
Doubt's Hiss and Truth's Call

The Emergent Church and the Poison of Doubt

Russ Kennedy

Introduction

Significance of the movement

Promos from Emergent Church

People who might be Emergent

Quote from *Why We are Not Emergent*, p.20-22

Statements from Emergent leaders

What does it mean to be emerging – a method

What does it mean to be Emergent – a message

Strategy for our Series

Exposition from Scriptures (Russ)

Exposition of Emergents (Chad)

Exhortation from Scriptures (Russ)

I intend to make you uncomfortable. Your comfort and ease is not a primary concern. There are wolves among the sheep and blood is flowing.

Doubt will Damn

Genesis 3:1-7

A conversation around truth –

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Dialog undermining Truth (v.1-5)

Watch how the dialog through question and answer undermines the truth.

Doubt (v. 1)

Communication - Is the word she has actually what God said?

Constancy – Is the word she has changing as the situation changes?

Distort (v.2-3)

Subtly changes the Word and God...

Confuses interpretation with revelation...

Revises what God said and what God meant...

Deny (v.4-5)

Openly attacks the Word and God...

Challenges the character and motives of God...

Asserts that data must be comprehensive to be true...

Desire oriented by Error (v.6)

Watch how she desires what God has forbidden and declared to be poison.

Delicious

Appeals to bodily appetites...

Delightful

Appeals to aesthetic senses...

Desirable

Appeals to intellectual satisfaction...

Error is Contagious

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Some conversations have to be authoritatively stopped

Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Exhortations to be Heeded (v.14)

Remind of the historical realities and truths...

Direct them to stop the word fights...

Act out of authentic love for hearers who may be ruined...

Expectations to be Fulfilled (v.15)

Work hard before the face of God for His approval...

Work to avoid eternal embarrassment...

Work hard to handle the Word accurately...

Expressions to be Avoided (v.16-17a)

Conversations that are irreverent

Disrespectful and disregarding of God...

Conversations that are contaminating

Lead to Ungodliness = lack of a God-centered focus...

Conversations that are contagious

Comparison to gangrene



Examples to be Identified (v.17b-18)

Calling out False Teachers (v.17b)

No fear to name names

Characterizing False Teachers (v.18)

Against objective standards - swerve from truth...

With specific examples - "resurrection past"...

Consequences of False Teachers (v.18b)

They upset/turn away/make a wreck of faith...

Explanations to be Asserted (v.19)

By the statements of theological truth...

From the Scriptures rightly interpreted...

Stand for Truth

Jude 3-4, 14-17

Some conversations are spiritually necessary...

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Because of a Spiritual Danger (v.3-4)

Causing a Change in His Subject (v.3)

Drastic alteration of his direction...

Seeing a Threat to His Sheep (v.4)

Grave danger to his church...

Because of a Future Damnation (v.14-16)

Moving toward an Eschatological Reality (v.14-15)

There is a final future judgment like that of Noah's flood...

Surrounded by a Present Wickedness (v.16)

Characterized by discontent and discord...

Because of a Predicted Decline (v.17-19)

Grounded in the Scriptures (v.17)

The apostles predictions and preaching...

Characterized by Scoffing (v.18)

The apostates deride, make fun of, scoff...

Evidenced by Divisiveness (v.19)

The apostates divide by error, worldliness and Spiritlessness...

Because of a Serious Duty (v.20-23)

In our Responsibilities to Build Up (v.20-21)

Strengthen, support and stabilize personal faith...

In our Responsibilities to Bring Back (v.22-23)

Save, rescue and deliver those at risk...

Because of a Glorious Doxology (v.24-25)

For the Power of God (v.24)

He is able to keep us from falling into apostasy...

To the Praise of God (v.25)

He is worthy of affirming truth for His glory...

If you get the truth question wrong, you will be aberrant in other ways. If you have no truth, you will die and go to hell, period. **Conclusion**

"When the tide is low, every shrimp has its own puddle." [Vance Havener quoted by Ravi Zechariahs]

Standing fast for truth...

Listening to helpful conversations...

The Truth War John MacArthur

Becoming Conversant with the Emergent Church D.A. Carson

Why We're Not Emergent Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck

Doctrine and Doxology glorifying God...