

The Church in Transition

The Lord has brought the Church through numerous stages of restoration since the Reformation. Much has been reclaimed from the lost Gospel, but we still can't loose ourselves from Babylon. Chris Anderson writes about it very clearly.

With the added restoration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church in the 20th century, the artificial control of men in the Church was broken even more. For the first time since the very early Church, the travelling supernatural ministries of apostles and prophets were openly restored. Men and women with incontestable supernatural ministries in healing, faith, and deliverance from demons went up and down through the land of America. Walking outside of the established churches, they showed the Holy spirit to be unlimited by any man's concept of how the Church should be "run". Through the displays of the dynamic spiritual power entrusted to them, they forever destroyed the notion that spiritual authority can be conveyed by seminary degree and parliamentary vote! These pioneers broke all the traditions and customs that the earlier established bodies had incorporated into their stagnant organizations.

With the coming of the Charismatic Movements, the local bodies of believers became more independent than ever before. Although many mistakenly used the Charismatic "Renewal" to try to preserve the dead bodies and old wineskins of past denominational structures, those who were delivered from these structures by this movement became the freest of all from false human control. They have become more conscious of the other believers in their locality than ever before. (Many of these bodies have dropped the word "church" altogether from their names because of the babylonian connotations come to be associated with the word.) In addition to them, many spontaneous conventions and congresses have been occurring outside the control of established church bodies, not to mention multitudes of other para-church ministries that have arisen in recent decades. Indeed, the Church has become more freed than ever from the political works of the world.

Perhaps three most recent moves of God's Spirit portend above all others the nearness of the Church's final liberation from all the works of collective society. The first is the increasing move to house churches in the West. God's People are just beginning to become aware of the evil of their brick-and-mortar synagogues and how stifled their relationships have become because of them. Though they do not realize it, this is preparing them for the time when they may no longer meet in buildings.

The second transitional move is the Faith and Prosperity Movement. Despite its disrepute because of its abuses and subverted applications, this move is preparing God's true sheep for life outside the systems of fixed babylonian economy. It is teaching them how to take on the physical world to obtain God's physical and material provision, preparing them to live in an economy based on giving in advance of the time they will not be able to buy or sell in Babylon or use its hospitals. The true sheep are availing themselves of these vital realities to set themselves free from all human works.

Third, there is the quiet, less obvious move in recent years of various bodies into isolated Christian communities outside the ties to babylonian society-at-large. These believers have seen the "handwriting on the wall" and have begun moving out of babylonian population centres into the more remote, rural quarters of North America. Though in many cases these communities are re-rooting into their own collective establishments similar to the first American colonies, the true sheep are learning preparation for a completely mobile life that will enable them to eventually take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. ¹

Laurence

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1 – Chris Anderson (1987) "Flight from Babylon" Chapter 9 (www.firstloveministry.com/flight/flight09.htm)

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