

# Where to Now Saint Paul?

*Why we're  
quitting church*

**Brad O'Donnell**





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by  
**Brad O'Donnell**

  
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# **WHERE TO NOW SAINT PAUL? WHY WE'RE QUITTING CHURCH**

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With undying gratitude  
to my two best friends and  
contributors,  
Terri Austin and  
Christopher Stewart



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## **Preface**

When you watch a “Point/Counterpoint”-style debate, you’ll see a confrontation between two closed-minded combatants; each has absolutely no intention of learning anything from his opponent and will only concede his position over his cold, dead body.

When opponents debate, argue, or fight over religion, it’s much worse. Religious differences have caused more wars than any other single issue in history.

That’s not the case with this writer. My father once told me never to criticize anything unless I truly believed I had a better solution that would improve everyone’s situation and to always be big enough to admit if I was wrong. I promised him, and I take that oath seriously now.

I’ve presented my case and drawn some conclusions that are outside the box. Many will disagree. Many will be shocked, yet I’ll happily concede if anyone can show me why I’m wrong. But in turn, I’ll ask that you read this with an open mind and that if your conscience tells you it’s true, you’ll be honest enough to admit it to yourself, despite a lifetime of conditioning to the contrary.

I apologize for criticizing the church, but I must when I deeply believe there’s another path that promises to help people have a more positive outlook on life and the world to come.



## **Chapter 1**

### **Why Is Our Religion “Roman” Christianity?**

On a December episode of *The Big Bang Theory*, Sheldon, a brainiac geek, was asked by his roommates if he thought they should celebrate Christmas that year. He asked, “Why? It’s just a holdover from paganism.”

There’s never been a time when a comedy could get away with such sacrilegious murder. It was the no. 1 sitcom in 2013, and yet there was no public outrage over the slam. There would have been thirty years ago ...

The issue here is that our culture is more educated than ever before. Sheldon’s a brilliant young man with Asperger’s syndrome. This mental condition is not rare. Unfortunately, a classic symptom is that individuals tend to be shockingly honest and make a lot of socially inappropriate remarks. Watching how the other characters react to the raw truths that Sheldon exposes is the baseline humor of the show.

When he said that Christmas was just a “holdover from paganism,” unfortunately, he was just blurting out another socially inappropriate fact. The show got by with his crack, because for the first time, many Americans are savvy enough to know something about Christmas just being rubber-stamped on the Roman sun god’s birthday.

When churches tout that “Jesus is the reason for the season,” sadly, it’s just not true. December 25, the birthday of the sun god, had been the primary religious festival for thousands of years before Christmas. Unfortunately for the church, educated people are also learning that Easter, judgment, Satan, and Hades are also just “holdover(s) from paganism.” These were all elements of Roman Mithraism long before Christianity. As Rome conquered other regions, it forced its culture on the annexed territories. And when it commandeered Jewish Christianity, it merged its Mithraic religion into what became “Roman Christianity.”

Clergymen assure us that Christianity is the only original religion and never copied from others, but “Roman Christianity” is an oxymoron. The Greeks and Romans were fanatical pagans. The Romans were obsessed with taking over the world and making it Roman. They did the same with Christianity. As their empire was collapsing, they accepted it, but made sure their pagan traditions were preserved in their compromised version of the religion. So modern church Christianity is “Roman Christianity.”

Still, there are many Christians who don't know the truth and/or don't want to know the truth. You'd think mature, responsible people would want to deal with the truth head-on—*as Christians, we shouldn't be afraid of this information, because these facts don't discredit Jesus or His original Christianity at all!*

Episcopal Bishop John Spong of Newark, New Jersey, criticizes many churches for wanting people to be “born again.” He says, “When you're ‘born again,’ you're still a child. The people don't need to be ‘born again,’ they need to grow up ... to accept responsibility for themselves in the world.”

The issue for many boomers is that they don't want to be childlike Christians numbly regurgitating sanctimonious myths. They prefer to be informed adults discerning what Christ really intended.

So church attendance is down. Spong addressed the crisis in his best seller *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. He also said,

The traditional church always fights every new intellectual insight, making it difficult for educated people not to stray ... When knowledge collides with traditional faith, change is inevitable. I welcome it, and if the church cannot engage this intellectually driven change, then it probably should die. (*Washington Post*; March 3, 2008)

## How Spiritual Are We?

According to the (*Parade Magazine*) poll, 69% of Americans believe in God, but 50% say they rarely or never attend worship services.

What Americans are doing today is separating spirituality from religion, with many people disavowing organized practice altogether ... In fact, 24% of respondents put themselves into a whole new category, 'spiritual, but not religious.'

As Americans' ideas of spirituality have become more expansive, so have their attitudes toward people of different faiths. Even though the notion that one's own religion is the sole means of salvation ... today only a small fraction are so fervent. A scant 12% of respondents said that their own religion was the only true faith, and 59% said all religions are valid. (*Parade Magazine*, October 4, 2009)

The Fuller Institute started a project ... in 1998, seeking why ... the church has become 'culturally irrelevant' and was in decline. Most of the statistics tell us that nearly 50% of Americans have no church home.

Every year more than 4,000 churches close their doors compared to just over 1,000 new church starts!

*This translates into the realization that people are leaving the church.*

What has happened? (Francis A. Schaeffer Institute of Church Leadership Development)

Two thousand years ago, people were oppressed by the brutal military control of the Roman Empire, which was not

unlike the Nazi occupation of Europe. They were also consumed with the fear of their wrathful, vengeful pagan gods.

Christ countered that fear on the Mount when He proclaimed that God was a loving god who simply asked that we love one another. It was a revelation that fulfilled aching souls. And so He founded His faith of love, forgiveness, and brotherhood. Rome hated it and made it illegal. They executed anyone who professed the faith *for three hundred years!*

In all that time, original Christianity had no judgment, Satan, hell, Easter, or Christmas. They were not the teaching of Jesus Christ. When the empire started to crumble in the fourth century, citizens began to convert to Christianity out of protest. Emperor Constantine merged these pagan elements into Christianity so he could legalize it and make it an acceptable religion for Roman culture.

Christ's theology might seem trite and simple today, but not when you consider Western civilization had only known wrathful religions before Christ.

His original religion was perfect, but after the Romans commandeered it, they changed it from Christ's illegal faith of love and forgiveness to being a fear-based religion that the pagans had always known. Now, those "holdovers from paganism" that never had anything to do with Jesus Christ are taking their toll on the church. Sadly, the church can't escape its pagan skeletons because Rome consummated them as the core theology in AD 325 as the Roman state religion. This gave birth to the Roman Catholic Church and was in turn adapted by the Protestant churches.

This book examines many of the delusions of "Romanized" church Christianity. This investigation will shock many but really shouldn't. None of these issues are radical new claims. They're all old news—*very old news*. These facts have always been accessible in libraries or on the Internet.

Any seminary-trained clergyman should be acutely aware of Roman Christianity's pagan roots.

The real question here is do you want to know the truth about how the Romans changed Christianity? Maybe you don't. Evangelicals and literal Christians avoid these facts like they avoid dinosaurs and evolution. It's like a fourth-grader's shock when other kids tell him there's no such thing as Santa Claus. If this is your situation, you don't want to read this book! This book was published for those who believe that knowing "the truth will set you free."

On July 13, 2013, NBC.com staff writer Tracy Connor commented that "twenty million Americans consider themselves lapsed Catholics." The hope was that the new, more forthright and humble Pope Francis would be able to lure them back. Perhaps, but these findings are still unprecedented. Half of Americans no longer go to church, defending that it's "culturally irrelevant." We don't seem to grasp the significance. There's never been a time when half the population didn't go to church. The rate of decline is staggering but is nothing like what's going to happen in the next ten years.

America has an aging population. We're living longer than ever before. The elderly have steadfastly propped up the numbers in the churches. If you compare congregations to those fifty years ago, you'll be contrasting a geriatric group to the younger parishes of the '60s. As these eighty-year-olds die off, without younger members coming in, the bottom is going to drop out on church membership.

The nation's largest Protestant denomination is the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 11, 2013, its research group, Lifeway Research, predicted that SBC could lose half its churches in the next two decades. Baptists brainstorm ideas on how to present their message differently, but the problem runs deeper than what they're willing to discuss.

The Gallup International (2013) indicates that close to 40% of Americans report they regularly attend religious services, however the numbers ... are less than half that ... because they are afraid to reveal to the interviewer that they are “bad Christians.” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_attendance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_attendance))

Despite many churchgoers' opinion that nonmembers are lazy, sinful, and otherwise abominable people, it's just not the case. Many non-churchgoers have practical and even profound reasons for not going to church.

Non-churchgoers may fumble when asked why they don't go, but it's not that the position is indefensible. It's just that a person's spirituality that excludes church is too complicated to explain with a quick sound-bite answer.

Like most societal transitions, the answer doesn't simply lie with a single cause. There are many contributing factors.

After the Great Depression ... Congress passed the GI Bill ... with low interest rates ... so vets could buy homes and go back to school. This stimulated an economic and population surge of the Baby Boomers with the “American Dream” in reach.

Boomers grew up at a time of dramatic social change ... Vietnam, the draft, protest, Woodstock. Baby boomers are associated with a rejection or re-definition of traditional values.” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baby\\_boomers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baby_boomers))

This generation is educated, free thinking, and questions authority. Educated minds make for curious and inquisitive people. Inquisitive people ask irritating questions, such as, “When Pope Benedict resigned his papacy and walked out of the Vatican, was he still infallible?” Or, “Since we can only be saved by Christ, before He came, did all people go to hell?” This characteristic of boomers could not bode well



for the age-old patronizing tradition of the church. Most are not going to accept that God dropped Adam and Eve in the garden on the seventh day, that Moses parted the Red Sea, that God flooded the whole earth, or that all people and animals are descended from Noah's ark because the church tells us to believe it.

They're dropping the church's Satan and fear-based luggage, truly respecting other religions and rejecting the concept that "only Christians are saved."

After 1,700 years, they're shucking the concept of judgment and believing that all souls are drawn into a "blissful, loving *light*."

From Steve Jobs's biography:

Born in 1955, he belonged to the bratty clan of baby boomers who rebelled against the suburban conformity of their parents. He dropped out of college and simultaneously dropped acid, visited Indian gurus and idolized Bob Dylan.

Biographer Walter Isaacson, with regard to a discussion he had with Jobs about death and the afterlife, for Jobs, the odds of there being a God were 50–50, but that he thought about the existence of God much more once he was diagnosed with (pancreatic) cancer. ([www.quora.com/Was-Steve-Jobs-religious-at-all](http://www.quora.com/Was-Steve-Jobs-religious-at-all))

We'll never know the details of Steve Jobs's spirituality, but as he died, he seemed to have been awed by a vision. His final words were, "Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow!" (The Guardian)

Steve Jobs didn't go to church. He wasn't even a Christian, but he clearly had a blissful near death experience (NDE) Everyone now knows someone or of someone who has had

this amazing “life after life” experience. Mainstream America has accepted that a wonderful afterlife is not just for a few church going Christians.

For forty years, the church has ignored this phenomenon, hoping it would just be another passing fad. To the contrary, it’s gained acceptance as our society’s afterlife perspective default. America’s acceptance of “life after life” is indicative of a broad departure from the church’s judgment theology. This has stolen a lot of the church’s fire—no pun intended!

In many respects, Jobs typified the quintessential baby boomer. That’s not to say that all baby boomers are alike, but their relatedness is that they tend to buck the traditional religious mold and create a personal spiritual cosmos that’s unique to every individual’s life experience. So they are related in the sense that they are all theologically different. They aren’t looking to join groups with a uniform system of religious dogma.

Much of this book will present social, historic, scientific, and theological issues that boomers are aware of to give you a sense of why they’re opting out of church.

Boomers find themselves at odds with the church on growing numbers of issues. They know from school that evolution is a fact of life, and they’re offended that the church assumes they’ll accept biblical creationism as “truth.” It’s not the objective of this book to destroy the church, but it’s necessary to present a sampling of what boomers learn that causes them to leave the church.

The world population is twenty-five times larger than when the Bible was published. Just because it was a blessing to procreate and expand the population then, it’s not today. Farmland is overstressed, and oceans are fished out. Two billion people now are malnourished and impoverished. We’re humanely concerned about spaying cats and dogs,

but we're not as proactive about the suffering of humanity from overpopulation.

The world needs contraception and population control now—perhaps tax disincentives for having four or more children. Look at China and India. When the Peace Corps asked starving Mexicans why every couple had nine children, they said the pope said to let God decide how many children they had. This “infallible” church precept causes incalculable suffering in a grossly overpopulated world and has to, God forbid, change. These are the kinds of things boomers contemplate.

Boomers also consider women's issues, such as the fact that women are no longer inferior subordinates who need instruction from their husbands or priests. They're as educated as men. They're half the world's population, and there's a groundswell of insurrection. There are growing controversies from abortion, family planning, and contraception to women in the priesthood. The church feigns conciliatory but never budes.

In this technological age, we're keenly aware that the world is changing at breakneck speed. When we don't take change by the horns, it runs over us.

But the church remains resolute that its “infallible” wisdom of the ages is inerrant and consummated by God (i.e., never warrants change or course correction). It's like watching the Pennsylvania Amish in their horse-drawn carriages with cars whipping around them on the highway. Their old-world farming methods are quaint, but it's a matter of time before ConAgra snuffs out their way of life.

It's Paul Bunyan vs. the steam engine. That's the nature of evolution, and natural selection always prevails. The longer the church resists, the more complete its end will be.

On February 12, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world by resigning his papacy. It's stunning when you consider that no other pope has resigned since Gregory XII in the Renaissance.

There were media rumors that he succumbed to the Vatican's financial corruption crisis and for covering up priest sex scandals. Yet scores of other popes have survived far worse than these.

The *New York Times* covered these issues, but also mentioned that the church would need a successor pope who could deal with these secular times. That reference speaks volumes to the greater context of this book.

Webster defines "secular" as "worldly; nonsacred," or "that which is not under control of the church." The fact that the church is losing control might be the more compelling reason for his resignation.

For some four hundred years after the Crusades, the Catholic Church became the dominant political power in Europe. It levied taxes and tortured and executed "heretics" that didn't believe as they were told. It was like an endless witch hunt for non-Catholics. And they also conducted actual large-scale witch hunts that made Salem pale by comparison.

The church lost much of its menacing power after the Renaissance. It's losing more now with the rise of secularism. The church was at the pinnacle of its power during the Middle Ages when the masses were uneducated, ignorant peasants. It was able to mobilize countries to war against papal foes with a simple decree of national excommunication. When a country was condemned to hell, it had no choice but to comply with the pope's demands. The pope, Pat Roberson, Jerry Falwell (posthumously), etc., don't have this power now because boomers won't be intimidated by an excommunication threat.

Any rational person should recognize that there's an inverse relationship between educational levels and the church's control of society. Despite anything the church might say about supporting education, it's counterproductive to its control of society. When it comes to church power and influence, public ignorance is bliss to church leadership. That's why Falwell's Liberty University still offers "Creationism Science." They want you fearing Satan, Revelation, and a vengeful second coming so you'll need the church to "save your everlasting soul." This has been the church's fear based control strategy since day one.

Boomers are also more apt to want religions to stop competing and start coexisting. They realize that war has caused more economic decline and suffering than any other cause and that more wars, from the Crusades and Inquisition to 9/11 and the Middle East, have been aggravated by divisive religion than by any other cause.

If only 12 percent of Americans now believe modern Christianity is the only true religion, this development could actually help relieve international tensions.

Imagine how Muslims feel when our clergy say we worship "the one true God." If most Americans sincerely respect the legitimacy of other religions, in terms of "peace on earth, good will toward men," this could actually bring us closer to peaceful coexistence—more of what boomers think about.

It's understandable that Hitler could convince a handful of extremists to commit genocide against the Jews, but how did he manage to convince the entire German nation it was a righteous crusade?

He was a master of "charismatic brainwashing."

Hitler said, "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it."

He was right! Psychology confirms that given enough reinforcement, any person can be brainwashed to believe anything. And the younger the subject, the more susceptible he or she is to it.

This has also been a vital tool of religion from day one.

Repeating chants, mantras, and creeds will do the trick. You know, Sunday school had you singing “Jesus loves me, this I know” and “If I die before I wake, bless the Lord, my soul to take” before you could say your alphabet.

More later, but here’s a sterling example of the church using the brainwashing model. For three hundred years after Christ, no Christmas Day was celebrated, because no one knew when He was born, when He died, or *anything else about Him*. Nothing was factually known then or now about Jesus Christ. The resolute faithful forged ahead, committed to nothing more than a vaporous word of mouth legend of His two commandments. December 25, the winter solstice, had been the birthday of the sun gods for thousands of years before Christ. It had always been the primary festival event of Western civilization.

Emperor Constantine decreed in AD 324 that the twenty-fifth would be changed to Christmas Day that year. So that was the first year that Christmas was ever celebrated. That was almost three hundred years after Christ, and the date *has nothing to do with Jesus Christ!*

When a minister tells us that the gifts and merrymaking are fine, but that we need to refocus on “the real reason for Christmas,” many know he’s either ignorant or lying about the event.

