

We are NOT Neo-Gnostics

Here's a few thoughts on one of the attacks of persecution against us, which is to link us with Gnosticism. Because we have been called out of the church system, we no longer call ourselves Christians, and we receive new wine for our new wineskins, we can and will be 'tarred' with the label of 'Gnostics' because we are receiving knowledge that others don't have. This is not 'special knowledge', but knowledge that we freely share with others. In fact, others like us, right around the world, are receiving the same knowledge, and our Beloved confirms this with us every step of our journey in knowing him.

(1) Regarding knowledge, Jesus told his disciples that it was the right of his followers to know the mysteries – the secret knowledge or hidden truths – of the Kingdom.

Mark 4:11-12 (ISV) – *He told them, “The secret about the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside, everything comes in parables so that ‘they may see clearly but not perceive, and they may hear clearly but not understand, otherwise they might turn around and be forgiven.’”*¹

Mark 4:11 (AMPC²) – *And He said to them, To you has been entrusted the mystery of the kingdom of God [that is, the secret counsels of God which are hidden from the ungodly]; but for those outside [of our circle] everything becomes a parable,*

Paul confirms this:

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (NKJV) – *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

(2) Part of the problem for those who accuse us of this is the lack of understanding of Gnosticism. Gnostic-ism is a broad term covering a wider definition than that of receivers new knowledge or secret knowledge. Gnosticism is described in depth by Wikipedia this way:

“Gnosticism (from Ancient Greek: γνωστικός gnostikos, ‘having knowledge’, from γνώσις gnōsis, ‘knowledge’) is a modern name for a variety of ancient religious ideas and systems, originating in Jewish milieus in the first and second century AD. Based on their readings of the Torah and other Biblical writings, these systems induced that the material world is created by an emanation of the highest God, trapping the Divine spark within the human body. This Divine spark could be liberated by gnosis of this Divine spark.

The Gnostic ideas and systems flourished in the Mediterranean world in the second century AD, in conjunction with and influenced by the early Christian movements and Middle Platonism. After the Second Century, a decline set in, but Gnosticism persisted throughout the centuries as an undercurrent of western culture, re-manifesting with the Renaissance as Western esotericism, taking prominence with modern spirituality. In the Persian Empire, Gnosticism spread as far as China with Manicheism, while Mandaeism is still alive in Iraq...

Contemporary scholarship largely agrees that Gnosticism has Jewish or Judeo-Christian origins, originating in the late First Century AD in non-rabbinical Jewish sects and early Christian sects.”³

1 – Isaiah 6:9-10

2 – Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

3 – Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosticism)

(3) Wikipedia also lists the four types of Gnostic traditions that developed in the last 1st to 2nd Centuries:

- “Genesis was reinterpreted in Jewish milieus, viewing Jahweh as a jealous God who enslaved people; freedom was to be obtained from this jealous God;
- A wisdom tradition developed, in which Jesus' sayings were interpreted as pointers to an esoteric wisdom, in which the soul could be divinized through identification with wisdom. Some of Jesus' sayings may have been incorporated into the gospels to put a limit on this development. The conflicts described in 1 Corinthians may have been inspired by a clash between this wisdom tradition and Paul's gospel of crucifixion and arising;
- A soteriology developed from popular forms of Platonism in which the soul ascended to union with the Divine;
- A mythical story developed about the descent of a heavenly creature to reveal the Divine world as the true home of human beings. Jewish Christianity saw the Messiah, or Christ, as "an eternal aspect of God's hidden nature, his 'spirit' and 'truth', who revealed himself throughout sacred history".”⁴

None of this has any relation to us and what we believe.

(4) John makes a very interesting statement:

NOTE: Not “the antichrist”.
“The” is not in the original Greek

2 John 7 (JUB⁵) – *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in flesh. This same is a deceiver and antichrist.*

“Any person who denies that Jesus came in the flesh, which is what the Gnostics of the first century were doing, is operating in the spirit of antichrist. The antichrist isn't a person; it is a belief system, specifically, Gnosticism.”⁶

(5) Also, note that in Wikipedia's definition, Gnosticism in the church was of Jewish origin. With this in mind, it's interesting to read what Frank Viola wrote in his book “The Untold Story of the New Testament”⁷ about the Jewish proto-gnostics that flourished in Ephesus. According to Frank, Paul's letters to the Ephesians and his letter(s) to Timothy outlined this false teaching which included these points:⁸

1. A sin to eat meat and to marry
2. Eve pre-existed Adam
3. Eve is a redeemer and mediator figure
4. Man is enlightened through women because Eve knew to eat the fruit first and gained knowledge (*gnosis*) from the Tree of Knowledge
5. Women are called to lead people to knowledge (*gnosis*)
6. Redemption completely reversed the effects of the Fall. Therefore:
 - men are not subject to earthly authority, &
 - women are not subject to their husbands.
7. Leadership of women preferred to men's
8. Women lord it over men and dominate in the church
9. Acceptance of the ideal of the ‘new women’ of the Roman Empire
10. Dress immodestly
11. Defy the accepted norms of marriage and family

4 – Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosticism)

5 – Jubilee Bible 2000

6 – Jonathan Welton “Raptureless” chapter 10 (raptureless.wordpress.com/2012/03/11/the-antichrist)

7 – Frank Viola () “The Untold Story of the New Testament” p:159

8 – NOTE: The references for these points are annotated in Frank's book

(6) One of the Gnostic teachings concerned ‘aeons’⁹ and the ‘pairing of aeons’ – e.g. Christ and *Sophia* (Greek: ‘Wisdom’). Here is a short expose on this:

