has aptly written, **“the modern institutional church is built upon this idea of control.”**¹

Charismatic personalities universally possess the quality or need to control. **“Follow me! I am the authority. I know the truth. Obey or submit to me because God has anointed me and placed in the place of authority.”**

Who says?

I am of the conviction that the teaching of covering is nothing more than a **return to** the unbiblical hierarchal system. As a New Testament Christian I am **diametrically opposed** to any form of hierarchical control, whatever form that it may take whether denominational or local. I believe that the priesthood of all believers is a New Testament tenet and am convinced that its practice is necessary for the spiritual health and vitality

¹ Quote from antipasministries.

of the Body of Christ. I am aware that I am in a small minority in my rejection of the concepts and practice of religious hierarchy. My small voice will undoubtedly not be able to stem the tide of the majority, yet I must be true to my convictions.

Accountability

*Why must the individual believer be held accountable to another individual or system when Scripture teaches that **each believer** is directly accountable to God alone?* Note what the apostle Paul wrote,

“So then, we all will give an account or ourselves to God.”
(Romans 14:12)²

I do recognize the need for believers to uphold one another in prayer and to commitments made. However, I am also aware of those who in reality are **control freaks** who are in places of leadership in our churches. Somewhere along the line many men and women, whom God has called into places of leadership, have either forgotten or deliberately set aside the fact that God’s call upon all is to **servant ministry, not to dictatorship**. Note what our Lord said regarding this subject,



“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you, instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”** (Mark 10:42-45)

The above passage is powerful. Even our Lord himself came to serve, not to be served. None of us are in any manner about our Lord. He set the example. We are to follow.

² The Biblical quotes in this booklet are taken from *Today’s New International Version* (TNIV) unless noted otherwise.

The making of Christian Zombies

If authentic Christians are not cultic then how are some Christians being made into zombies in some of our churches and in the Body of Christ? I believe that there are a **number of reasons** for this. In this booklet I am listing only a couple of dangers that I see in the organized church that I believe creates the Zombie principle:

The Apostles & Prophets Movement

In recent years the restoration of the ministries of apostles and prophets has taken place among Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians. ***Could this movement be a danger to Biblical Christianity?*** Please hear me out on this. I do not dismiss the ministries of either apostle or prophet from operating in the Body of Christ today. I reject the teaching that these ministries ceased with the death of the last of the original apostles, John. What the apostle Paul's wrote to the Ephesians continues in force,

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does it work." (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Some refer to this as the **five-fold ministry**. Most churches accept the ministry of evangelist, pastor and teacher while relegating apostle and prophet to a bygone day. On-the-other-hand some Christians, myself in this number, accept all five ministries. However, the agreement from there widens.

The modern restoration of the ministry of apostle and prophet, I believe, is **not necessarily** in accord with sound biblical teaching. Some parts of Christendom are being **overrun** by **self-appointed** apostles and prophets who are operating beyond Scriptural parameters. I believe that every person who is said to be an apostle or a prophet must be carefully and prayerfully tested by the Scripture. This also holds true for every evangelist, pastor [elder] and teacher. It is by the fruit produced that we can determine which individuals are indeed God-called and God-ordained to whichever ministry they may be functioning in. Every ministry without exception is servant ministry. Remember "the key" to ministry is to equip believers. **See – Ephesians 4:11** again.

It appears that the vast majority of our modern apostles and prophets demand of their hearers and followers that **God's truth is what they say it is**. It is not to be questioned or doubted. To **blindly** accept without question the pronouncements, decisions and directions of any individual, no matter how convincing or "*spiritual*" that individual may appear to be if one's own conscience raises a red flag is often on the road to becoming a **Christian zombie**. In other words God has given each believer a mind therefore we must reject allowing ourselves to be basically mindless having no opinion or will of our own. Even as the various dictators of the world have demanded their follows total obedience in the same vain there are some Christian leaders demanding the same. **Beware!!!**

Because of the abuses that are being demonstrated today within parts of the Body of Christ by those being referred to as apostles and prophets I am somewhat leery was to whether or not it is wise to use these titles. After all titles are secondary. It is what and how the individual is being used by God that is of importance to the work of ministry.

I fear that many of these so-called apostles and prophets are aiding in **the creation of zombies** among Christians. Many of today's would-be, self-proclaimed apostles have the unscriptural idea that they are called to **rule and dominate** the people of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. An apostle that is in accord with New Testament teaching is simply

an ambassador or messenger of reconciliation, one who takes the Gospel to areas where there is a need for hearing that Christ Jesus is Savior and Lord.

Under no circumstance will any message or word given by a prophet ever in way contradict, refute, deny or violate plain biblical teaching. What I often hear from these so-called would-be prophets is superficial, soupy and meaningless. Any word truly from God will be on target one hundred per cent of the time.

Unfortunately there are some people sitting under the ministry of these prophets and/or apostles who are being brainwashed not to question. They are being told that what is being said is of and from God and must not be doubted. They are to put their minds into neutral and blindly accept that which is uttered by these false prophets and apostles. The desire of the would-be prophet and apostle is to develop a following of unquestioning mindless zombie followers.