Ringin in the Yuletide, exchanging gifts, and decorating a tree were December 25 traditions long before the Christian era. Constantine couldn’t turn the tide of the pagan religious traditions, so he had to overlay his newly Romanized

Christianity on the old pagan (Mithraic) calendar. This is what Sheldon was talking about when he said, “Why (celebrate Christmas)? It’s just a holdover from paganism.”

His socially inappropriate remark was a jolt, but nonetheless quite true. The public was successfully brainwashed about the first Christmas Day in AD 324, and they instantly believed it, just as we do today—*inconceivable, but absolutely true!*

Don’t be shocked. These are simple facts of history, free for anyone to read in a library or on the Internet. If people don’t know these things, it’s because they don’t want to know them. It’s social taboo to question religion and the church. We’ve never questioned what the church has said because it’s made us too afraid to even think about it.

Constantine made the Christmas Day lie big, made it simple, kept saying it, and eventually, the whole world believed it for all time. So you see, we’re all programmable units!

Church attendance is suffering because boomers are educated and are not afraid to question these church myths. Boomers are the first generation that won’t be restricted from learning the truth.

So you’re saying, “Okay, but the church brainwashes for the betterment of humanity.”

It’s true that the church does a lot of wonderful things, but you need to keep it in perspective...

Remember that the second worst Jewish holocaust was at the hands of the church’s Christian soldiers during the Crusades.

And according to Bill Press, Revs. Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, and Jerry Falwell were “preaching war on Islam” in 1992.

Bill Press, Tribune Media Services; February 28, 2002:

Boomers ask, "Is this what Christ would want?" Of course not, that's because the Christianity of Jesus Christ was the opposite of the dominating Roman Christianity of the Vatican, Robertson, Falwell, and other church leaders. Roman churches will never rest until they've prevailed over all other religions. The conquering spirit of the Roman Empire is alive and well in the churches.

The History Channel did a documentary on the *Inquisition*. It may surprise you that they reported that it lasted over seven hundred years. That's how long the Roman Catholic Church tortured and executed Muslims, Jews, and Protestants for not being Catholic Christians. The church's crimes against humanity have been unfathomable.

"We are all one. Only egos, beliefs and fears separate us." (Anonymous)

If you're a Christian, and Christ came to you as a mechanic, and told you that modern Christianity is not what He intended, would you be able to hear it from Him? Or are you so rigidly brainwashed by the church that you'd miss it? If you remember *Oh God*, that was the point of the movie (with John Denver, George Burns, and Teri Garr).

Given all the social pressure and religious taboo, it's difficult to believe the truth, especially if it's outside the traditional box. As said, we're all programmable units and, if taught something early enough and reinforced enough, can be made to believe anything.

Colonel Nathan R. Jessep had it so right when he said, "You can't handle the truth!" (Jack Nicholson in *A Few Good Men*)

This book is full of socially inappropriate truth that you may not want to hear because the church has conditioned you to think it's sacrilegious. It is sacrilegious as far as what they've



taught, but like Christmas, the church has been false and deceptive about a lot of things. Boomers are learning the truth and dealing with it. The challenge for the reader here is, “Can you handle the truth?”

Sociologically in a young family, the husband is the typical church challenge. His parents made him go, and he hated it. Young men want motorcycles, video games, and a walk on the wild side. Now that he’s got a wife and a couple kids, he had to forget the bike, but he still doesn’t want to go to church. But she doesn’t want the kids brought up as “perfect heathen,” so she pressures for the family to join a church. Every decade fewer wives are applying that pressure.

The church is very aware of this typical problem. It’s a problem because young men don’t see it as a macho activity. The church probably got a public relations consult where they learned the universal PR strategy (i.e., if you have an image crisis, promote that the crisis doesn’t exist). That would explain why they came up with the bumper stickers “Real Men Love Jesus.”

It’s like when Toyota had a rash of braking and uncontrolled acceleration problems. The next ad campaign showed a young family walking into a dealership telling the salesman they came to Toyota because they wanted a “dependable” car. PR and ad agencies use this strategy because they understand how reprogramming (brainwashing) people will successfully skew the public’s perspective. The ads worked because the following year sales recovered as if the crisis never happened. The church understands this psychology very well.

Christians can be divided into two groups. Some are the literal types who believe everything they’re instructed. Boomers are drifting from this group.

Then there are those who listen to instruction, weigh it, and only accept what makes sense in the context of their personal cosmos.

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it or who has said it, not even if I have said it ... unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense. (Buddha)

Boomers want to be objective and capable of distinguishing reasonable spirituality from sanctimonious brainwashing.

The difference between being “spiritual” and being “religious” is that they are polar opposites. As the Spiritualist’s life experiences accumulate, his perception of his cosmos evolves. Spirituality can be a journey for Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, pagans, or anyone. Much like Buddhists seeking enlightenment, Spiritualists are on a trek to find their place in their cosmos. Anything goes, as long as it’s positive and respectful of others’ diverse beliefs. Spiritualists believe that no one is wrong and that we’re all just at different places along the path. They strive to be tolerant of other religions.

Christian Spiritualists tend to base their cosmos simply on Christ’s “love” theology that *He taught while He was alive*. Then they build a personal Christian theology around that Christian foundation from their own life experiences.

Church Christians’ cosmos is based on Roman Christian theology, which focused on Christ’s death and its implications for salvation. They’re intolerant of other religions. They’re on an endless crusade to convert all non-Christians to “save” them from their “false” religions. Roman Christianity is never supposed to change. The churchgoer’s cosmos conforms while the Spiritualist’s cosmos transforms.

Religion is belief in someone else's experience.  
Spirituality is having your own experience. (Deepak Chopra)

There are facts in this book that cut against the grain of everything we've been taught in church. Boomers are aware of much of this even if they didn't major in religious history or anthropology. They know enough to suspect the church controls us with guilt and fear. It takes courage and objectivity to consider these issues, but this is the church's legacy. It's like Spong said, "They've stoked the flames higher than anyone else ... and dangled us between their imaginary heaven and hell to control us." Declining church membership is an indication that boomers are over the manipulation.

Boomers got educated. Enlightened minds question that God made the world in seven days, dropped Adam and Eve in the garden, and became so enraged by sin that He destroyed all life by flooding the entire earth. If you look up from Manhattan and see a 757 at thirty thousand feet, that's how deep the flood had to be to cover the world's highest peaks. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know the earth doesn't have that much water. No, the biblical flood only happened between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Mesopotamia. If you want to believe the Bible literally, more power to you! Even though you occasionally see a diehard with a bumper sticker urging you to accept Creationism as "truth," most boomers aren't making that leap.

Virtually everything we learn in history and science conflicts with Sunday school and the Bible. This has caused many boomers to roll their eyes and bite their tongues during church. Much of this book gives examples of dogma that don't sit well with boomers. It's necessary to point these out so you'll understand why boomers are disillusioned with the church.

Boomers understand that there are no historical facts about the existence of Jesus Christ. So how did the religion get started?

According to the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, early Christianity “regarded itself as part of Judaism. It had its center in Jerusalem; its first fifteen bishops ... observed the (Jewish) Law and ... held friendly (discourse) with the leaders of the synagogue. Pauline Christianity greatly aided in the Romanizing of the Church. Emperor Constantine completed what Paul had begun—a world hostile to the faith in which Jesus had lived and died.” (<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/4366-christianity-in-its-relation-to-judaism>)

In the first hundred years AD, a coalescing group of Jews professed the word-of-mouth legend of Jesus that we should love God and our neighbors as ourselves.

These were known as His two epistles—*period*—the sum total of what is known about Jesus Christ and His theology. There was *nothing more* but this vaporous folklore. This was the seed from which the world’s largest religion grew. Everything beyond that point was extrapolated, extended, created, and/or concocted by the church, Emperor Constantine, the Council of Nicaea, Paul, and those he inspired.

The greatest paradox in history is that Jesus Christ had more impact on the world than any other historical figure, while being the historical figure about which we actually know the least.

His commandments were short and simple, but their loving covenant with humanity made His theology irresistible to the masses. Consequently, His faith flourished in the first one hundred years.

In all that time, Christianity was a Jewish sect based only on the love of God and the compassion for the downtrodden.

This was the only motivation for Jewish Christians. That's all there was to the Christianity of Jesus Christ. *There was nothing more!*

Clergy preach that we'll burn in hell if we don't accept the teaching of Jesus, but there's no record of Christ saying anything beyond His two commandments. What the church is really doing is threatening that we'll go to hell if we don't accept the church's judgment theology. Being banished to underworld Hades was a classic pagan scenario long before Christ. There's no indication Jesus ever condemned anyone for any reason. This was just another "holdover from paganism," courtesy of the Romans and their Roman Catholic Church.

So here lies the primary cause for boomers' exodus from the church. As opposed to Roman Christianity, Christian Spiritualists recognize that the *only message the world ever got from Jesus Christ was that there is a covenant of unconditional love between God and mankind.*

Roman Christianity and the church say that "Jesus saves" and that "God is love," but with a litany of serious conditions. The church expects us to attend services and live by the Roman bible in hopes of passing the final exam of life to qualify for salvation. The church's "God of love" is a love with sobering conditions. And they've "helped" us to understand that if we fail to satisfy them, that our "God of love" will transform into a "God of hate" and cast us into Satan's eternal hell.

Original Christianity was a vibrant, thriving religion without the fear of Satan, judgment and salvation for three hundred years. There was no reference of judgment in Christ's legend, nor have historians mentioned it when describing original Jewish Christianity.

Original Christianity was hated by the Romans and made illegal, mostly because Christians wouldn't worship the

emperor as one of their gods. They were tortured, imprisoned, and thrown to the lions for entertainment.

Pagans were probably most suspicious of the Christian refusal to sacrifice to the Roman gods. This was an insult to the gods and potentially endangered the empire, which they deigned to protect. Furthermore, the Christian refusal to offer sacrifices to the emperor, a semi-divine monarch, had the whiff of both sacrilege and treason about it. (Dr. Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe)

But Christianity still flourished to the point that Rome had to deal with it differently. By the third century, rebellious Roman citizens were protesting the crumbling infrastructure by converting to Christianity.

So after centuries of being an illegal, underground faith, Emperor Constantine declared it the state religion and directed the Council of Nicaea to “standardize” (overhaul) the faith for Roman culture. It was necessary to change its dogma that had been intolerable to Rome, to one that suited its purpose.

Bishop Spong said, “People don’t understand that the church has always been in the guilt producing, control business.”

Clergy assure us that Roman Christianity is the only original religion that never copied from others, but hell, Satan and judgment were absolutely pagan transfers. They did not exist in original Christianity.

The Jews borrowed Satan from the Persians in 2800 BC. “Shatan” (the black) was the evil anti-god of Persian Zoroastrianism. The Jews were freed from Babylonian Captivity when Alexander the Great conquered Babylon. They lived for a time in Persia where they picked up the “Satan” figure from that pagan religion. This was also where

the Romans got Satan since their Mithraic religion was an offshoot from Zoroastrianism.

The issue for educated boomers is they're losing faith in the church because it's caught in this web of lies. They're tired of being told that "church" Christianity is the only original religion. It was Roman nature to make the world Roman. As Rome crumbled, it transferred most of its Mithraic religion into what Emperor Constantine dubbed "Roman" Christianity. This is why churches preach to fear Satan, a pagan hell and to celebrate the pagan the festivals of December 25<sup>th</sup> (Yuletide) and Easter (Rites of Spring). The Romans didn't even bother to change the pagan name "Easter." Eostre was the pagan god of reproduction during the rites of spring.

Every time clergy tell us that Satan is real, they're validating paganism because Satan is a 100% pagan entity. Out of this quagmire comes a revelation for many boomers.

Since they don't believe in paganism they're freed from fearing Satan and a pagan hell. They don't have to fear Satan anymore than Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon, centaurs or unicorns. None of them ever existed. They're all empty "holdovers from paganism." For Christian Spiritualists, this confirms that the only true Christianity is the original Jewish Christianity of love that Christ came to announce to the world.

Original Jewish Christianity was a faith based on love and compassion without fear. Three hundred years later, Constantine and the Roman church rewrote Christianity to suffering the anxiety of Hades that had always been their Roman pagan tradition. He convened the Council of Nicaea and formalized that theology as Roman Christianity. If this seems presumptuous, remember *that there was no judgment/Hades theology in original Christianity*.

I don't believe in Hell. I believe in life after death, but I don't think it has anything to do with reward and

punishment. Religion has always been in the control business. (Bishop Spong)

So Constantine and the council radically changed Christianity. Note: Christianity evolved, *as in evolution!* The only way they could make Christianity the legal state religion was to *change it* from the illegal religion founded by Jesus Christ. That's why "Roman" Christianity of the churches is not the Christianity of Jesus Christ. That's why historians say modern Christians would not recognize the liturgy of original Christianity. That's because *it was a completely different religion!*

After the 4th century, as the Roman Empire crumbled, "seemingly limitless funds had poured into the coffers of the Church, much of it plundered from the treasuries of pagan sanctuaries intensifying the ferocious infighting that had always characterized Christianity ... The new Christian grandees took up residence in palaces and appeared resplendent in the finest costumes. By and large, the bishops of Western Europe were the old Roman aristocracy wearing a new hat.

The church and the governments fought for hundreds of years over the power to appoint regional bishops (Investiture) because they were a key source of wealth and power for the monarchs and the pope. ([jesusneverexisted.com/xian-barbarism.html](http://jesusneverexisted.com/xian-barbarism.html))

After the Middle Ages, most of the European countries had had enough of the church's power-mongering and ex-communication control, so they established their own national churches during the Protestant Reformation. These churches—Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.—were free of Vatican control, but they kept the Roman bible and theology of the Roman Catholic Church.



The back cover of this book explains that many boomers have learned that the church's hell-fire threats were pagan and not the teaching of Jesus.

Churchgoers believe in Satan because the Bible confirms he was the fallen angel who has dominion over hell. They say this because they literally believe the Bible is the "Word of God."

It's important to understand the distinction that the Bible was not published by Christians for the purpose of establishing the sacred testament of the faith. Understand that the Bible was published *by a pagan Roman emperor for his political objective of merging original Christianity with his pagan religion three hundred years after Christ died*. There were hundreds of inspired scriptures from which the books of the Bible were chosen. Books such as Thomas that depicted a loving, forgiving God that would eventually call all souls to heaven were rejected and destroyed. The council selected scriptures that kept us suspended between heaven and everlasting hell so we could be controlled. Since the Bible was published for a pagan scheme, it should not be trusted as the literal "Word of God."

The idea that the truth of God can be bound ... by any human creed, by any human book is almost beyond imagination for me. I mean, God is not a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist. *All of those are human systems which humans created to help us walk into the mystery of God.* (Bishop John Spong)

Again, nothing is known about Jesus Christ beyond the folklore legend of His Sermon on the Mount. All the Satan references and quotes of Christ were purely mythical. Again, no documentation of Jesus Christ has ever been produced.

Rome changed the religion in AD 325 from being about love and brotherhood to Paul's epiphany that Christ died for our

salvation and that He shed His blood for our sins, so that we might be saved from eternal hell if we accepted Him as our savior. That was the year when Roman Christianity was born and Christ's Christianity died.

Paul was a Roman Jew who hated Jewish Christians most of his life. He was star-struck on the road to Damascus to accept Jesus as his God, but, oddly, he loved Christ enough to scrap His message of love and replace it with one of judgment and fear. Obviously, Christ had nothing to do with Paul's theology about the implications of His death. But just like Christmas, all Rome had to do was decree that Paul's Romanized version was gospel, and the simple-minded peasants accepted it because they were programmable units.

The Romans altered Christianity to being about a horrifying contest between God and Satan for every person's soul at death. This had been a classic pagan theme for centuries before Christ.

There was a lower region of Hades called Tartarus. It was a deep ... abyss used as a dungeon of torment and suffering that resides beneath the underworld. In the Gorgias, Plato (c. 400 BC) wrote that souls were judged after death and those who received punishment were sent to Tartarus. (Wikipedia)

Of course, the church would fend for every soul whose indulgences were purchased and by being a tithing member of the Roman Church.

Constantine claimed he converted, but his conversion was theatrical, at best. His gowns and statues continued to be decorated with pagan symbols until he died. But his ruse was a brilliant political maneuver. It put an end to Christian conversion by rebellious citizens as a protest gesture.

Romanized Christianity has very little to do with Christ, but everything to do with Paul's vision of the religion. He accepted Christ, but cut and pasted Him into the context of his wrathful Old Testament cosmos. Since all feared God's condemnation in that theology, Paul depicted Christ as the "savior" who could save us from the clutches of hell. When Rome was crumbling, Constantine had a religious crisis on his hands. He still hated the "love" religion of Christ, but the masses demanded it and were out of control. So he gave them "Christianity," but it wasn't the original religion of love... Instead, He gave them Paul's religion of judgment... and we still believe it today because we're programmable units.

The theological reversal was necessary to transform a three-hundred-year illegal religion into a compromised Christianity that could be used to control the Roman culture. So original Christianity should not be grouped together with Roman Christianity, because they were night and day, unrelated religions.

The problem for the church now is that boomers and Sheldon have learned a lot of this in school. As they learned the truth, they tended to drop the church's guilt trip and build a spiritual cosmos that made more sense—and hence, the current exodus from the church to Spirituality.

Seemingly there are two forms of Christianity. One that the historical Christ is said to have taught (love and forgiveness) and one that the Church teaches (guilt, shame and blame). This bifurcation invites some to experience "cognitive dissonance," psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously ...

