

Cafeteria - cont.

magic and witchcraft, every third person considers the future predictable, and if Der Spiegel is right, then there are more seers and fortune-tellers offering their services than all Protestant and Catholic clergy put together. One thing is indisputable: Religion has not lost its fascination, but the church has lost its power of attraction. (*Theology Today*, April 2000).”

“Cafeteria religion” is aggressively promoted today by Oprah Winfrey who reaches 7 million people each day via her magazine, TV, radio, & Internet. Oprah said ... “one of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way to live ... there are millions of ways ... many paths to what you call God ... there couldn’t possibly be just one way ... I was able to open my mind ... I took God out of the box ... God is a feeling experience not a believing experience... if God for you is still about a belief then it’s not truly God” (<http://eewmagazine.com/oprah-winfrey-professes-faith-in-Jesus-Christ.>).

Friends, “cafeteria-style” religion is convenient, but it is not what God wants. Next week, we will examine how we can avoid this type of religion and be pleasing to God. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Genuine charity does not care if it is tax-deductible or not.
- It is easier to love your enemies than to make them love you.
- Some people have a good aim in life, but there problem is they don’t pull the trigger.
- Don’t let your financial interests cloud your moral interests.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Cafeteria-Style Religion - Part I

I remember growing up as a kid and going to cafeterias to eat on special occasions. I'm not talking about the school cafeteria. I'm talking about the cafeterias that were restaurants. We went to cafeterias like Luby's, Morrisons, and Piccadilly. It was great! I got to go down the line and pick and choose what I wanted to eat. One of my favorites was the fried cod fish from Luby's. Unfortunately, these cafeteria-style restaurants are all but gone today. Few remain.

Another unfortunate phenomena besides that of the passing of cafeterias is the practice of cafeteria-style religion. This has been going on since Bible times. People pick and choose what part of the Bible truth they want to following and then join that with various errors found in the religions of the world. They pick some Bible truth and some error, put it on their tray, and digest it later for their religion. And don't forget to get your man-made error for a dessert and a drink.

Cafeteria-Style Religion in the Bible

As I mentioned earlier, cafeteria-style religion has been going since Bible times. "Cafeteria religion" is found at

Mount Sinai when the Israelites joined the worship of the one, true God, with idols (Exodus 32:4-5). "Cafeteria religion" is found at Dan and Bethel when Jeroboam joined the worship of the one, true, with idols (1 Kings 12:28). And, Paul witnessed "cafeteria religion" when he came to Athens and their city full of idols; even their idol to an "unknown God" (Acts 17:16-23).

Cafeteria-Style Religion Today

Look at all the religious choices that you have in the world today. There is no unified standard of authority, belief, or practice in the various religions. You can pick and choose from a variety of faiths, or no faith at all. You can have a "cut and paste" religion if you want, taking elements of various religions and combining them into one suited for you. You can even have a "Burger King ... have it your way... religion."

Consider the following from a *PewForum* survey:

"A majority of all American Christians (52%) think that at least some non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life. Indeed, among Christians who believe many religions can lead to eternal life, 80% name at least one non-Christian faith that can do

so. These are among the key findings of a national survey conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life from July 31-Aug. 10, 2008, among 2,905 adults. (<http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=380>)

Consider also the following online article titled, "I Determine What God Is! - Theology in the Age of 'Cafeteria Religion'":

"We live in the final phase of a culturally supported Christianity, yet by no means in a secular world. The Christian churches are losing their significance, but the demand for religion is strong. Cover stories of magazines such as Newsweek, Time, Der Spiegel, or Psychology Today confirm this trend. The nature of the trend is clear. Received doctrines and traditional forms of worship are rejected; at the same time, however, "Search for the Sacred," the search for religious experience, and the "Flight into Spirituality," are growing. According to Newsweek, one third of adult Americans report religious or mystical experiences, one fifth have the feeling that God has been revealed to them in the past year, and one eighth senses the presence of angels. The situation in Germany is similar. Every seventh person believes in