The Christian(?) Right

How genuinely Christian is the current marriage of the so-called Religious Right with the Political Right? This brand of ultra conservatism has all but captured the minds of many evangelical, fundamentalist, and charismatic Christians. Its vocal leaders hammer away on their agenda thus contaminating, weakening and destroying the simplicity of the purity of the Gospel of Christ. Marrying Church and State is both un-American as well as a violation of New Testament Christianity. *Are not those Christians who accept the agenda of the Religious Right hook-line-and-sinker becoming Zombies?*

To question the leaders in this movement is to be according to them un-christian and un-American.

Bringing in the Kingdom

It seems to me that much of the Apostles-Prophets Movement is coupled with the Religious Right Movement. Whether publically declared or not the goal of many of those involved in these movements is an effort to bring in the Kingdom of God on earth right now.

I have been in many meetings where the so-called prophets and preachers declare that our nation is on the **threshold** of entering into the **greatest revival and outpouring** of God's Spirit that has ever occurred.

The next time you are in a meeting and hear this poppy-cot get out into the fresh air. There is nothing and I emphasize **NOTHING** in the prophetic Scriptures that teaches this. In fact, the **exact opposite is taught**:

- Before the return of our Lord a spirit of lukewarmness will overwhelm the churches – Revelation 3:14-18.
- Christ will be standing largely outside of the church knocking to reenter – Revelation 3:20.
- Before the return of Christ the Antichrist will come on the scene – 2 Thessalonians 2.
- There will be a falling away from the faith prior to our Lord's return – 1 Timothy 4 and 2 Timothy 3.
- Believers will be persecuted, not in control of governmental affairs – 2 Timothy 3:12-13.
- A growing number of false teachers (prophets) will come on the scene – Matthew 24.

I do believe in a coming Kingdom. A day is coming when Jesus will return to earth. In fact, he will return to the Mount of Olives from whence he left us. At that point in time he will take his rightful place on the presently unoccupied throne of David in Jerusalem. He will reign over his kingdom. It is not the church nor any group of individuals who will bring in this kingdom. It will come in God's timing. No one knows the day, time or hour. Not the Religious Right, no humanly devised prophet nor apostle but **God alone** knows the time.

Christian Zombies being marshaled

Do not dismiss me as some sort of kook who believes that there is a conspiracy behind what I am addressing in this material. However, I do believe that it is tragic that so many seemingly intelligent professed followers of Jesus Christ are willing to "**follow the leader**" whoever that leader may be. Be that leader a prophet, an apostle, a recently devised system of belief, a new tangent, etc.

Soul competency aka soul liberty

Rather than **blindly following** any of the above I am of the belief that the individual believer in Jesus Christ has the liberty to choose what their **God-given conscience** or soul competency convicts them as being right. I am also of the conviction that each believer is responsible to no one, to no force, to no sect or cult but to God alone.

The **Protestant Reformation** of the sixteenth-century came into being because the religious system of that day had sought to control their followers body, soul and spirit. **God raised up the Reformers** who sought to throw off these religious shackles. Unfortunately Protestants have often forgotten the evils of binding, demanding religion that seeks to control the individual. We must not allow the so-called clergy to do all of the interpreting and in turn demanding what the disciples of our Lord are to believe and practice. Rather every believer has been indwelt with and by the Holy Spirit. According to Paul's letter to the Romans believers are exhorted to,

"be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2b)

A definition of "soul competency" that I found on the internet states:

Soul competency "means the God-given freedom and ability of persons to know and respond to God's will. . . God gives people competency – that is ability – to make choices. Human beings are not puppets or machines."

Christians *must not* allow their God-given mind, convictions and Spirit-led reasoning to be stolen from them resulting in their becoming **zombie-like beings**. Too many believers are unwilling to study God's Word allowing the Holy Spirit to teach them into all truth. **See – John 16:13; 14:26.**

The following is a summary of the Bible's teaching on soul competency:³

- Individuals have a God-given competency to know God and his will.
- God, who is sovereign over all creation, has provided this freedom.
- This competency is a gift from God and not a human creation.
- Persons therefore are free to make choices; they are not puppets.
- God does not force or coerce compliance with his will, neither faith nor love can be forced.
- With this competency and freedom comes responsibility and accountability. Choices have consequences.
- In exercising soul freedom, a person should seek insight from members of the faith community, both present and past.
- The individual is responsible for choices. Faith response must be by the individual and not by a group of which the individual is part.

Soul competency is a foundation of New Testament belief. It is at the root of the biblical teaching a the Priesthood of all Believers. Believers must never allow any force, any group or any religious leader to brainwash them into blindly accepting some particular word, prophecy or teaching. God's Holy Spirit gives discernment to the Spirit-filled, Spirit-led believer. We do not deny that God used pastors, teachers, evangelists, and others to help in providing insight yet the individual believer is competent and responsible to read, study, interpret and apply God's Word for their own self under the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

Christian friend **don't allow** any so-called apostle, prophet, preacher, religious and political leader **to create a zombie of you.** Our Lord declared:

³ Section from the internet www.baptistdistinctives.org

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. . . . You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free." (Galatians 5:1, 13a)

Don't become a zombie Christian. Think for yourself. Do not allow others to do your thinking. Learn from others but test what you hear to be sure that it is in full accord with God's truth and God's Word. If you are born-again you have been given the *"mind of Christ."* As the Holy Spirit indwells you, allow him to fill you daily. He promises to renew your mind. If you are not filled with and by the Holy Spirit open up your heart and life and allow him to do his work within you.

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