Traditional Christianity has taught that hope and solace ... (are only possible through) the redemption from sin by the vicarious sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, for all those who acknowledge His

teaching ... but it is precisely this form of the doctrine of salvation ... that rests almost exclusively on the work of Paul, and was never taught by Jesus. (On Guilt, Shame and Blame in Christianity, by the White Robed Monks of Saint Benedict)

Tübingen University of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, is one of the oldest and most respected universities in Europe. All of its buildings are named for notable alumni such as Hegel and an impressive list of Nobel Prize winners. Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) attended, but quit because of "liberal" positions held by the university. The School of Theology was founded in 1850 by a Protestant theologian, Ferdinand Baur.

Baur argued that second century Christianity represented the synthesis of two opposing theses: Jewish Christianity (Petrine Christianity) and Pauline Gentile Christianity. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand\\_Christian\\_Baur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_Christian_Baur))

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Tübingen University maintains that...

"Paul was indifferent to the earthly life and teaching of Christ. According to them Paul was the creator of the theology, the founder of the Church... the opponent of the religion of love... which Christ came to announce to the world. If, to do him honour, he is called the second founder of Christianity, this must be a degenerate and altered Christianity since it was at least partially opposed to the primitive (original) Christianity. Paul is thus made responsible for every antipathy to modern thought in traditional (church) Christianity.

This is to a great extent the origin of the "Back to Christ" movement, the strange wanderings of which we are now witnessing. The chief reason for

returning to Christ is to escape Paul, the originator...  
of the (Roman Christianity) faith..."

(<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11567b.htm>)

So Ratering left Tübingen University because its "liberal" ideology conflicted with his conservative Catholic beliefs. Certainly, but the university only observed that Paul's judgment theology was the opposite of Jesus' "God is love" theology. Liberal or conservative, the university just stated a fact.

Conservative theologians can deny the dichotomy of Christianity until the cows come home, but it's an indisputable fact of history that's never going away. Roman Church Christianity with its brimstone theology will always be the opposite of the religion of love, Christ came to announce to the world. This is the religion's identity crisis that is driving savvy boomers and young adults away.

The Roman culture always hated Christ's love theology. As Tübingen University pointed out, the two ideologies were opposites. This is why many boomers and the youth believe the church has strayed from the teaching of Christ. The church says that anyone who does not accept Christ will have everlasting pain in Hell. But many understand that Christ never said that. They know that Christ only told us to love God and our neighbors. He never threatened us in any fashion. That was Paul and his God fearing "Roman" Christianity. Roman Christianity is a 180 degree reversal from the religion of love that Christ announced.

Constantine named his Pauline religion "Christianity," but it was a deception to derail his citizens who had been converting to original Christianity. The church's judgment theology was a complete departure from the teaching of Christ.

Universities are impervious about their findings being socially inappropriate. They're going to state the issues as they see them. Boomers and Sheldon just want the truth. They know the church wants them to be "born again" Christians

blindly accepting anything they are instructed, but that's not happening anymore.

So here's the crisis of faith for baby boomers. They got educated. Like Tübingen University, they can't accept Christ's announcement that "God is love" one year and then believe He'd deceive us as a "God of vengeance" later.

It's also curious that the Catholic Encyclopedia referred to original Christianity as "primitive" Christianity. Of course it wouldn't be in the Church's best interest to refer to original Christianity as being the "original." So they chose to downgrade it as being "primitive." Webster defines "primitive" as something that "lacks modernity." But "primitive" Christianity was founded by Christ. If we believe He's God, how could His original religion be "lacking" in anything? Did Christ need the church to reverse His message from a god of love to being a god of fear?

Yes, non-churchgoers fumble when asked why they don't go to church, but these are profound reasons that are too complicated to explain with a three sentence, "sound bite" response. But this is why boomers are quitting the church.

Betty Eadie (Embraced by the Light) is a Christian author who wrote about her extensive near death experience.

If you are familiar with NDE accounts, a passage from her book is a perfect example of the "cognitive dissonance" in Romanized Christianity about which the White Robed Monks referred.

Eadie explained that when she saw Christ in the light, she felt guilty because she rarely attended church. She recalled explaining to Him that she had problems with the church's hell-fire and brimstone.

Eadie said Jesus told her that fear had been wrongly added to His message by some well intended, but misguided

church authorities... and by some for purely manipulative reasons to deceive and control the faithful.

She said Christ went on that His “message was only about love ... and that fear was the opposite of love.”

If you don't respect NDE accounts, forget that it came from that source. If you're a Christian, consider the quote in a vacuum. Ask yourself, from what you know of Christ, is this something He could say?

Christ only spoke of love in His two epistles. For the first three hundred years, original Christianity had no “cognitive dissonance.” “Cognitive dissonance” is discordant or conflicting information. There was no dichotomy in the character of Jesus Christ—that He was the loving “Lamb of God,” and then transformed in a second coming to the Christ of judgment and punishment. There was no conflict in original Christianity until the Roman culture tainted it with their wrath of god tradition. Original Christianity had no duality—no good vs. evil, no God vs. Satan, no reward vs. punishment. Most religions do, but there just wasn't any in original Christianity. So Christianity had no duality until the Roman church changed it to being a dualistic religion three hundred years after Christ died.

## **Chapter 2**

### ***A Religion of Love He Came to Announce to the World***

Between the ninth and fifteenth centuries, the Roman Catholic Church was at the pinnacle of its evil anti-Christian activity. It became the dominant secular power and taxed most of Europe. Bishops lived lavish lifestyles envied by the nobility. Many of these “celibate” bishops were brazen enough to build posh mansions to house their mistresses. They instituted the Inquisition to execute “heretics.” It was like a global witch hunt for non-Catholics. When captured, they were tortured, burned, or crucified. What an appropriate form of execution used by the supposed “Church of Jesus Christ.” The rampant corruption of the church ushered in the Protestant Reformation and the independence of the European states from the tyranny of the Roman Catholic Church.

Church loyalists may defend that Christ’s love and brotherhood theology has always been the primary emphasis of the church, but there was a sect of Christians in the 13<sup>th</sup> century who’d have disagreed ...

At that time in southern France, there was a Christian sect called the Cathars, who, like the White Robed Monks, chose the early church rather than the corrupt Roman Catholic Church. Like Christ, they were God-loving pacifists. Like St. Francis, they were animal lovers and vegetarians. They believed that this life was the only hell, and that if you fell short of your Christian objective in this world, you’d have to return until you got it right.

Since they didn’t believe in an eternal hell, they were heretics to the church. They also rejected the cross and crucifix as Christian symbols. Like original Christians, they were repulsed by these symbols of His torture and execution and didn’t believe they should represent His religion. The pope was outraged by the affront to his authority and surely threatened by the snowballing popularity of this separate Christian sect ...



## The Albigensian Crusade

In 1208 the inappropriately named Pope Innocent III instigated the only Crusade that pitted one branch of Christianity against another. It is important that history records him as a zealous and warlike man who denounced, excommunicated, and sent armies and torturers after anyone who dared to disagree with the authority of the Mother Church and its interpretation of Christian dogma...

The Cathars' hell was not the everlasting pit of fire and brimstone with which the Catholics kept their masses subdued and controlled, but rather the everyday life of this world ...

The commander of the besieging forces was reported as saying, "Kill them all, the Lord will recognize His own." (<http://hubpages.com/hub/Catharism-should-basic-Christianity-be-revived>)

After the battle, the Crusaders built a huge fire. They lined up the last seven hundred men, women, and children and marched them into it. No doubt they believed it would give the Cathars an appropriate send-off to where they were going anyway ...

The only message the world ever got from Jesus was that we should love God and our neighbors. That's exactly what the Cathars did. They were pacifists and vegetarians. They never attacked anyone. They didn't believe in judgment or everlasting hell. They simply chose to follow the early church and Christ's commandments. Despite what the church said, they were Christians.

The Albigensian Crusade wasn't a typical war between two aggressive opponents. The church massacred a region of Christian pacifists who just wanted to be left alone to fulfill Christ's commandments to love all people. This Crusade

was a ruthless slaughter of a disobedient Christian sect that wouldn't believe as they were told. The audacity of these people to choose the teaching of Jesus over the Roman Catholic Church!

When the commander ordered, "Kill them all, the Lord will recognize His own," it's certain that the Lord did, but it wasn't the evil pope and his murdering Crusaders. Innocent burned them all because their real Christianity was surely threatening to expose the hypocrisy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Kate Mosse is an author who has lived in the Landulac region of France and extensively studied the Cathar history. In her book *Labyrinth*, (historical fiction) she wrote that the Cathars sang as they were marched into the fire.

The church's crimes against humanity were on a par with Hitler and Stalin. The only difference is that these genocidal maniacs only massacred for 10 or 20 years... the church's reign of terror lasted over 1000 years

What's stunning in all this is how quickly mankind forgets these things. The general public has no idea that the Catholic Church has been the cruelest institution in Western history. It's like half of society today not believing the Jewish Holocaust ever happened. It's like the first Christmas Day being pasted over Mithra's birthday in AD 324, and humanity lost track of the lie.

The church confesses it made "mistakes" and excuses that people don't understand that cruelty and inhumanity were just the social norm of that time period. That's pathetic! The Cathars managed to keep Christ's commandments because they were real Christians. The church's endless atrocities weren't "mistakes"—they define what the Roman Catholic Church has been.

There was no record that Christ or original Christians ever condemned any other religion. Their activities reflected that

He loved and tolerated all. For over one thousand years, the Roman Catholic Church systematically tortured and murdered any heretic, just because they wouldn't be Roman Catholic—not because they weren't Christians.

The only reason the church isn't torturing people now is that the church lost its absolute power after the Renaissance and the rise of the secular world. Now all they can do is threaten non-Catholics with eternal damnation if they won't convert.

The church never honored Christ's two commandments or Moses's Ten Commandments. It lived up to its Roman heritage of judgment, torture, murder, and control. Boomers are realizing that the Roman Church never had anything to do with the teaching of Jesus Christ. Any human sacrifice was always justifiable means to the church's ends of dominating the religious world.

Protestant churches never committed mass genocide, but they're still intolerant Roman Christians who condemn all those who don't subscribe to their version of Roman Christianity. The Protestant hell-fire threat isn't physically abusive, but it's a mental abuse for which boomers have had their fill.

Many Protestants and evangelicals are very aware of this history. They're very quick to say they know about the evil of the Catholic Church. Of course! They're "Protestants" because they protested and separated from the church's abuse and control five hundred years ago. Some know that the church copied the Roman Mithraic calendar (Christmas/Easter). Some even say that it doesn't bother them that the church borrowed Satan and judgment from the pagan cults. But then they'll still launch into chapter and verse confirming that you'll roast in hell if you don't live and breathe the scripture every day. So after acknowledging that Satan and hell are pagan, they still use those pagan precepts to scare you into compliance.

What they refuse to hear is that the Bible they revere as the “Word of God” was published by the same Roman Catholic Church that they identified as the spawn of Satan. Again, when the pagan Romans and their state church published the bible, they only selected scriptures that inspired fear and guilt so Rome could get control of its rebellious citizens. They destroyed all of the others that depicted God as loving and forgiving (Book of Thomas)—you know, the ones that reflected the teaching of Jesus Christ. They had to be burned because they were the original Christianity that Rome hated.

These are the incongruencies of church Christianity that make boomers go cross-eyed.

In February 2013, Elisabetta Povoledo (New York Times) said the Catholic Church would have to be “careful to select a successor pope who could guide the Church through these secular times.” These are difficult times for the church because people are catching on not to knuckle under to the church’s guilt and control business.”

The church is failing because it’s “guilt producing, control business” isn’t getting as much traction in this secular world. Much of America has left the church in favor of Christian Spiritualism. The theological difference between Christian Spiritualism and the church today is similar to the Cathar/Catholic contest in the twelfth century. One side believes the “love and forgiveness” theology of original Christianity and the other the “guilt, shame and blame” of Roman Christianity. Spiritualists should fall on their knees and thank God that the church lost the control they used to have. Otherwise, Spiritualists would be facing the church’s torture and flames like countless innocent people in history.

After centuries of Catholic-Protestant wars in Europe, Thomas Jefferson had the foresight to guarantee religious freedom in the First Amendment to spare our nation from endless church carnage and abuse.

You may recall from your American history that many of the Declaration signers were Deists.

Deism is the belief that reason and observation of the natural world are sufficient to determine the existence of a Creator, accompanied with the rejection of revelation and authority (bible & church) as the source of religious knowledge.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deism>)

What would our forefathers have against the church? They were activists for freedom. They were determined to establish a new country free from the tyranny that Europe had always known. The Roman Catholic Church had been a substantial part of that tyrannical control.

If you surf up “early American Deism,” you’ll find a hotbed of controversy as to whether Jefferson, Franklin, and friends were Deists. Church organizations desperately want us to believe that Deism was never prevalent among the leadership and that this country was founded on Christian church principles. The religious right claims most of the signers were church affiliated.

The historical details are sketchy, but Deism was common enough to be noted by most historians. What were Jefferson’s feelings about the church?

In a letter to Horatio Spafford in 1814, Jefferson said, “In every country and every age, the priest has been hostile to liberty. He is always in alliance with the despot ... It is easier to acquire wealth and power by this combination ... they have perverted the purest religion ever preached to man into mystery and jargon, unintelligible to all mankind, and therefore the safer for their purposes.” (George Seldes, *The Great Quotations* [Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1983], 371)

“It is between fifty and sixty years since I read [the Book of Revelation], and I then considered it merely the ravings of a maniac, no more worthy nor capable of explanation than the incoherencies of our own nightly dreams.” (Thomas Jefferson, letter to General Alexander Smyth, January 17, 1825)  
<http://jonathanmerritt.religionnews.com/2013/06/11/what-southern-baptists-must-do-to-slow-their-decline/#sthash.c55epbNC.dpuf>

Our forefathers were activists for freedom. Patrick Henry said he'd prefer death to living under the yoke of tyranny. The church had this long history of manipulating Europe with its message of fear. The colonials were keenly aware of the church's control tactics. Naturally, they would have had an aversion to the church. /

The everlasting pit of fire and brimstone, (the penalty) with which the Catholics kept their masses subdued and controlled.  
(<http://hubpages.com/hub/Catharism-should-basic-Christianity-be-revived>)

The year after Lincoln's death, "Isaac Cogdal of New Salem ... wrote to Billy Herndon: 'I have often talked to Mr. Lincoln on the question of Religion. He did not believe in Hell—eternal punishment as the Christians would say ... He could not believe (God) created a world and that the result of that would be eternal damnation.' Would a God of love ... then create the circumstances for which he would condemn his own children? Abraham Lincoln could not conceive of Hell."  
(<http://uuquincy.org/talks/20111016.shtml>)

Lincoln didn't believe in hell? That's why the church tortured and burned the Cathars. It's a good thing he didn't live in France a few centuries earlier!

If you can't understand why so many quit church to become Christian Spiritualists, just understand that most of the forefathers would have done the same.

Pat Robertson and the religious right are wrong about America being founded on the principles of the Christian church. Thomas Jefferson and the signers deemed that we were to be "One nation under God" but wouldn't shackle us to the control business of the Roman church. They purposefully architected our plan with the freedom of religion without the slightest preference for one over another. The evangelical church's schemes to convince the country that the founders preferred Roman Christianity over other religions is typical of its deceptive and manipulative history.

We are all one. Only egos, beliefs and fears separate us. (Anonymous)

Spong reprimands "theists for attempting to harmonize attributes such as retribution, hate, and wrath with God's love." He asks, "Is there any reason why anyone should believe that this convoluted and bizarre understanding of the tortured Pauline mind could ever be called the 'Word of God'?"

Spiritualists understand that the "bifurcation" of Christ exists, and that Paul fabricated a "judgment" Christ who was the opposite of the original "love is all you need" Christ.

The church is aware of the conflicting messages, so they ask us to take a "leap of faith" and accept it as "mystery." It's reasonable for religions to ask that we not get too analytical, but asking boomers to mingle the incongruous beliefs of a loving and a vengeful Christ simultaneously is a leap larger than many will take.

"Cognitive dissonance" is one of the primary causes of the exodus from the church. Boomers believe what makes sense in the context of their life experience. They're less willing to struggle with "psychological conflict from incongruous

beliefs” just because the church tells them to accept the biblical love/fear dichotomy as “mystery.”

Many Christian Spiritualists have left the church’s oppressive theology with the hope of discovering the positive spirit of original Christianity. For them, being Christian is simply being the kind of person that Christ asked us to be when He was alive and preaching on the Mount. They should feel privileged in this secular age to have the freedom to choose or create their own spirituality. Americans take this freedom for granted now, but they shouldn’t. It’s a rare privilege in history before America won its independence.

When the church scares the public about a malevolent Christ in a vengeful second coming, they’re perverting the teaching of Jesus. He never said a word about transforming into a god of vengeance. That was the “tortured Pauline mind” and the pagan tradition of the Romans. (John Spong)

Judgment Day: Here’s the church’s image of mankind begging Christ for mercy at His vengeful second coming (Revelation).