“According to Sidney Hatch, it was the Gnostics who drew a distinction between "Jesus" and "the Christ". He points out that Gnosticism taught that "the Christ" was an "emanation" or "aeon" (spirit being) from God. Thus, the Gnostics claimed Jesus Christ had two natures – one human, and one divine. Says Hatch, this destroys the relationship between God and Jesus as Father and Son, setting up "the Christ" portion of the Lord Jesus "as a second God". Hatch then writes that only those who confess that Jesus Christ "is come in the flesh is of God" ¹⁰ – that is, all others are "a deceiver and an antichrist"¹¹.” ¹²

(7) So, what sort of accusations are made against believers like us by those who see us as being neo-Gnostics? Here’s just one account:

*“Lingo is created in certain ministries to numb the mind of the believer. When jargon is heard over and over again, one ceases to question it. This is a huge issue in these end times, because the Bible teaches of end-time deception...Most of these phrases come out of the LatterRain influence, and out of LatterRain we have **Word-of-Faith**, **The New Apostolic Reformation**, and Dominionism. Because we hear and read these phrases that are being used readily today, we know that Gnosticism is alive and well and is currently at work destroying the true Christian faith. If you hear these or similar phrases in your church then you need to do some research...*

*So if you are falling into the trap of [Rick] Warren’s Peace Plan, [Peter] Wagner’s **Apostolic Reformation**, or **IHOP**’s Joel’s Army, you are furthering the plans of the “enlightened” ones. Is this what you are doing? If so, then you are not following Jesus Christ. He told us in the Beatitudes to: Mourn over our sinful nature, to be meek, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and that we will be persecuted because of Him. Can this be any more opposite than the Gnostic gospel of self-deity?” ¹³*

This writer then concludes that you won’t be deceived by Gnosticism if you “know the Word of God, and study it in context, relying on the KJV”¹⁴. Really? How many sects are out there and how many erroneous teachings are there that have been developed by bible-studying people?

(8) To get the genuine idea of what a Gnostic Christian is, it helps to find out from the writings of a Gnostic church:

“Gnostic Christianity is a Way of Life based on the original teachings of Jesus Christ.¹⁵ A gnostic is a person who believes that salvation is gained through the acquisition of divine knowledge or gnosis. Gnostic Christians believe that the knowledge necessary for salvation has been revealed through Jesus Christ. Gnostics recognize that this world is subject to powers of darkness that distort our concept of reality.” ¹⁶

(9) Finishing off with a visitation and accompanying vision that Terry Bennett had regarding the spiritual knowledge that’s available to us and everyone else who are sons of the Most High God.

“I was standing on the seashore, the Lord was there. On the seashore was every grain of sand in the entire universe. The Lord motions to it and he says (referring to all those separate grains of sand), he said, “That’s the beginning of the knowledge of God”. In his right hand he’s got this one little blue grain of sand and he’s looking at me and doing this with it (rolling it between his thumb and forefinger). And he said, “For about the past 8,000 years mankind has been gazing into this one grain,

9 – See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosticism#Aeon

10 – I John 4:1, 2

11 – II John 7

12 – “Who Is The ANTICHRIST?” (www.triumphpro.com/antichrist-doctrine.htm)

13 – Mary D. Valentine (November 4, 2007) “Gnosticism – A New Thing?” duplicated on DiscernIt website (kimolsen.net/tag/emergent-church)

14 – Mary D. Valentine (November 4, 2007) “Gnosticism – A New Thing?” duplicated on DiscernIt website (kimolsen.net/tag/emergent-church)

15 – Including their scripture “Sayings of Jesus” (www.thepearl.org/Sayings_of_Jesus.htm) Copyright © 1997 Church of the Pearl [LDS]

16 – “Questions and Answers about Gnostic Christianity” (www.thepearl.org/What_is_Gnosticism.htm)

and you have yet to discern all that I am in it". He holds out his left hand, and he quotes Deuteronomy – his left hand's full of sand – he said, "These are the revealed things that are for you now". You know, what that said to me – there's no condemnation in that, there isn't in God's heart towards us – but it is a revelation, and it is an awakening to my heart of the vastness of who he is. And to think that I know everything that there is to know about him is a gross overstatement. I'm beginning to wonder if I know anything about him. To be honest with you, the more he reveals himself, the more I'm convinced I don't know...Each time the Lord reveals himself to you it's like starting all over again. The majesty, the glory of who he is. So, I'm talking about inward fullness, inward satisfaction, an inward partaker of him who is the divine nature, who lives in you." ¹⁷

- **VIDEO:** "The sands of the knowledge of God, the Blue Grain of sand" (Terry Bennett)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi-wY5Geb3Y

(10) In conclusion, we do not follow the Gnosticism of Christians of the past. We do not believe in the dual nature of the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of Father God. We do not believe and any special knowledge for salvation, because it's openly defined in the NT. We receive spiritual knowledge from the King himself via Holy Spirit as he moves his people forward into the Kingdom life he has for us and for this planet. We do not believe the Bible contains all the spiritual knowledge that exists, and as sons, we gladly receive the revelations that are given to us by him for our benefit.

(11) Finally, don't be afraid of those who attack us in this way. We must step out in faith and 'walk on water' due to the path he is taking us on, because this is one of the ways our King is pleased with us¹⁸. Check each other's fruit to ensure that what we are receiving and assenting to is from the Spirit of God and not deception. And remember, it is Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom¹⁹ and to reveal all his mysteries (secret, hidden knowledge) to those who love him and desire to be part his Kingdom family of sons.

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17 – Transcript from 0:00-1:52 of the YouTube video which is 8:47 long.

18 – Hebrews 10:38

19 – Luke 12:32