

## A Biblical Critique of the Emerging Church

- I. Introduction
  - a. Definition
  - b. Key leaders: McClaren, Kimball, Sweet, Pagitt, Webber, Smith
  - c. Paradigm shift
  - d. An internal attack (Acts 20:29-30)
- II. Eight areas of redefinition
  - a. Missiology
    - i. Present postmodern generation
      - 1. Emergent church: postmodern and post Christian
      - 2. Bible: John 12:32, power of the Gospel
    - ii. Alternative religions
      - 1. Emergent church: inclusive
      - 2. Bible: 2 Cor 6:14-16
    - iii. Evangelism
      - 1. Emergent church: non confrontational
      - 2. Bible: John 4:21-26
  - b. Epistemology
    - i. Emergent church: Gadamerian and dialectical
    - ii. Bible: perspicuity and certainty (2 Tim 2:15; Luke 1:4)
  - c. Bibliology
    - i. Authority
      - 1. Emergent church: Scripture, reason, tradition, experience

2. Bible: *sola scriptura* (Mark 7:13)
- ii. Sufficiency
    1. Emergent church: necessary to learn from other religions
    2. Bible: sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim 3:17; 2 Pet 1:3-4)
- d. Ecclesiology
    - i. Areas related to the worship gathering
      1. Worship
        - a. Emergent church: multi-sensory, liturgical, contemplative
        - b. Bible: go back to the beginning, Matt 6:7
      2. Preaching
        - a. Emergent church: conversational, story telling, experiential
        - b. Bible: primacy of authoritative preaching (2 Tim 3:15-4:2; Neh 8; Eph 4:11-12; Matt 4:4)
      3. Male leadership
        - a. Emergent church: egalitarian
        - b. Bible: 1 Tim 2:12-14
    - ii. Areas related to the nature of the church
      1. Kingdom
        - a. Emergent church: kingdom = church
        - b. Bible: kingdom cannot come through human effort (Matt 23:37-39; 25:31)
      2. Social gospel
        - a. Emergent church: social gospel



1. Emergent church: anti young earth
2. Bible: James Barr quote

h. Worldview

i. Homosexuality

1. Emergent church: uncertain on homosexuality
2. Bible: Gen 1:27; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Matt 19:3-6; Rom 1:26-27; 1  
Cor 6:9-11; Jude 7

ii. Emergent church: left of center political ideology