For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for



what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.  
(2 Corinthians 5:10)

This is not what Jesus intended. Christ tried to calm our fears of wrathful gods on the Mount when He said God was a god of love. So Christianity was just love and brotherhood for three hundred years. Did Jesus lie to us about transforming to being vengeful later? No, that's not what He was about! That was a Roman pagan revision to control their rebellious citizens. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

Paul insists that on account of the sin of Adam all people are subject to the wrath of God from the start and are lost without exception, for all are subject to sin, God has given His judgment of condemnation against all people. (Romans 5:16)

Is this "the religion of love, Christ came to announce to the world?" Of course not... Paul was the visionary who corrected Christ's mistake. Since the Romans hated Christ, Paul's wrath of god plan was selected as the foundation of "Roman Church Christianity."

This is why Jefferson said, "(The church) perverted the purest religion ever preached to man..." and why "Lincoln didn't believe in Hell because he couldn't conceive that a God of love...could condemn his own children (to hell)." And make a note... our forefathers didn't accept the Bible as the Word of God.

How could we believe this lie about our "God of Love?" Easily, because all churches continuously reinforce their message of their God of wrath and punishment. Hitler said if you keep repeating a lie, that the people will believe it.

The symbol of Roman Christianity is the cross or the crucifix. Christ wouldn't have chosen these symbols to represent His ministry of love. The church's cross serves to engrain guilt

in us for His crucifixion and that He died to save us (i.e., join the church or face eternal consequences).

It was the vogue of most ancient religions to pass the “sins of the fathers on to the sons” for things that happened eons ago. But we don’t deserve any guilt because the Romans crucified Christ two thousand years ago. We’re innocent of the crime. Every time we perceive Christianity through the symbol of the cross, we’re accepting that guilt. That structure of torture and death was never chosen by Christians to symbolize their religion anyway.

Crucifixion was the usual Roman execution for criminals. The cross symbol was originated by the Romans as an anti-Christian symbol in the second century. They used it to taunt Christians about their triumph over Christ. Original Christians were repulsed by it. It was offensive to be reminded of the brutal execution of Jesus. One thousand years later, the Cathars wouldn’t use the cross either because they loved Jesus! The only crosses the Cathars ever wore were the “yellow crosses of shame” forced on them by the church’s Crusaders. The cross is an anti-Christian symbol.

When the Romans commandeered the faith, they used the crucifix as its symbol only because it had always been their symbol for Christianity—even though it symbolized their hatred of Jesus Christ!

The church tells us now that the cross serves to remind us that Christ died for us. But they didn’t make up that justification until five hundred years after Christ. They had to wait and let its real meaning get blurred by time. The church just banked on the fact that after a few hundred years, people would forget what it really meant. Why not? It only took a year for them to forget the real meaning of December 25. So if Sheldon were asked if he had a cross, he’d probably say, “Why? It’s just an anti-Christian holdover from paganism.”

During the first two centuries of Christianity, the cross may have been rare in Christian iconography, as it depicts a purposely painful and gruesome method of public execution and Christians were reluctant to use it ... The cross symbol was already associated with Christians in the 2nd century, as is indicated in the anti-Christian arguments cited in the Octavius of Minucius Felix, chapters IX and XXIX. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_cross))

Since it's rare for Christians to believe they are truly forgiven for their guilt, most still fear "judgment day." If you forget to worry about it, don't. The church will keep reminding you! It's just good for their "guilt producing, control business!"



As Jacque Choron wrote, "The hereafter has become, through the efforts of the Church, a source of terror and not consolation. Instead of reward, most people could only expect retribution."

Many people assume that religious people are less anxious about death than the non-religious ... However, it's not quite that simple. After all, traditional versions of these gods are also pretty vengeful, and if you believe in a vengeful god, then you have to face the distinct possibility of some pretty nasty experiences after death. After all, even holy people usually have some guilty secrets.

Even more striking were the results in the USA. Death anxiety was highest in those with average religious feelings.”

Jacques Choron; *Death and Western Thought*;  
Collier Books, 1973 p.91

Spiritualists are saddened to think that most Christians have died fearing judgment for 1,700 years, especially since Jesus Christ never mentioned it. How many Christians have died worrying about this battle between God and Satan for their soul? In all that time, the suffering is incalculable and inconceivable because it was just sanctimonious pagan deception, written into the religion by micromanaging Romans.

Once again, the Romans instructed the simple, programmable folk to fear it, so they swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. Western civilization has been controlled by it all this time because “people don’t understand that the church has always been in the guilt producing, control business.” They’ve been “dangling us between their imaginary heaven and hell to control us,” Bishop Spong said.

Boomers embrace Spiritualism much like Buddhists seek enlightenment to free their souls from the anxieties of this life. They’re freeing themselves from the church’s sanctimonious ball and chain.

“Blackbird singing in the dead of night,  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see,  
All your life, you were waiting,  
For this moment to be free.”

—Paul McCartney

A Scroll Publishing vignette of early Christians illustrates how different they were from Roman Christians.

“A Love without Conditions”

At no other time in the history of Christianity did love so characterize the entire church as it did in the first three centuries ... Tertullian (early Christian author, AD 200), reported that the Romans would exclaim, 'See how they love one another!'

Clement, describing the Christians said ... 'He impoverishes himself out of love, so that he is certain he may never overlook a brother in need, especially if he knows he can bear poverty better than his brother.'

When a devastating plague swept across the ancient world in the third century ... Pagans were throwing infected family members into the streets ... to protect themselves ... while the Christians cared for the sick, at the risk of contracting the plague themselves. ([www.earlychurch.com/unconditional-love.php](http://www.earlychurch.com/unconditional-love.php))

Original Christianity was a religion solely focused on charity, compassion, and brotherhood. These early Christians stunned the Romans by preferring to give up everything for the downtrodden before they could bear to consume it themselves. There aren't records of Christ teaching about rewards in the hereafter for charitable acts, but the faithful showed no sign of fearing death in their missions for Him.

Scroll Publishing noted that "at no other time in the history of Christianity did love so characterize the entire church as it did in the first three centuries." The reason the "love theology" ended after the first three hundred years is because Rome terminated it and replaced it with their fear-based religion in AD 325.

The difference between early Christians and Roman Christians was as the White Robed Monks compared the "love and forgiveness" of Jesus vs. the "guilt, shame and blame" of Paul and the Roman Catholic Church.

The early Christians fulfilled compassionate acts without fear, even though Christianity was illegal and punishable by death. They were the first to be inspired by Christ. Historians also noted that they showed no fear of death when they were executed. It was as if Christ had laid their fears to rest about crossing over to the other side. Christianity lost that benign death perspective after Rome added the fear of judgment to the religion.

Where did the Romans get their concept of judgment? According to the documentary, *Hell, Satan's Domain* (History Channel; August 7, 2013) many earlier religions included judgment in their dogma. They would have probably picked it up from the Egyptians, who were fanatical about the afterlife. Their Satan was Ammit. According to Wikipedia, she was a part crocodile, part lion demon of the underworld by a lake of fire. The dead were judged, and if condemned, Ammit ate them. They had a lot of elaborate art depicting this monster devouring crowds of screaming souls at a time.

Zoroastrianism, from which the Roman religion Mithraism was born, also included judgment. According to that religion, when people died, their souls could only make it to paradise if they were able to walk over a narrow bridge. If they were heavily burdened with sin, they would fall into the abyss of eternal hell.

Some Spiritualists include vestiges of traditional religions while others don't. They're tending to keep the positive fundamentals and leaving the dark elements behind.

David Kinnaman, with Barna Group, a California religious polling firm, noted that three out of five young Americans are turning away from Christianity and expressing negative views of the faith. He reported that "youth resent church authority, say service is boring, demonizing and even turning away from Jesus' teachings."

Any parent who has raised teenagers knows that they're less inhibited to express their candid opinions than adults. They embarrass us by saying things that are socially inappropriate, even though what they're saying might be true. It's noteworthy that Kinnaman's poll finds that the youth substantially believe the church is "demonizing and even turning away from Jesus' teachings."

You have to sympathize with them when they learn that Robertson, Falwell, and other evangelical leaders favor war against Islam. If Jesus only wanted us to love God, our neighbors, and our enemies, how can these churches be advocates of Jesus Christ?

"Dr. Melvin Morse, MD, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington. He has studied near death experiences in children for fifteen years and is the author of *Closer to the Light*.

He writes that children's NDEs are most revealing because they are less affected by social bias. Many young people believe Christ was tolerant of other cultures. Would the "Lamb of God" want to attack other countries because they weren't Christian? He didn't condemn others like these churches do. What's happened to Christianity? Actually, it's been egocentric and dominating since the Romans took it over in AD 325. Original Christianity was only charitable, compassionate, and tolerant because this was the way of Christ.

Onward Christian Soldiers, going as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus, going on before.

Doctors, lawyers, and educated business leaders who are stalwart churchgoers seem to advocate what they hear every Sunday morning. But teenagers have figured out that Satan, judgment, guilt, and control have nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

Interestingly, Hollywood and the old Charlton Heston Bible movies left many believing that the biblical public was educated and spoke with a British accent. And many still believe that God, Jesus, and Moses spoke eloquent Shakespearian Middle English.

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die,”

or, “Lay not thine hand upon thy lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou fearest God,”

or “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.”

Clergy still use this language on marquis, hoping that simpleminded folk will shudder, believing they are being reminded of the literal words of God. This is “sanctimonious psychobabble” patronization. Most boomers recognize the deception for what it is.

“And thus saith the lord ...”

“God said, ye must be born again.  
Accept Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

Sorry, this generation went to school. They know that neither Christ nor any other biblical figure ever uttered a word of Shakespearean English. They spoke Aramaic, so why do the clergy like to use the Middle English translation? It's because they want to put the fear of god into simple folk to scare them back into church. This is a perfect example of the church practicing its “guilt producing, control business,” as John Spong said.

Then there are the contemporary vernacular, run of the mill scare tactics:



“Repent, the day of the Lord is at hand!”

“Christ is coming soon ... We hope you'll be with us!”

“Two things you can't avoid in life ... Death and taxes ... Be prepared for both!”

“God adds and multiplies, Satan subtracts and divides.”

“Learning to fear God is the first step in our drug addiction program.”

It was August in Washington, North Carolina, and the temperature had hovered in the nineties for a month. While everyone was at the point of heat exhaustion, the marquis in front of a local Baptist church read: “You Think It's Hot Now?”

A Mennonite billboard, Swatara, Pennsylvania, read: “When You Die, You WILL Meet God!”

A billboard (with a background of red flames) in King George, Virginia, said: “I Hate the King George Church of God!”

Signed “Satan”

It's certain the outdoor advertising company didn't get the \$10,000 payment for this ad from Satan.

No, the church paid for it to scare the public into the church. It was an investment for the anticipation of new membership revenues. They ran the promotional several years. It must have paid off.

This continued drone of Satan threats is causing the church to become “culturally irrelevant.” Most people aren't responding to the church's scare tactics like they used to—that's why church membership is declining.

Anthropologists estimate that pre-Renaissance populations probably had vocabularies of less than three hundred words and couldn't read or write. And that was probably the case for Christ himself, being the son of a carpenter. Tradesmen

didn't get an education. Only the top 3 percent of society (clergy/government) was educated. That didn't change until the Renaissance. Virtually any bag-person off the street today is a Rhodes Scholar compared to first century citizens.

When we consider the origins of the world's great religions, it's necessary to understand that we can't begin to comprehend the level of social ignorance of that time. Again, most people think the crowds around Christ spoke eloquent Middle English. They weren't eloquent in any language.

As the Roman Empire crumbled in the third century, society fell into chaos. The discipline and social structure that the church offered seems oppressive today, but it was a source of security in that helter-skelter world.

And then there's the question of "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Did ancient religions shackle us with fear and control, or did the people ask for it?

We have a deep need to believe in a god or religious myths to explain the Universe to us. Please recognize that simply because we have a need to believe in a god, that doesn't mean a real god doesn't exist. We create myths and stories about our lives that help us to make sense of an otherwise incomprehensible Universe. (Melvin L Morse MD, [Spiritualscienific.com](http://Spiritualscienific.com))

People were distressed, illiterate, and extremely superstitious. They rarely strayed off the beaten path for fear of witches, goblins, and demons. There was security in the austere faith structure provided by the church. But, consequently, people were susceptible to believing anything the church instructed. The church became the center of society. Of course, the fact that attendance and tithing were required by the state didn't hurt the church's wealth and influence, and, as with all human institutions, power, control, and ego

follow closely behind. In the case of the church, ego manifested itself as doctrinal “infallibility.”

The most effective way to control a population was to have a fear-motivated religion, along with a general acceptance that the leaders had influence with the deity. This was the winning formula with most civilizations before the Roman Empire.

#### The Columbus Eclipse Phenomenon:

On his fourth voyage to the New World, Christopher Columbus' crew ... was starving when they landed in Jamaica. The island people fed them, but ... after six months, the natives halted the food supply.

Columbus knew of an upcoming lunar eclipse, so he told them that his god was angry ... and would provide a clear sign of his displeasure by making the rising full moon appear 'inflamed with wrath.'

The lunar eclipse appeared on schedule, and the natives ... came running from every direction to the ships, laden with provisions, praying the Admiral to intercede ... with God on their behalf; that he might not visit his wrath upon them.

<http://theageofdiscovery.wikispaces.com/Christopher+Columbus'+fourth+voyage>

The Jamaicans were uneducated and superstitious—perfect victims for Columbus's “wrath of god” deception. Once he terrified them with the eclipse, they'd do anything he asked and give him anything he wanted. If they'd been educated, they'd have known about periodic lunar eclipses and wouldn't have been fooled by his scheme.

Boomers know that churches use this “wrath of god” threat to control them. The Roman Catholic Church brainwashed

the public to fear God in the third century, so now we're still re-enforced with it by our contemporary churches.

Just like the first Christmas Day in AD 324, Rome instructed the dull masses to believe that December 25 was Christ's birthday, so they believed it. This explains why the church was in its zenith during those dark, ignorant times.

The church purports to support education. Can you imagine what people would think if the church said it opposed education? So, of course, they can't say that. However, educated people think too much and ask too many questions. When thinking people ask questions, the church labels them "doubting Thomases." This is where Spiritualists come from.

Many of the larger church organizations have gotten into the education business. Why? They realize that kids are going to go to college whether they want them to or not. So they've gotten involved so they can still influence them with the church's version of education (i.e., "creationism" and "intelligent design").

Until thirty years ago, all churches and Christian schools were ranting brimstone and blasphemy about anyone who didn't literally accept creationism and about anyone who believed that dinosaurs were real or that the world was older than ten thousand years. Before the last thirty years, no Christian schools taught real academic science or history at all.

The church hierarchy still wants you to believe their biblical mythology so you'll still need the church to save your everlasting soul. Christian universities teach evolution, history, and science now, but only because they need accreditation by the state. However, they still offer "Creationism Science" in the hope of still swaying as many students to believing biblical seven day creation and fearing satanic serpents as they can.

Liberty University says it offers both creationism and evolution, and “lets the students decide.” Teens go to college to get educated. They’re not ready to make that decision yet. These universities know how impressionable kids are. Any school that offers creationism as viable academics should not be accredited as a legitimate academic institution.

Christian universities don’t want you to be academically savvy. As always, they prefer the youth brainwashed and fearing their “wrath of god” so they’ll circum to the church’s guilt and control plan.

The church isn’t as influential now because society is better educated. People know there are periodic lunar eclipses now!

The church wants you be “born again” and childlike. “Born again” people are more malleable and susceptible to the control of the church. The church disdains secularism. Unlike “born-again” Christians, secular individuals tend to be free thinking grownups whose religious beliefs aren’t controlled by the church.

Again,

The traditional church always fights every new intellectual insight, making it difficult for educated people not to stray. Observe how the church still fights Darwin with such silly things as intelligent design (that the process of life is divinely directed as opposed to natural selection). When knowledge collides with traditional faith change is inevitable. I welcome it and if the church cannot engage this intellectually driven change, then it probably should die. (Washington Post, March 3, 2008; John Spong)

Boomers are increasingly secular and consequently outside of the church’s control. They’re more than a fleeting irritation because they’re getting smarter all the time. The more they

question the church's authority, the more it threatens the future of the church.

“He’s a good, God-fearing, churchgoing man.”

When did it become necessary to “fear” God to be a “good” man? Churchgoers don’t understand, or don’t want to understand that the tradition of “fearing God” is much older than the Christian era, because it was borrowed from earlier religions.

As mentioned, before Christ, all Western religions were based on fear. Paganism terrified followers since the dawn of time with it. Judaism, which spawned Christianity, has always been renowned for its Old Testament “wrath of God” dogma.

The revelation of Christ was that God was not a wrathful, vengeful god. His “loving God” news was an announcement that stunned the world. That’s what set Christianity apart from all previous religions in Western culture.

Christians today are “God fearing” because Rome canceled Christ’s love theology and rewrote it to being the fear-based theology of the older pagan religions.

We’ve all been exposed to the fear motivation promulgated by churches.

Bishop Spong has been critical of churches for continuing the brimstone diatribe—“Ye must be born again ... accept Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (from the domination of Satan).

It’s wonderful that ministers preach the love of Jesus, but then they threaten that anyone who doesn’t will burn in hell for all eternity. Boomers don’t believe you can be threatened to love. This is the “cognitive dissonance” the White Robed

Monks were talking about—“psychological conflict resulting from incongruous beliefs and attitudes held simultaneously.”

