

An Analysis of Some Christian Practices & Their Spiritual Benefits

[PART 1: Introduction]

This investigation using logic is designed to analyze religious practices promoted by the church system which are said to have 'proven' spiritual benefits, but which are misdirections as far as the Kingdom is concerned. My logic is cause-&-effect analyses, not human reasoning.

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As a trained research scientist, I instinctively use cause-&-effect analysis to solve life's problems. So, to understand how it works, I will start with an analogy from the natural realm to help elucidate what I will eventually explain as my understanding of the way spiritual life works in our relationship with the Trinity.

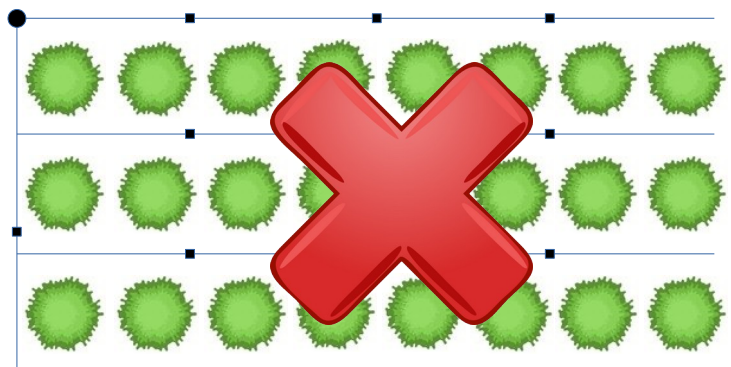
In South Australia there was a large area originally known as the Ninety Mile Desert.¹



The area is a plain that was called a “desert” because it was agriculturally unproductive. The only crop that was partially successful there were pines which are able to grow in poor soil.²



It was discovered after some time that the pines growing near the fences were taller and greener. This indicated that there was something about the fences that impacted the trees. The agronomists who examined this phenomenon **did not** decide to erect fences down every row of pine tress so that the whole plantation was impacted by what the fences were able to do to the trees. →→→→→



1 – PHOTO: NordNordWest, creative commons licence under CC-BY-SA-3.0-DE en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninety_Mile_Desert
FROM: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_South_Australia_location_map.svg

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Instead, they investigated the fence line to find out how the fence was able to make the improvements. What they discovered was that the zinc coating on the galvanized wire was dissolving in the rain and washing into the soil. From this they hypothesised that the soil was deficient in zinc. The agronomists tested their zinc deficiency theory on the plantation by fertilizing it all with super phosphate with added zinc. The trees responded, proving that the soil was deficient in zinc. Further tests showed that copper was also deficient so it was added to the super phosphate fertilizer as well.



The area was then developed as an agricultural property following the continued use of super phosphate with zinc and copper. The highly productive area has been officially known as Coonalpyn Downs since 1949.



(*PHOTO³: Coonalpyn today*)

Note the cause-&-effect analysis in this example. The effect was first seen and then the exact cause of it was isolated. The cursory investigation showed that the fence was the cause, but the detailed examination showed that it was the zinc coming from the fence wire that was the genuine cause of the effect that was observed.

Scientific research follows this cause-&-effect analysis, but untrained people are usually ignorant of it. As a consequence, unless a person is trained to isolate root causes, secondary or tertiary causes can easily be attributed as the source. This inability to isolate the real cause occurs in the church system where many religious activities are given approval as “highly spiritual” when what’s really going on is obscured.

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11-1-2020

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