Clergy say that people in remote regions won't go to hell if they don't know what Christianity is, so they get a pass from eternal damnation. But if a missionary should happen to tell them the “good news” and then if they refuse to convert, they're informed they'll spend eternity in hell for refusing to accept Him as their savior. Boomers don't believe anyone should be terrified into converting and joining the church. They see the church using this control tactic and know it's contrary to the teaching of Christ. They won't accept it as “mystery” because it's just wrong.

Boomers also know the church wants them born again and childlike to accept the church's kind of “truth” about Old Testament creationism.

The crisis for the church now is a savvy generation of boomers. They know the Smithsonian and other museums have skulls lined up dating back three million years. They're not plaster of paris. They're bone, and reliable dating methods have pinpointed their historical origins. They undeniably prove evolution, and, sorry, but boomers know the truth about dinosaurs from archaeology and anthropology. Their skeletons are in museums all over the world. Boomers refuse to be ostriches with their heads in the sand.

If the church is going to keep denying these facts, they may as well go back to demanding that the world is flat and that it's the center of the universe. Remember, the church had poor Galileo under house arrest until he died. They condemned the mad “heretic” for claiming the earth was not the center of the universe.

And these damn boomers just keep studying more history and science in those evil public schools! If we could have just kept them in Catholic and Christian schools, none of

this controversy would have ever happened! We'd all just be good little Sunday school "Stepford" programmed units.

Educated boomers are as likely to believe the Genesis account, creationism, intelligent design and Noah's ark as they'd believe in Santa Claus, the tooth fairy, and the Easter bunny.

The church's steadfast insistence of literal creationism is tantamount to institutional suicide. At the very least, they need to back off from "literal" to "figurative."

The Catholic Church formally denies exorcisms, but it's well-known that priests happily perform them. The church won't admit it, but they love any activity that fans the flames of Satan. Of course they do; it spreads more of their kind of fear that scares people into church. So even though they formally deny exorcisms, boomers know it's more ecclesiastical deception. If they really disapproved, they'd forbid priests from performing them altogether. It's more likely that they discretely encourage priests to go "wrestle the devil out of people" as much as they can. The Vatican does have an office that manages exorcism affairs. It's just good for their fear-mongering control business!

An interesting aside is that other cultures acknowledge that they deal with soul possession as well. In China, Buddhist priests perform these services, but they don't believe the individual's soul is possessed by Satan. They believe it's the frustrated spirit of another departed soul. Their priests free a "possessed person by coaxing the other frustrated soul to go to the light. They believe the service is a win-win opportunity for the two souls involved!

The church says other religions are false. Why is it that other religions don't accuse Christianity of being false? They don't come here on missions proselytizing here for Hinduism to save us from practicing a false religion.



I have a wonderful neighbor who is a devout Baptist. She's a cancer survivor and a member of a diverse cancer support group. She befriended a wise, elderly Indian Sikh in the group whom she said was very kind and philosophical. One day she told me that she was nervous because he asked her to have dinner with his family. She said she was worried he might try to convert her to Sikhism.

I don't think she believed me when I told her that Sikhs just feel a calling to help others find inner peace and enlightenment and that they never pressure anyone to convert. That's only what Christians do. She never accepted the dinner invitation. It's sad that his kind invitation to commune with his family never happened because of the competitive attitude of the church.

She was feeling the anxiety other cultures feel when Christian missionaries show up. When Christians start proselytizing, it provokes tension and hostility.

Around 2005, Falwell's Liberty University girls' basketball team made the national finals. They qualified to compete in Beijing. Apparently Falwell recommended to the team that while abroad, they should "share their good news" with the Chinese.

Of course, the "good news" is shared by telling the "church's story of Christ"—how He suffered and died on the cross to save all those who accept Him as their savior. Of course, after hearing the story, if they don't convert, they would be informed they'll spend eternity in hell. This "good news" is offensive to devout Buddhists or followers of other religions. How fitting that Falwell's teams are called "The Flames!"

A controversy erupted in the Richmond Times Dispatch, because it got out that team members' parents were concerned for their children's safety.

They worried because several years before, another Christian team was in Beijing “sharing the good news,” and they were kidnapped and never heard from again.

Do you think Falwell knew about those other students who lost their lives? Falwell was a lot of things, but he wasn't stupid. Was he concerned about the risk to his students? Falwell, Robertson, Graham, Swaggart, Baker, and the popes have a lot in common besides Roman Christianity. There's nothing they wouldn't risk in their quest for Christian domination. This has been the church's legacy since day one.

Many people believe clergy at Christmas when they talk about “peace on earth, goodwill toward men,” but boomers bite their tongues and squirm. They ask themselves, “Would Christ have wanted Christians to go to Buddhist China and threaten them with hell if they wouldn't convert?” Never! If Christ wanted us to love our enemies, does modern Christianity have anything to do with Jesus Christ? No, it's all about Paul and the dominating attitude of the Roman culture.

Clergy attend world religion conferences, smile, shake hands, and talk about cooperation for peace, but nothing substantive ever happens. World peace will always be way down the pecking order from their primary objective that every human on this planet is a Christian—and preferably in their denomination. Then there would just be in-fighting between the denominations, like the endless killing between Catholics and Protestants in the Middle Ages or in Belfast. The contentious nature of Roman Christianity has instigated more war and human suffering than any other issue in Western history.

Jesus Christ wasn't aggressive or dominating. The church could take a lesson from Buddhism.

Q: How does Buddhism view the existence of other religions?

A: Because not everyone has the same inclinations and interests, Buddha taught various methods to different people. It is wonderful that so many different religions exist in the world. Just as one food will not appeal to everybody, one religion or one set of beliefs will not satisfy everyone's needs. (Dalai Lama)

The church, however, has never appreciated the existence of other religions. Most boomers would believe Christ would agree with the Dalai Lama's attitude about religious tolerance, not the church!

Pat Robertson suggested that God rightfully caused the Israeli prime minister's stroke and recommended that the United States assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The world would be a better place without Chavez, but Robertson should remember his place and stay out of affairs of state. Our forefathers had the wisdom to create a society where church and state are kept separate, and we've been better off for it.

Ministers preach war on Islam.

Robertson's views echo earlier remarks by Rev. Franklin Graham, calling Islam "a very evil and very wicked religion." And on Crossfire, Robertson's sidekick, Rev. Jerry Falwell, joined the chorus ... Clearly, they didn't know what they were talking about when they attacked ... Islam for war-like passages of the Koran. Indeed, if they want to find violence preached in the name of religion, they need look no further than ... Leviticus 26:7: "And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword." (Bill Press, Tribune Media Services; February 28, 2002)

The bible has been used "to justify the superiority of Christianity to other religions so you could actually

hate other religions because they are infidels. I think we need to get beyond that.” (Bishop Spong)

And boomers ask, “Is this what Christ would want?”

The White Robed Monks said that Christ was “tolerant at all times.” Have these church leaders been exemplifying Christ? Just the opposite. It’s more cognitive dissonance that boomers are weary of juggling. The Koran does say the best way to “Paradise” is to die fighting for Islam, but consider this:

The Roman Catholic Church taught that going to war against the “Infidels” was an act of Christian penance. If a believer was killed during a crusade, he would bypass purgatory, and be taken directly to heaven. By eliminating what might be many millennia of torture in purgatory, many Christians were strongly motivated to volunteer for the crusades.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Shetubondhon/conversations/topics/3369>

As said earlier, here’s a perfect example of the church using their hellfire fear-mongering to coax the masses to risk their lives fighting in the Church’s wars.

By eliminating what might be many millennia of torture in purgatory, many Christians were strongly motivated to volunteer for the crusades.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Shetubondhon/conversations/topics/3369>

The Crusaders were ignorant, foul, and lived lives of bare subsistence. In a word, they were miserable. It wasn’t difficult to tempt them with a better afterlife. They were easily tempted to skip thousands of years of certain torment by fighting for the church and going directly to heaven.

Consider the power this gave the church. It could muster massive armies that would gladly die to avoid God's wrath—the church's parallel to the "Columbus Eclipse Phenomenon." Horrify the simple peasants with the wrath of god, and they'll do anything for dispensation from the church—even sacrifice their lives in the pope's war.

Falwell and Robertson have labeled Islam an evil religion for tempting Muslims with paradise if they die fighting for Allah, but Roman Christianity has always done the same. The Middle East has always been, and continues to be, a powder keg because of the intolerant and dominating legacy of both of these religions. Neither religion has anything to do with Christ's commandment to "love your neighbors and enemies."

Another fact boomers learned in Western Civ. 202 was that even though the Crusaders were sent to fight Muslims in the Holy Land, they actually killed more Jews in Europe than any Middle-Eastern enemy. Maybe the Jews were the pope's real target anyway? Now here's a church Hitler could love. This is the same church that remained silent while the Nazis plundered and seized the Jews around Rome. The world anticipated that Pope Pious XII would make a humanitarian appeal, but there was none—just "deafening silence." When you consider the historic attitude of the Roman Church toward the Jews, it's little wonder that Catholic Italy joined Hitler in World War II. This is the same Roman Catholic Church from which all Protestant churches were spawned. This is the church's legacy. It's why you never want a Pat Robertson or a Jerry Falwell in the White House. And now we have the Oval Office tapes of Billy Graham scheming with Nixon about how to deal with the growing "Jewish problem."

2 Corinthians 5:10 says that "all men must come before the judgment seat of Christ." It would be interesting to see how these Catholic and Protestant leaders would fare before the judgment seat of the Jewish Christ for their discrimination against Jews throughout history.

If Hitler had been more successful, Graham wouldn't have been plagued with that "problem." Despite the church's denials, it will always be anti-Semitic. Would Jesus wage war on the Jews? Boomers just wonder, is this what a Jewish Christ would want? Does the church advocate the teaching of Christ? This is why so many boomers question the church's motives and explains why they don't go to church.

Columbus's eclipse deception of the Jamaicans pales by comparison to the deception of the Roman Church's wrath of god and discriminatory history. But at Christmas, the clergy still talk about "peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

"Do as we say, not as we've done." The anomaly is endlessly frustrating to boomers. Again, it's more cognitive dissonance than they care to deal with.

Yes, the church has done wonderful things, but do they outweigh its heinous crimes against humanity? Many don't think so.

### **Chapter 3**

#### ***Two Versions of Christianity***

Original Christianity was the three hundred year “early Christianity” based on Christ’s two commandments of love. Historians agree that the dogma and liturgy of this Jewish Christianity would not be recognized by Christians today. That’s because the original religion was hated by and made illegal by the Romans. In 325 Rome hijacked the faith, terminated it, and created an entirely new Roman religion with the same name. Nicaea was the genesis of Roman Christianity along with the Roman published bible to “standardize” the dogma for Rome’s altered version of the religion.

The Roman version was created to fulfill a political objective of the Roman state. It was based on the theology of Paul. He changed the focus to being on Christ’s death, guilt, sin, and Hades or salvation for those who accepted a judgmental Christ and obeyed the church. This gave Rome a means of controlling the faithful. Bishop Spong said when the church had “Heaven as a place where you’re rewarded for your goodness, and hell where you are punished for your evil, (they sort of had) control of the population.” This remains the theology of Roman Catholic and Protestant churches today.

When Christian boomers realize this distinction, they typically abandon the church’s fear and guilt trip to find solace in a non-manipulative Christian or non-Christian Spirituality.

Clergy note that American morality is declining and link it to the fact that fewer people are going to church. They say that when people stop going to church, they lose their “moral compass.”

It’s true that fewer people are going to church and that society is less moral than forty years ago, and it’s true that the church is a positive influence for morality. Could the clergy’s claim about this correlation be correct?

The church has always taught that God wants us to be moral and do the right thing, but the clergy also threatens that if we are not, we'll burn in hell. When they remind us of the threat, morality ceases to be an act of love. The church doesn't understand that people can't be threatened to love or to be moral. People can be forced to do the right thing, but they'll be doing it for the wrong reason. Again, since morality is an act of love, it also is "oil and water" with fear. They don't interrelate.

The church instructs that we are all born into sin and condemned to hell from our first breath. To avoid this fate, they say we must accept Christ and be obedient to the church and the Bible. The church instructs that in order to be good Christians we must be moral, humane, and charitable. Since church Christians are moral and charitable to save their own souls, their acts are ultimately self-serving for fear of our consequences.

Early Christians were moral and charitable because they believed the love they gave would be returned in kind. Christ never threatened them with eternal punishment if they weren't moral or charitable. Their humane efforts were sincere because they were positively motivated by Christ's ripple effect of love. Their acts were never selfish and certainly weren't carried out to save their own souls. That came three hundred years later, courtesy of the Roman Empire.

David Kinnaman said the younger generation suspects the church is "demonizing and even turning away from Jesus' teaching."

If the church says Christ is threatening us with hell if we are not moral and charitable, the youth have good reason to suspect the church is turning away from Christ's teaching.

Again, inspired by Jesus, early Christians aided the sick and downtrodden without the church's brimstone diatribe. They had "moral compass" long before fear motivation was



threatened by the church. So people can be inspired and have a sense of “moral compass” without being threatened with eternal damnation.

The early Christians were depicted in *A Love without Condition* as having a “moral compass.” If they gave up everything and risked their lives caring for the plague stricken, then they had “moral compass.” They didn’t do these things to save themselves from any consequences. What Roman Christians don’t understand is that the first Christians simply did it for the love of Christ and humanity. This was beyond the comprehension of the Roman mind-set.

Betty Eadie said Christ told her, “Fear is the opposite of love.” The church, in its Roman tradition, always pressures morality and love through the compulsion of fear. Love and fear are not compatible, just as Jesus Christ is not compatible with Roman Christianity.

Original Christians were inspired by Christ to be moral as an integral part of the love that they gave to others. If you offered love and moral behavior to others, your reward would be that they would respond to you and others in kind. This was the reward or positive reinforcement of original Christianity. Again, there’s no record of any negative reinforcement by Jesus Christ.

This is the boomer’s perspective on church threats, especially in the context of an original “loving” Christianity—oil and water, or “cognitive dissonance.”

If the church was so concerned about morality, it would have more success pushing the positive ripple effect of being moral that Christ taught rather than negative punishment if we’re immoral.

People over fifty can remember when the tone of sermons was considerably more animated than today. In the fifties

and sixties, ministers would literally scream at congregations about debauchery, alcohol, sex, gambling, sin, and the rest..

They've had to mellow their oratory recently because this generation won't tolerate ranting and raving guilt trips. Today they have to deliver their threat in more subtle ways, but it's always there nonetheless, because, as Spong says, "The church has always been in the guilt producing, control business."

Saint Paul (Saul of Tarsus) (AD 5–67)

Paul was a Jew whose father was a Roman citizen. Paul was dedicated to the persecution of the early disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem. While traveling to Damascus, the resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a great light ... and he began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth was the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God. His writings form a considerable portion of the New Testament. (Wikipedia)

What is today called Christianity is in any case not so much the Word of Christ but something else: Paulinism—for the doctrine as we now know it rests in all its main points not on the message of Jesus, but on the totally different teaching of Paul. Modern Christianity only developed when Paulinism was promulgated as the (Roman) state religion. (White Robed Monks of St. Benedict)

Paul insists that on account of the sin of Adam all people are subject to the wrath of God from the start and are lost without exception, for all are subject to sin, God has given His judgment of condemnation against all people. (Romans 5:16)

Emperor Constantine (AD 272–337)

Roman Emperor Constantine was over 40 when he finally declared himself a Christian. Constantine

did not patronize Christianity alone, however ... The Arch of Constantine was built to celebrate (his conversion) ... and decorated with images of Victoria and sacrifices to gods such as Apollo, Dionysus, and Hercules, but contained no Christian symbolism. Constantine's "conversion" poses problems for historians ... because many of his actions still seemed resolutely Pagan.

Christian writers played up the idea that this was to be a "new Rome," a fitting Christian capital for a newly Christian empire. But they had to find ways to explain the embarrassing fact that in this new, supposedly Christian city, Constantine erected pagan temples and statues. (Dr. Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe)

The Roman Catholic Church sainted Constantine for converting the West to Christianity, but he only adapted it for political reasons. As the empire was crumbling, many citizens converted to Christianity out of protest. So he offered them Christianity as a red herring. It was his altered version with a dark side of a pagan Hades and punishment for those who didn't obey the Roman Church.

The essential Jesus can be separated from Romanized Christianity for the following reason:

The Roman Empire was achieved by mass genocide, pillaging, and brutal military control. Christ appeared during that time when people lived in stark fear of the government and vengeful pagan gods. He preached that God was a loving god and that He wanted us to love Him and our neighbors. For three hundred years, Jewish Christians were so inspired that they gave up everything to beggars and loved their enemies. The Romans thought they were deranged but were awed by their commitment to humanity. When original Christianity flourished beyond the point where it could be contained, the Romans took it over as the state religion and altered it for Roman culture.

If you're a Roman Christian, you maybe don't want to hear this because of all that's been engrained in you—"Now I lay me down to sleep, bless the Lord my soul to keep"—but if you can be honest and objective, you need to consider this historical account.

As the empire was crumbling in the third century, rebellious citizens were protesting by converting to Christianity. Constantine defused that defiant movement by feigning to accept Christianity as the new religion of Rome, while he actually changed it to fit his purpose. It had to be changed from its illegal liturgy to one that was compatible with Roman culture. Remember, it had been illegal for three hundred years because Rome hated Christianity. The faith could not be accepted based on its original loving God and brotherhood premise, so it was changed to the classic Roman model of fear and judgment.

Constantine had the religion changed so it could be adopted as the new legal state religion and had this altered liturgy published as the Roman Christian bible. Let's be clear: the Romans did not publish the Bible as the illegal religion of Jesus that Rome hated. So, the Bible is not about the Christianity of Jesus Christ. The Bible is about Paul's epiphany of the implications of Christ's death for the salvation of every person's soul from the eternal clutches of a pagan Satan in a pagan Hades.

The Roman Catholic Church sainted Constantine for converting the West to Christianity, but they did so even though he was still loyal to Apollo and Dionysus. Maybe he did accept Christ, but if so, he merely added Him to his polytheistic collection of gods. History recorded that Constantine continued to display Apollo and Dionysus on his gowns and statues until he died without even a single cross or Christian symbol. Consequently, "Saint" Constantine was never a Christian, according to the religion's monotheistic precept.

The Roman Catholic Church can't bring itself to saint angelic Mother Teresa, even though it did so for Constantine. They didn't saint him because he was the quintessential Christian. They sainted him because he handed over Western civilization to the church on a silver platter.

Surely that's more saintly than Teresa, who dedicated her whole life to saving thousands of malnourished, diseased, and dying Indians.

Of course, she had been sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church to spread goodwill and hopefully win over conversions with her good works. But the Vatican found out that she actually dignified many of them with their last rites of their Hindu or Sikh religions—*blasphemy!* The sins of a Catholic nun!

Sadly, sainthood is more political than spreading Christ's love. Don't hold your breath waiting for the Vatican to beatify her, *because it's not going to happen*. As always, the church's quest for "Christian" domination will always take precedence over Christ's call to help those who suffer.

If given the choice of picking one of these two figures for sainthood, most boomers would pick Teresa every day of the week and twice on Sunday. This is why the youth and many boomers see the church as turning away from the teaching of Jesus. This is why they're separating spiritualism from religion and creating a personal spiritualism that is free of the church's control and hypocrisy.

The Spiritualist has no respect for Vatican authority on these matters. It's this church attitude that's causing it to become "culturally irrelevant."

Constantine ordered the Council of Nicaea to convene for the purpose of "standardizing" the dogma for the newly established Roman Christian religion. Many churches believed

that Christ was a prophet and not God in the flesh. Many believed he was born naturally and not of virgin birth. Many believed Christ's love theology, and others preferred Paul's judgment theology. The council decided what the faith would be changed to in AD 325 and summarized it with the Nicene Creed. That altered form of Romanized Christianity remains the version used by all churches to this day. It's not the theology of Jesus Christ but rather the one adopted by Rome three hundred years after Christ's death.

Constantine directed that the new dogma be written and recorded, so the Bible was published accordingly. Hundreds of sacred scriptures existed when the Council of Nicaea chose which ones were included and which ones were to be destroyed. Authors who wrote that Christ was a mere prophet or not of virgin birth or that all Christians would ultimately be received in heaven were excluded and their works were burned. Because of their habit of destroying books and scrolls that didn't agree with their agenda, we'll never know the real diversity of Christian dogma before the Council of Nicaea.

There aren't many records of the details, but by order of the emperor, the council established the second generation of Christianity to be based on Christ as the Son of God, virgin birth, crucifixion, His death for our sins, resurrection, judgment, and the hope of salvation.

Categorically, Romanized Christianity evolved to a completely altered religion that had scant relationship to the original theology of Christ.

I don't believe in Hell. I believe in life after death, but I don't think it has anything to do with reward and punishment. If you have heaven as a place where you're rewarded for your goodness, and Hell where you are punished for your evil, then you sort of have control of the population ... It's part of a control tactic. (Bishop John Spong)

The Catholic Church ran TV ads in 2011 appealing for people to “Come back to the Catholic Church, since it was the church founded by Jesus Christ.”

The church also made this claim through 2013 on its website, [catholicscomehome.org/](http://catholicscomehome.org/). “Jesus wants to invite you back into ... the Church He founded 2,000 years ago. Christ is calling you home.”

Here’s another sterling example of the church using the brainwashing phenomenon: “Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

As established by Tübingen University, there were two separate and opposing Christianities in the second century. Paul founded Roman Church Christianity, but was “indifferent to the teaching of Jesus and the opponent of the religion of love, Christ came to announce to the world.” Paul lived generations after Christ and created a religion that was unrelated to the Jewish Christianity founded by Christ.

The church didn’t run that ad very long. It’s a good bet they yanked it after a firestorm of reaction—*talk about false and deceptive advertising!*

According to the Bible, the Romans crucified Christ. And according to history, they made His religion illegal for three hundred years and threw Christians to the lions for entertainment. But now the church wants us to believe that Christ founded the “Roman” Catholic Church? The Romans were fanatically anti-Christian. The emphasis of Roman Catholicism has always been about the salvation implications of Christ’s death. Did Christ give the disciples crucifixes and tell them He wanted His Roman execution to be the symbol of his religion of love and brotherhood? There’s no correlation between the theology of Christ and Roman Catholicism that the Romans made up generations after His death. Boomers ask, “Is there enough cognitive dissonance here?”

If Christ founded a church, wouldn't it have been about what He taught while He was alive—His message of love and brotherhood? The message of the Roman Catholic Church was about His crucifixion to save us from our sins.

Churchgoers defend that Christ did refer to the Roman theology because the Bible says He told the disciples to eat his body and drink His blood at the last supper. They can't or won't understand that this reference comes from the Roman bible that was published to merge Roman pagan tradition with Christianity. Eating the body and drinking the blood was a centuries-old ritual of pagan religion. Churchgoers don't understand that none of these biblical quotes existed in original Jewish Christianity. There was nothing in original Christianity about Christ dying for our salvation. This is why historians say modern Christians wouldn't recognize the liturgy of original Christianity. The religion that churchgoers hold to be gospel is one that was pieced together, voted on, and consummated by the Nicene Council three centuries after Jesus and had nothing to do with the teaching of Christ.

Axioms of Church theology:

- Must follow the teaching of Jesus Christ.
- Accept that Christ died for our sins to save us from hell.
- Roman Christianity is the only original and true religion.
- Christ will return to judge every soul and reward or punish each of us for what we deserve.
- Every person should be careful to accept Christ as his savior and be a good Christian so he won't be condemned to everlasting hell.

Axioms of the “doubting Thomas” boomer:

- Christ's teaching was only that we should love God and our neighbors.
- Christ never taught Paul's theology that He died for our sins to save us from eternal hell.



- Like Easter and Christmas, much of Roman Christianity was picked up from pagan religions.
- Christ never said he would transform into a vengeful god at a second coming to punish anyone who had not accepted Him.
- Christians need to stop worrying about judgment and punishment because these were just pagan concepts that had nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

This is how boomers think. This is why the church is dying. Every decade, fewer go to church because this generation increasingly realizes that the church has been in “the guilt producing, control business.” Boomers don’t appreciate being manipulated and controlled.

Hell-fire and damnation have become so “culturally irrelevant” that mainstream America thinks it’s a joke. *Saturday Night Live* with Dana Carvey’s the Church Lady blamed everything depraved as being caused by, “Can we say, Satan?”

And in 2012 the most popular musical on Broadway, *The Book of Mormon*, was another of South Park’s sacrilegious church hell-fire lampoons. To say the least, if it’s not a joke, the “hell-fire” threat just isn’t scaring America like it used to.

Christians shouldn’t be offended when they see the proliferation of this mockery of Satan and judgment because it’s only a mockery of the “holdovers from paganism” added by the Romans. Yes, it discourages people from going to church, but if they lie about this being the teaching of Christ, they deserve the loss.

Since the church paganized the teaching of Christ but insists that the religion is inerrant and unchangeable, they are caught up in this lie that is killing it.

The church has a patriarchal Roman tradition they know is offensive to this generation. They’ve painted themselves into a corner. They don’t want to appear to correct course

because change smacks of the evolution that they vehemently deny.

But that's the choice it will have to make. Just as the church radically evolved in AD 325, it will have to do so again to survive. Unfortunately for them, evolution is a fact of life that they'll have to accept, or it will shrivel into obscurity.

Bishop Spong said that Christianity will die if it doesn't change. Churches are withering, and they will die if they don't drop Rome's dark theology of fear and get back to the positive message of Christ.

As said, nothing is known about Christ beyond the legend. So how could this religion have had more impact on Western civilization than any other influence without having any factual data about Jesus Christ?

The Roman Empire was the most extensive the world had ever known. Historians laud Caesar as a great conqueror, but in many respects he was no better than Hitler. He built a great civilization, but at the cost of mass genocide, slavery, and pillaging of conquered lands for the glory of Rome. Rome maintained control for hundreds of years with an iron grip of fear. Its pagan religion followed suit with vengeful gods.

Christ entered this horrifying environment and preached that God was a loving god, and that He wanted people to love their neighbors and enemies as themselves. He wanted people to set aside fear and live more loving, humane, and compassionate lives.

"God of love?" "Love your enemies?" How bizarre! But obviously, people realized how this could change their lives and fulfill their hungry souls. It seems simple and cliché now, but not at that time. *It was absolutely revolutionary!* They had never known anything but terrifying gods.

The thought of a loving relationship with God was so appealing that many took Jesus literally. The masses were stunned and kicked off dead center. His news filled a void so much that it was worth giving up everything and to be starving in the streets. The rest is history. Christ's love theology took Rome by storm. Christianity flourished without the hell-fire theology or the bible that came three hundred years later.

Early Christians freely gave their wealth to the poor and nursed the plague stricken without concern for their own well-being. They didn't do it to be saved from hell. They were simply inspired by Christ to do it out of compassion for humanity.

As Rome conquered other lands, new citizens were integrated into the society, and their gods were welcomed into Roman polytheism.

But early Christians irked the Romans. They'd ruin themselves giving everything to beggars on the street. They wouldn't mix into Roman mainstream or comply with the state religious practice restrictions.

This was part of the reason Christianity was illegal for three hundred years. So they'd be tortured or thrown to the lions in the games. They'd accept punishment or execution without resistance.

The Romans didn't understand their behavior. They couldn't, because the Christians were inspired by a positive force. Romans only understood negative motivation through fear.

*Isn't it odd that Rome loathed Christianity and made it illegal but then turned on a dime and embraced it as the state religion in the fourth century? How could that happen?*

*It happened because the Romans reversed Christ's love theology to Paul's fear theology so it could be used to control the masses.*

Clearly, Christ wanted to end the fear of wrathful, vengeful gods. Did Christ offer a quid pro quo of eternal damnation for those who didn't accept Him? No. hell-fire and Satan weren't part of Christ's legend. They were polar opposites to Christ's theology and were added by the Romans long after His death.

Christ said God was a loving god ... *Period!* There were no conditions! When the Romans took over Christianity, they attached conditions. If the conditions weren't met, they said Christ would become a wrathful, vengeful god. So Roman Christianity transformed Christ into the wrathful, vengeful god of their pagan tradition.

The church says that Christianity is the only true religion because all other religions are false duplicates of others.

His mother was a virgin, his birth was heralded by a star, announced by angels and witnessed by shepherds. He had twelve disciples ... walked on water, cast out demons, healed the sick ... restored sight to the blind ... and was known for saying, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He was crucified along with two thieves ... buried in a tomb, and resurrected in three days. He was the Egyptian god, Horus, worshipped 1,000 years before Jesus.  
[www.geo-pol.com/god/horus.htm](http://www.geo-pol.com/god/horus.htm)

Seminary trained clergy know the biblical account of Christianity was an evolving religious model used by dozens of other religions.

The dogma chosen by the Council of Nicaea was anything but original. The last incarnation of it was Mithraism, the primary polytheistic religion of Rome.

The church spurns evolution, but no religion ever evolved more than Christianity did in AD 325 with the Council of Nicaea and Emperor Constantine. Three hundred years after

Christ, they debated, negotiated, mutated, selected, and virtually changed everything about the religion. AD 325 was the year original Christianity was formally morphed into the Pauline, “Romanized” version of modern “church” Christianity.

Roman Christianity added the judgment and hell concepts that had been Egyptian, Persian, Greek, and Roman for centuries before Christ. Both Christians and Muslims believed that they were fighting on God’s side against Satan. As referenced before, “Shatan” was picked up by Christianity and Islam from Persian Zoroastrianism (2800 BC). Satan’s characteristic of tempting people to the “dark side” probably came from the Greek devil figure, Pan. Pan was half horned goat, half human—evil, sexual, always getting into trouble and tempting others to indulge in related vices. ([www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_cru1.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_cru1.htm))

The Christian use of the Satan character is absolute confirmation that Roman Christianity is not an original religion. When the church tells us to fear Satan, they’re actually legitimizing paganism as a valid religion.

The church can’t claim Christianity is the only original religion and then reuse a character from an earlier religion. They can’t have it both ways.

Keith Morrison (NBC) to Bishop Spong:

“So you’re saying that hell, which is someplace under the earth ... to torment you for all eternity, is just an invention of the church?”

Spong: “Yes, I think the church stoked its fires hotter than anyone else.”

The bishop obviously understood the concept of hell was used before the Christian era. He pointed out that the church “stoked (hell’s) fires hotter” than other religions. So the Roman Church borrowed the hell-fire motivator and began its guilt and control business in the name of Christ.

It may not be fair to solely blame the church for threatening the public with judgment. The History Channel qualified that the church didn't always use the judgment issue as its primary motivating tactic. They explained that primitive people typically were attracted to the Satan/hell concept and that they were curious and fascinated by the hell-fire oratory, much like we're fascinated by horror movies today. The History Channel might say that the church fanned the flames hotter because it was a crowd-pleaser. They also said the church expanded its hell-fire dogma because it encouraged pagans to convert.

One expert on the documentary explained that people had a psychological need for judgment. He said they believed God to be a god of "fair play"—that there's a sense of satisfaction that Hitler would be punished and Mother Teresa would be rewarded. He made a convincing case that it wasn't that the church aggressively pushed the judgment issue so much as the public wanted a reward or punishment system as recognition for their acts in this life.

Columbus used a periodic eclipse as a wrath of god scheme to scare the Jamaicans into his control. Regardless of whether the public demanded judgment or not, the church still knows they made it up as a wrath of god scheme to control the people. And they certainly know Jesus had nothing to do with the fear of judgment.

That's how Christianity came to be a fear-motivated religion. As the White Robed Monks said, "the doctrine of salvation ... rests almost exclusively on the work of Paul, and was *never taught by Jesus*" (i.e., Pauline fear vs. Christ's love).

More boomer frustration with "cognitive dissonance," when people contemplate these incongruous beliefs, it makes them think, "I need to get back to fundamentals that make sense and build my own personal spiritual belief system"—ergo, the rise of Spirituality among Americans.

First century Christians were Jews, with the “love without conditions” theology described by Scroll Publishing. Roman gentiles gravitated to the Christian “love” theology but then merged it with their own pagan cosmos, as they had integrated other religions before. So it should be qualified that Roman Christianity wasn’t abruptly transformed by the Nicene Council. Evolution is always a slow process. Jewish Christianity was an insignificant fraction of the population of the Roman Empire. In the second and third centuries, as Roman gentiles slowly converted, the face of original Christianity would gradually blend with the traditional cosmos of Roman culture. That’s exactly what happened with Paul. The primary religion of Rome before Christianity was Mithraism. Historians note that there was a fierce struggle between the two for dominance. As time passed, they both evolved to having near identical dogmas. Until AD 325, many churches believed Christ was a prophet and not actually God—many did not believe that once condemned to hell, it would be an eternal punishment. Many didn’t believe in immaculate conception or the resurrection, and so on. At Constantine’s behest, the council standardized the dogma and the Nicene Creed was written to summarize the new official theology of Roman Christianity. The emperor had the Roman bible published accordingly.

The impact that the fledgling little Jewish sect had on Roman culture was like a mouse exciting a herd of elephants to stampede.

The Council of Nicaea merely consummated a Roman mutation of the religion—whether or not Christ would be a prophet or the son of God, virgin birth or not, if Christ would come again as a vengeful god to punish unbelievers, and so on...

Similarities between Mithraism and Christianity:

Virgin birth, twelve followers, death and resurrection, miracles, savior’s birth date on December 25, Easter/Eostre

(pagan festival of fertility), morality, mankind's savior, savior known as "The Light of the World," dualism (contest between good and evil; Savior vs. Satan).

"Mithraism: An Historical Introduction," by Franz Cumont:

For over three hundred years the rulers of the Roman Empire worshipped the god Mithras ... The veneration of this god began around 3000 BCE in Persia (Zoroastrianism). One of the largest Mithraic temples built in Italy now lies under the present site of the Church of St. Clemente, near the Coliseum in Rome ... Mithraism was quite often noted by many historians for its many astonishing similarities to Christianity. The faithful referred to Mithra as "the Light of the World ...". He was mediator between heaven and earth and was a member of a Holy Trinity. According to Persian mythology, Mithras was born of a virgin ... The worshippers of Mithras held strong beliefs in a celestial heaven and an infernal hell. They believed that the benevolent powers of the god would sympathize with their suffering and grant them the final justice of immortality and eternal salvation in the world to come. They looked forward to a final Day of Judgment in which the dead would resurrect, and to a final conflict that would destroy the existing order of all things to bring about the triumph of light over darkness.

Purification through a ritualistic baptism was required of the faithful, who also took part in a ceremony in which they drank wine and ate bread to symbolize the body and blood of the god. Sundays were held sacred, and the birth of the god was celebrated annually on December the 25th. After the earthly mission of this god had been accomplished, he took part in a Last Supper with his companions before ascending to heaven, to forever protect the faithful from above ... Zoroastrian dualism was to influence the Jewish belief that the existence of Ha-Shatan,



the Adversary of the god YHVH, and later permit the evolution of the Christian Satan-Jehovah dichotomy.

Franz Cumont PhD; (1868–1947) Belgian archaeologist, historian, considered a leading authority on Roman paganism. Wikipedia Prof. Franz Cumont; Les Mystères de Mithra

None of these elements were part of the original Christianity of Jesus Christ. This dogma of Mithraism had been the dogma of the Greeks, Romans, and Persians for thousands of years before the Nicene Council merged it into “Roman Christianity.” Their revised version of Christianity was anything but original. The church fathers accused Mithraism of copying from Christianity, but not according to this account of Franz Cumont.

And then there’s the record of the church “wantonly” destroying any evidence it could find of Mithraism. It’s understandable that they would want to conceal where they borrowed most of their liturgy and dogma.

There’s been no shortage of academic and theological challenges to Cumont’s work. Many respectable rebuttals to his account exist on the Internet and claim that Cumont was “largely unsubstantiated.”

It’s true that there’s little conclusive evidence about Christianity borrowing from Mithraism. But that’s probably because the church destroyed most of it. So now there’s little hard evidence about much of anything either way. Suspicious, though, is that if Roman Christianity was so pure and divinely unique, why it would be necessary for the church to routinely destroy the records of Mithraism. That kind of activity smacks of cover-up.

How astute that the detractors would criticize Cumont’s claim as being “largely unsubstantiated.” Given the lack of evidence, that’s a pretty safe challenge, but they should

also consider that the existence of Jesus Christ and that any connection between Him and the Roman Catholic Church are also “largely unsubstantiated.”

The best we can hope to do is observe broadly accepted historic benchmarks and connect the dots for Christian history during that time. We can only approximate when Christ lived, from the AD calendar. We know when Roman Christianity was consummated by Emperor Constantine at Nicaea in AD 325. Beyond that, the rest of this religion is “completely unsubstantiated.”

However, it would also be presumptuous to merely accept Cumont’s claim on its own merit. There would have to be some other data to collaborate his case.

Before anyone mocks Cumont’s claim about the church copying Christianity from Mithraism, they should explain the church’s Satan/Hades plagiarism and why the two most important events on the Christian calendar are undeniably Mithraic and pagan. The most damning evidence is that December 25 was Mithras’s birthday for thousands of years before Christ. The other is that Easter was also purely pagan. Connect the dots and Cumont’s claim doesn’t seem as half-witted. These facts are more than enough to prove that Roman Christianity did copy from Mithraism. What’s a boomer to think?

*Sorry, Jesus is not “the reason for the season.”*

December 25, birth date of the sun gods.

Is it coincidence that the ancient gods of Egypt, India, Persia, and Greece had the same December 25 birth date as Jesus?

Every year when the cold season began, people believed their sun god was leaving them. It was on the twenty-fifth of December that they noticed the slow

return of their god. They called this day the birthday of the sun. ([youtube.com/watch?v=NeTJWp06BxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeTJWp06BxA)  
[www.askwhy.co.uk/christianity/0300Christmas.php](http://www.askwhy.co.uk/christianity/0300Christmas.php);) )

Christians never think it strange that the birth date of Jesus is the same birth date of many of the gods of antiquity ... (After the shortest day) the sun began to rise on the 25 December, the sun's "rebirth." Both the year and the day of Christ's birth are unknown. The importance of 25 December to Pagans made Christians think it must have been the birthday of their messiah ... so by celebrating at the same time as Pagan religions, the bishops accepted Christ as a sun god, hoping to pull in Pagan worshippers.

### The Origin of Christmas

December 25 is referred to ... as Christmas Day in 324 A.D. for the first time. Under the Roman emperor Justinian [527–565 A.D.] it was recognized as an official holiday. An old Roman festival played a major part in the choice of this particular day. December 25 in ancient Rome was the day of the winter solstice. (Werner Keller's book *The Bible as History: Who Was Born on December 25th?*) Dec.1983) Bantam Books (Mm) ISBN: 0553279432

It was now called "Christian," but in truth, it still had a pagan heart and core!

Easter, also, has nothing to do with the resurrection of Jesus.

### The Origin of Easter

Eostre was the goddess of spring and fertility, and feasts were held in her honor on the Vernal Equinox. Her ancient fertility symbol(s) were bunnies, eggs, yellow chicks.

According to History.com, Easter eggs represent Jesus' resurrection ... however, this association came much later when Roman Catholicism ... merged with already ingrained Pagan beliefs.  
(<http://news.discovery.com/history/what-does-easter-bunny-come-have-to-do-easter-120406.html>  
[paganwiccan.about.com/od/ostarathespringequinox/p/Ostara\\_History.htm](http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/ostarathespringequinox/p/Ostara_History.htm))

At Easter service, the Sunday school teacher brings the cute kindergarteners to the front of the church to explain the religious meanings of the eggs and the bunnies. Many boomers wonder if it's wise to keep filling these kids with lies about Easter. They know they're not symbols of Christ's resurrection. They know the church never even bothered to change the Roman name of this pagan festival. The teacher teaches about Easter even though her own sexuality developed from the female "*estrogen*" hormone named for the same pagan Eostre, goddess of reproduction. This is the true meaning of Easter.

None of these issues are a shock to seminary-trained doctors of divinity. This history can be found in the stacks at seminary libraries, but it won't be included in their sermon at a local Baptist church on Sunday.

### The Influence of Constantine

When Constantine became Emperor of Rome, he *nominally* became a "Christian ..." but being a sagacious politician, he sought to reconcile, blend and mesh Pagan practices with "Christian" beliefs, to merge Paganism with the Roman Church. Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient Pagan world. The Mithraic ritual so closely resembled the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass that Christian fathers charged the Devil with inventing these similarities to mislead frail minds." ([www.hope-of-israel.org/cmas1.htm](http://www.hope-of-israel.org/cmas1.htm))

Someone complimented John Lennon once as being the most creative songwriter of the twentieth century. He said he never created anything—that he had only borrowed from previous musicians and improvised on their music.

Few things in history were truly original and created from nothing. Most boomers know at least of bits and pieces of this history noted on the last few pages and are clear that the Roman version of Christianity was anything but original.

The church will never admit copying the religion from Mithraism, but that's mostly what it did. That's why they busied themselves destroying the records of that older religion. But for all their efforts to cover the evidence, they'll never be able to expunge the fact that the two most important dates of the Christian calendar were pilfered from the two most important dates on the Mithraic calendar.

You'll occasionally hear some stalwart clergyman on a *Don Quixote* quest to purge the controversial Easter blight from the Christian calendar, but the mainstream just can't bear to part with this "Christian" tradition. It also would explain why Rome Christianized these pagan events because of the difficulty of changing the course of cultural tradition.

In AD 324, Rome selected December 25 to be the birthday of the Messiah. They selected it because they had celebrated this date for centuries as the sun god's birthday. After three thousand years, Mithraism was dying, and Christianity was on the rise. They needed to retain December 25 as the birth of the sun god for traditionalists, like Constantine. They set Christ's birthday on the same date because Romans had a long-standing tradition of celebrating their primary god on that date. It was necessary to align Christ's birth date with that of the pagan sun god to minimize the shock to Roman culture as they compromised with Christianity.

We can't really blame the Romans for making up Christ's birthday. As said, *nothing was known about Jesus Christ at*

*all*. They might as well have put it on the sun god's birthday as on any other date—and Christ's crucifixion on Easter for the same reason. *Astonishingly*, the church kept the pagan name Eostre, with all its pagan reproductive symbols.

What's sinister about the church is that after pilfering Satan, judgment, and the Mithraic calendar, they had the gall to accuse ancient Mithraism of stealing these from Christianity. And, of course, they blamed Satan for causing the confusion with Mithraism. Sometimes offense is the best defense. Boomers know who was lying. None of these issues have helped boomers' waning opinion of the church.

Here again is the church in complete accord with Hitler's model of charismatic brainwashing: "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." And it worked, until now.

What's stunning about the power of brainwashing is the fact that Rome decreed in AD 324 that December 25 would be changed to Christ's birthday when it had always been Mithras's until that year. They made the lie big, and they made it simple; they kept repeating it, and now the whole world believes it—*forever!* If you questioned the earlier description of the level of ignorance at that time, "here's your sign," as Bill Engvall would say.

There simply couldn't be a better case to prove the effectiveness of brainwashing. The problem for the church now is that boomers aren't as naïve as they used to be.

When you were a child, your parents got you to believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the tooth fairy. You believed because you were a child.

Bishop Spong said the church wants you to be "born again." They want you childlike so you'll believe whatever they tell you to believe. The Romans founded their religion in this classic patriarchal style for the purpose of having all

instruction accepted without question. That's why they want priests to be addressed as "Father."

This also explains the church's extensive black list of books they don't want you to read. No doubt this book will make that notorious list. Anyone who reads them is a sinful "doubting Thomas."

"When knowledge collides with traditional faith, it makes it difficult for educated people not to stray." (Spong) The church has to suppress books like this one because that's the only way it can survive—by stifling the truth. When it comes to Roman Christianity, ignorance is bliss in a "*Stepford*" sort of way.

So here's the issue they have with the baby boomer. He refuses to naïvely accept the church's instruction and questions its infallibility and authority. It's why Elisabetta Povoledo said that "the church would have to be careful to pick a new pope with a unique ability to guide it through this increasingly secular era." The problem for the church is that it doesn't appear that civilization will ever be as feeble-minded as it was in the past.

## **Chapter 4**

### ***The Crisis of the Church's View of Death***

Besides seeking enlightenment, Buddhists strive to shed the burden of anxiety. They believe Christians augment anxiety with their endless struggle with sin, fear, and judgment. Although these factors spurred growth in the dark ages, it's having the opposite effect now.

The hereafter has become, through the efforts of the Church, a source of terror and not consolation ... In order to secure a blissful existence in the other world, and not to be condemned eternally to unimaginable torture ...it was necessary to lead such a life beyond the endurance of most people, except for a few over-zealous ascetics ... As a result of the activity of priests, an acute death consciousness became widespread. (Jacques Choron; *Death and Western Thought*, 91)

Paul insists that on account of the sin of Adam all people are subject to the wrath of God from the start and are lost without exception, for all are subject to sin, God has given His judgment of condemnation against all people. (Romans 5:16)

No other epoch has laid so much stress as the expiring Middle Ages on the thought of death ... The moment of death became of the utmost importance, since the deathbed was seen as the battleground of the last, desperate fight, which the Devil waged for the soul of man. Because of this contest between Good and Evil in the last hour, it was indispensable to avail oneself of the help, the Church was ready to extend.

J. Huizinga; *Waning of the Middle Ages*, 1924

The issue here is that few people make it through life without some serious skeletons in the closet. You might go to



a Wednesday night pancake dinner at church and eat with some of the kindly old men and think, "Surely they've got salvation in the bag." Even if they had some sins, this church would have absolved them long ago, but if you were momentarily omnipotent, perhaps you could see that some of them may have killed children in a war or gotten an oriental girl pregnant. And the celibate priest might seem apostolic in his robes, but perhaps he had a few pedophilic trysts. Certainly, he went to confession, said three "Hail Marys" and was forgiven at confession, but he's still concerned St. Peter might see it differently. This is why even though most people have been reassured of absolution by the church, they still live their lives fearing biblical judgment.

The second verse of "Amazing Grace" lyrics begins with, "T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fear relieved."

If "grace" is Christ, the hymn is mistaken, because Christ never taught the heart to fear. If "grace" is the church, it would make more sense because Roman Christianity wants us to fear Him.

As the empire crumbled, many areas of Europe were vulnerable to pillaging, so medieval sheriffs would offer their "protection" to villages if they would pay a hefty share of their crops for the service. If the villagers refused to pay, often the sheriff would burn the village.

Of course, the church was ready to offer salvation to those who became obedient, tithing parishioners. The church fomented the fear and "stoked the flames hotter than others," and then offered their protection in the form of "indulgences" for the price of tithing. Since they offered salvation from a threat that they invented, boomers don't see the church as much better than the sheriff.

As Bishop Spong said, "The church has always been in the guilt producing, control business," and what a business

it's been. Just take a stroll through Rome. Its grandeur is beyond compare.

Churches call the public to come hear the "good news" on Sundays, but there's usually a dose of "eschatology" included.

According to Webster's Dictionary, eschatology is the "branch of theology concerned with the end of the world."

The church loves eschatology. It's one of its boundless sources of fear (i.e., apocalypse, Armageddon, end-times, rapture, judgment, Revelation, Daniel, and John. It's the inspiration for Christian authors like Tim LaHaye and Billy Graham.

Billy Graham published *Storm Warning* in 1992. At that time, he recognized and connected social events and catastrophic storms that aligned with the biblical rapture prophesy, so the world could prepare for the impending apocalypse. Of course, he depicted the event as being positive and wonderful for those who had been obedient Christians, although horrific for those who had not.

However, boomers aren't great about being obedient. What the church can't understand is that they're even worse about obedience when they're threatened to be so. This is where boomers disconnect with the Roman patriarchal church attitude.

Unfortunately, for the church, a dwindling portion of the population views an ecclesiastical threat of cataclysm as a reason to celebrate. It's just another toxic load of anxiety that doesn't help humanity.

As you hear the clergy preach about judgment, rapture, and apocalypse, you can feel the pressure build. It makes you want to give in and prostrate yourself to their will. You have

to resist and remember that they've brainwashed you with this since you were born.

When you feel the pressure, remind yourself, Jesus Christ never made this threat! Remember how the White Robed Monks explained the difference between the two versions of Christianity ...

Again, "Traditional Christianity has taught that hope and solace (are only possible through) the redemption from sin by the vicarious sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, for all those who acknowledge His teaching. But it is precisely this form of the doctrine of salvation ... that rests almost exclusively on the work of Paul, and was never taught by Jesus."

Christ never threatened anyone with eternal punishment. He only asked us to be compassionate, tolerant, and loving. Reprogram yourself to dismiss the church's dark threats. Boomers know it's all Roman pagan theology and had nothing to do with Jesus Christ, and for this reason, it has nothing to do with you, unless you're pagan.

Once again, boomers look at this and think, "This is just another sign that church theology is psychologically destructive, and I need to develop my own personal spiritual cosmos."

### The Church's Rendition of Judgment

Upon dying, your soul ascends to a cloud with heaven's pearly gates. St. Peter is there to review your life. You are then judged and either admitted to heaven or condemned to an eternal hell. This precept has been largely unquestioned for 1,700 years.

So how could it be that an atheist such as Steve Jobs could die calling out, "Oh wow! Oh wow! Oh wow?"

## Dr. Raymond Moody's Near Death Experience (NDE) Phenomenon

Now, after just forty years, Dr. Raymond Moody's "*Life after Life*" revelation has eclipsed the church's dark account of judgment.

The positive NDE perspective of death has quietly and unceremoniously replaced judgment, after 1,700 years, as Western civilization's standard perspective of death.

In 1976, my brother was a third-year medical student. He mentioned that their class was going to have a guest lecturer, whom I might be interested to hear.

It was Dr. Raymond Moody from the University of Virginia, and he had just published his *New York Times* best seller, *Life after Life*.

The students had been studying the management of terminally ill patients, and the dean had coaxed Dr. Moody to lecture on the subject.

He was an articulate medical educator, but I remember being particularly impressed by his humbleness and warmth.

Late in his lecture, questions inexorably turned toward the controversy swirling around his new book.

### Near Death Experiences

As a society we have become more aware of this phenomenon since Dr. Moody's book first appeared in 1975. A floating sensation ensues, and the soul views the lifeless body from a corner of the ceiling. A sense of calm and serenity dominates now, and time has no meaning. The soul feels drawn to a dark tunnel with a brilliant white light at its end.

Hearing most of this in the lecture, I leaned over to my brother and said, "This is nuts!"

The chaplain of the medical school happened to be sitting in earshot and said, "It's all true." He told us that he had been a paratrooper in World War II and that during one jump over France, his chute didn't open. He crashed through a large tree to the ground. He remembered being carried to a medic center and recalled a doctor saying, "Throw that bag of bones in the corner. We've got others we can save."

The chaplain experienced most of these NDE elements and remembered hearing all the conversations around the room for hours until they revived him from surgery.

I sat back in my seat and wondered how this could affect our culture.

That night, we went to my parents' home for dinner.

My father was an old-school physician and was always interested to hear what my brother was doing in med school. I told him that we heard Raymond Moody's lecture, but I was still skeptical about his controversial new book.

I was certain he'd write Moody off too, since Dad was an ultraconservative physician and lay reader in our Episcopal Church.

We told him about the nine common NDE elements that Moody identified, and Dad said "it's all true!" He explained that he had experienced them in a near death experience of his own.

My mom dropped her spoon in her soup, and said, "You never told me that you had that experience! She knew he had collapsed with a nervous breakdown during his residency, and he never kept anything from her.

He told her that he didn't tell her because, "If something like that got out in the '50s, a doctor could lose his license to practice."

Everyone in my family knows that my dad never lied or exaggerated anything in his life. That's why my mom was so shocked; this just seemed so out of character.

Twenty years later, my mom called to say that dad was going to have an aortic aneurysm operation that would take six hours. She told me that there was a 30 percent chance that he might not survive it.

My stomach was in my throat as I raced to the hospital. I went to his bedside before surgery. He knew I was struggling to find something profound to say. He told me to relax, that he'd been on the other side before and that it was bliss beyond description. He told me to believe him when he said we don't have to worry about death at all. He said that if it was his time, he wanted me to be happy for him!

He survived the surgery, but I never forgot what he told me.

During his retirement, he spent his days gardening at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. One day at home, he told me to come into the study. I knew it was important when he said, "Son, sit down." He told me, without expression, he was winding down—that he didn't have much longer. Knowing that he didn't want an emotional response, I asked him if there was anything I could do." He stood up and said, "No, I've got to go work in the gardens!"

He was dying from a cancer he never told us about. We were at the hospital in the last hours. A nurse finally got me from the waiting room. I went to his bedside for the last time. The doctor told us he didn't have long. He was pretty doped up. We could see his vital signs going south on the monitor.

As he flat-lined, he came out of his drugged stupor and was giddy as a schoolboy. He seemed oddly immature. He couldn't talk with the oxygen mask on his face, but his eyes bounced open and bobbed around jubilantly as he passed away. I would have doubted what I saw, but all four of us saw it together. We realized what he told us about death had been true. His death was blissful, like Steve Jobs's and like hundreds of thousands of others.

My mother asked me to give the eulogy at the church. I told her I'd be honored. I was crushed about losing him, but I realized that he gave me the greatest gift in my life. For the first time in my life, I was released from my oppressive fear of death that the church instilled in me my whole life.

I delivered an unorthodox eulogy. I didn't intend to offend the minister, but I felt compelled to let my dad's friends know how he had relieved my fear of death. My mom wasn't upset because she felt the same way.

Several people came up after the service and told me about similar experiences. I've had to go back to that church for several other funerals and weddings. The minister always gives me a cold look and never speaks to me. I'm very sorry, but if I learn something that has a positive effect on peoples' lives, I'm going to share it with as many as possible.

Perhaps you've heard that there are some who've had negative NDEs. I prefer the explanation that psychics give. They say that some dark souls linger in a nether state. They choose not to go into the *light* because they have unresolved issues. This may account for the rare cases of negative NDE events. And it may also explain encounters with ghosts or dark apparitions.

Dr. Michael Sabom is a cardiologist who conducted a scientific investigation of NDE case studies in the late '70s. According to him, new medical technology and especially defibrillators have triggered an avalanche of near death

experiences. Cardiology would have to witness more NDEs than other specialties, considering how many heart attack patients they save from the brink with defibrillators and other medical technology.

Being convinced by the consistency of NDE feedback, he submitted his research to the *New England Journal of Medicine* but was rejected for publication as being merely “scientific belief.” However, his inquiry greatly substantiated the validity of NDE’s and the significantly positive testimony about the serenity and bliss that people experience at death. (*Recollections of Death*, Sabom, 1982, 179)

When I learned that the acceptance of the NDE was a global phenomenon, I remember wondering how the church would respond. It was in direct conflict with the church’s judgment dogma and America was “out with the old and in with the new”

#### NDE Perspective

Could this be a mortal blow for the church? Surely they would offer a statement or some rebuttal. I waited through the eighties and nineties, but it never came. There was nothing but stark silence. This is the classic defense of the church. When the Nazis plundered Jews in Rome for concentration camps, the world waited for a humanitarian appeal from the Vatican, but nothing came—only what has been described as “deafening silence” from Pope Pious XII.

Yes, the church has done wonderful things, but “*you need to keep it in perspective.*” Catholic Italians murdered Muslims and Jews throughout the Crusades and during seven hundred years of the Inquisition. And don’t forget, Catholic Italy joined Hitler’s anti-Semitic reign of terror in World War II. They’ll always deny it, but the church will always be anti-Semitic.



Excerpt from Ancestry.com:

The entire era, 1932–1945 has left an evil legacy for the Catholic Church ... the Catholic Church, not only intentionally helped Nazi war criminals escape justice, but helped them establish new lives in foreign countries. The Vatican used every means at their disposal to assist war criminals, including dressing SS officers in priests' clothing and laundering hundreds of millions of gold bullion through Vatican banking channels. (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~confido/catholic.html>)

Boomers ask themselves how a Jewish Christ would feel about the “Christian” church being anti-Semitic. Early Christians were all Jews! These are the Roman church's crimes against humanity. What would Christ think about a church, in His name, hating any race of people? Check His two commandments.

It makes boomers wonder how Jews and Muslims feel at Christmas when clergy urge, “Peace on earth, good will toward men?”

Now after forty years, with the *Life after Life* perspective becoming the standard cultural perspective of death, the church has a cataclysmic problem. Most people now believe they'll enter a blissful *light* at death. They're forgetting the church's judgment nightmare. It's melting away like the water soaked Wicked Witch of the West. This may be the most compelling reason why boomers are leaving the church.

*Heaven Is for Real; Beyond Belief*, by Thomas Nelson, was a *New York Times* best seller about a four-year-old boy who had a brush with death and a resulting NDE. According to his parents, Colton met Jesus and learned that the only way to get into heaven is by accepting Christ as your savior.

Clearly the boy had a bonafide NDE, and he certainly gave a credible account of his near death experience.

Bear in mind that a miraculous characteristic of the NDE perspective is that it consistently confirms every individual's personal religious beliefs. There don't seem to be any cases of people coming back frustrated that their lifelong religious commitment was a mistake. Again, Steve Jobs wasn't even a Christian, but as he died he exclaimed, "Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow!"

Every tenet of a Hindu's faith is confirmed for Indians, just as a Christian's faith is confirmed for him. It would be a mistake for a Hindu to criticize that Colton's NDE was wrong about only getting into heaven by accepting Christ. Even though Colton's perspective is wrong for an Indian, it's right for him.

The mistake would be if Colton grew up, went to India as a missionary, and told Hindus that they would go to hell if they didn't convert to Christianity.

An essential axiom of the NDE perspective is that an individual's experience is not a universal paradigm that should be shoved down everyone else's throats. This is how the church aggravates hostilities, by proselytizing in other cultures. It's also why it's wrong for Islam to tempt Muslims with paradise if they die killing infidels for Islam, and likewise that popes tempted crusaders with salvation assurance if they died killing Muslims for the Catholic Church. Boomers won't fight wars for the church today because they're not as naïve as eleventh century crusaders.

Scientists are always criticizing that NDEs are just hallucinations and that nerve endings can be manipulated to cause these "dreams." No doubt they know a lot about nerve manipulation and hallucinations, but the experiences of diverse people in different cultures would be far more random than the NDE model. No, the feedback from people from different

cultures is too consistent for the nerve stimulation theory to hold water.

In other words, surgeons can manipulate nerve endings and cause hallucinations, but people from different cultures with different social conditioning would have significantly different experiences since they have different backgrounds.

Substantially, people describe rising out of their bodies, viewing a resuscitation attempt, feeling serenity, being drawn down a dark tunnel to a brilliant loving *light*, while friends and relatives help them along the way ... and, they say they don't want to return to this life from that state.

The sequence and combination of these variables is too specific to be general hallucinations from biochemical nerve reaction. There's too much statistical significance of these variables to be explained by the nerve stimulation theory.

Many boomers have opted for Spirituality for all these reasons. They realize Jesus Christ only offered a loving relationship with God, neighbors, and enemies devoid of fear. They know He never threatened punishment for those who did not comply. They know Paul and the Roman church introduced the punishment aspect to Christianity. Early Christianity was nothing like Roman Christianity, and boomers are getting it.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Where Are We Going?**

The best way to get an idea of where we're going is by looking at the past. Historians record that the early Christians had an unparalleled faith commitment in history.

There have been other groups with similar commitment. WWII news reels show soldiers charging the beaches at Normandy and Okinawa into a rainstorm of bullets. They were totally committed to dying for our country. Signs saying "All gave some and some gave all," commemorate fallen soldiers in Iraq.

Tertillian noted that the Romans were awed that Christians would give or do anything for the needy and were unafraid to risk their lives being Christians. Early Christians "gave all" without fearing consequences.

Scroll Publishing said "At no other time in the history... did love so characterize the entire church as it did in the first three centuries." Early Christians didn't fear dying because they believed in Christ to the heart of their souls and in His covenant that "God is Love." The Romans and the Catholic Church crushed original Christianity, but it keeps resurrecting itself over time. It rose up again in the twelfth century with the Cathars. It's rising again with Christian Spiritualism and confirmed by the positive feedback from Near Death Experiences that the afterlife is only blissful.

Knowing this trend should help you see where you're going...

The only negative influence we have is the church's dark version of Roman Christianity...of Revelations, Daniel, John and that we'll all be judged by a vengeful Christ. (Corinthians 5:10)

Americans have been welcoming this positive perspective of death. They're beginning to appreciate life as a journey

for the purpose of experiencing love and building a lifetime treasure of humane experience.

Bruce Goldberg said NDEs cause “overnight personality changes, increased compassion, greater appreciation of life, and an increase in the importance of personal relationships.” It’s very much like Dickens’s portrayal of Scrooge after his *Christmas Carol* experience.

When I turned sixty, the office manager was prompted by her Microsoft scheduler about my birthday. After lunch, she set out the black cake and balloons with the “over the hill” signs. I was embarrassed and told her I’d have preferred that she not promoted the event.

Marvin is a fifty five year-old, diabetic friend of mine there. I’ve pitied his endless struggle with dialysis and sugar imbalance. He took me aside and told me my reaction about my age was all wrong. He said he looked at every passing year as an accomplishment that we should be proud of and that every year is a gift of opportunity to accumulate more life experiences.

I apologized and realized he was right! I was making the same mistake most Americans make. Life is not for the weak of heart. It’s hard, but the experiences we accumulate are gifts that we earn, and we should be proud of the time we’ve lived.

We are better off experiencing all we can every year and not moving toward the end of life with any kind of negative feelings.

We need to forget the church’s oppressive rhetoric of death and judgment. We need to purge all the terror of hell and Satan that the church has instilled in us. We need to reprogram ourselves to the depths of our subconscious that we will go into the *light*, join our friends and loved ones, and revel in the treasure of our loving experiences from this life.

This is no easy feat. It takes a lot of self-reprogramming to successfully free *yourself* from a lifetime of negative church and social taboo.

And we need to remember that people the world over are having this same blissful experience at death—every minute of every day. Read and inquire everywhere to sleuth out people's experiences. If you learn enough, you can free yourself of your negative church conditioning.

Have you had a dog or a cat? They have something we don't. They can't understand the salvation psychobabble, so they don't have to worry about it. They live their entire lives without the anxiety of death like humans. Reprogramming yourself to the *Life after Life* phenomenon can help give you what they have—a life free to enjoy to the last day ...

Sweet, sweet surrender,  
Live, live without care,  
Like a fish in the water,  
Like a bird in the air,

—John Denver

The Jews are not God's chosen people, and neither are Christians, Muslims, Hindus, or Buddhists. All people are God's chosen people. You can't lose! Don't let the church convince you otherwise. Live, love, laugh, and enjoy the experiences of this life as fully as you can!

And because we are not chosen over others, we need to stop egotistically believing we are better than others. The whole "chosen" concept is an ancient hypocrisy that breeds contempt. Get it out of your Spirituality. We need to truly believe all people are equal in God's eyes. We need to stop our churches from sending missionaries to other cultures to "save their souls" from their "false religions." *There aren't any*. That aggressive church foray is egotistical, divisive, and offensive to others.

The White Robed Monks said Jesus demonstrated, “Toleration at all times, care for the welfare and benefit of others, giving and sharing ... a universal and unconditional love for all.” This is what Christ intended His religion to be.

Americans can't do what early Christians did. We're can't give up everything and live in poverty on the street. We can't give up our homes, and let our children starve. We can't keep a job if we don't have a car to make the forty-five-minute commute to work.

However, we can still be inspired by Christ to help humanity where we can. But anything we can do for others will help them and make them feel loved.

Ever given a homeless person a few dollars at a stoplight? Did you feel the love when he or she said, “Thank you, and God bless!” It came from the bottom of that person's heart. Could you feel it? That small act of kindness is not “sweetness lost on desert air.” It will all come rushing back in time—*or out of time!*

Everyone who has had a near death experience says they had an instantaneous life review. It's hard for us to comprehend that, because the other side is timeless, but that life review is every detail of your life.

Handing a few bucks to that homeless person, and every other humanitarian thing you ever did will come cascading back in a blissful stream that people can't find words to describe! So go for the gold! Do what you can do. If you can't give anything, help an elderly person carry his or her groceries. Participate in community efforts for food banks or building shelters for the poor. We'll be compiling loving and compassionate experiences. Remember that this is the only treasure you can take to the other side.

John Denver seemed to be singing about this early Christian concept in his song “Aspen Glow.”

Aspen is a life to live,  
See how much there is to give,  
See how strongly you believe,  
See how much you may receive,

Dudley Moore played the part of an elf in *Santa Claus, the Movie* (1985). One of my favorite lines was, "If you want to get hugs, you have to give hugs."

These are just restatements of the message of Christ. There's no way you can use five dollars to make you feel better than when you give it to that homeless person on the street, even if it means skipping lunch that day. So, you fast one day. It'll make you feel wonderful that you sacrificed it for someone who needed it more! Try it! The ripple of love that you create will wash back over you here and maybe hereafter.

See how much there is to give,  
See how strongly you believe,  
See how much you may receive,

Simply put, this was the message of Christ. It wasn't complex, but it was enough for early Christians to found a new religion on. There was no threat of eternal suffering if you didn't convert or accept Jesus Christ. The religion took flight from the sheer inspiration of love and charity for humanity. Christianity was never meant to be dark and threatening. That was the contribution of Roman paganism and is what church Christianity became.

Early Christians gave selflessly to the sick and poor. They lived their lives without the fear of death because they understood that their reward for selfless acts would be multiplied after this life.

Trust the overwhelming feedback about blissful afterlife experiences. Remember, those who experience NDEs don't



want to return to this life! They'd prefer to stay in the serenity on the other side.

The closest you'll ever get to hell is in this life, not the next. So take the best, and leave the rest! The ancients' pre-occupation with a tormenting afterlife has terrified civilizations since the dawn of time—Egyptians, Persians, Jews, Greeks, and Romans, to name a few. Unfortunately, the primitive Hades curse was supplanted into Christianity by the Romans.

We need to understand that Paul was a Roman Jew who persecuted Jewish Christians most of his life. Old Testament wrath of God and Satan were an integral part of his Judaism. It would be understandable that if he were star-struck to convert to Christianity, he'd do so in keeping with his Old Testament, wrathful god nature. So that's exactly what he did. When Rome needed to accept Christianity as the state religion, Paul's version suited its need to control the people with fear.

Paul was not the only cause of the Romanization of Christianity. Jewish Christians were a miniscule segment of the population. Roman gentiles were the mainstream of Western civilization. For hundreds of years, as they conquered other lands, it had been their tradition to merge the gods of conquered cultures into their religion.

As Christianity gained momentum, its merger with mainstream Roman religion was inevitable. As Romans became attracted to Christianity, it would have been natural for them to piecemeal it into their cosmos. It wasn't their habit to slam the door on their age-old religion and radically convert to a whole new religion. All religion evolves. They did what Constantine did. They incorporated Christ with their existing pagan cosmos and merged their theologies, and presto, chango—*Roman Christianity*.

The Roman Empire crumbled and collapsed, but boomers know its patriarchal character of domination is alive and well in the Roman churches today.

If you're a Christian, that's wonderful! But more boomers are becoming the Christian that Christ wanted them to be. He only asked that we live without fearing God and that we love our neighbors. He wanted us to live life compassionately to the end. He didn't want us to fear death. He never wanted us to live in fear of judgment or the domination of Satan. The Romans conjured up these horrors long after Christ died based on the horrifying Greco-Roman pagan tradition of death. Jesus wanted to allay our fears so we could dedicate our lives to compassion and brotherhood.

Constantine legalized the three-hundred-year illegal "brotherhood" Christianity by changing it to Rome's "God-fearing" Christianity. The Romans changed the religion to fearing the second coming of a different, wrathful Christ with malevolence for all who had not satisfied the Roman church's requirements for salvation.

In AD 324, Rome instructed the population that their traditional sun-god birthday, December 25, would change to the birthday of Jesus Christ that year. Later, they transformed Eostre's reproductive rites of spring with eggs and bunnies into the Christian Easter.

The church told these lies big and repeated them until the whole world accepted them. It works every time! Now that's a miracle!

When boomers go to church they get this feeling that something is inherently wrong about the Satan and brimstone guilt in the sermon—it just doesn't fit with the doves, lambs, and loving image of Christ. That's dualism. It's oil and water that never mixes. They know that the church is lying about Christmas and Easter. Seminarians know the church fabricated Roman Christianity three hundred years after Christ.

Boomers have grown up, and they expect to be treated as adults. Until the church can be honest, it's going to continue to flounder. This book will be viewed as heretical by the church, but it's not with regard to Jesus Christ.

That's why Bishop Spong published "*Why Christianity Must Change or Die*." Early Christians were thrown to the lions for three hundred years. The Romans hated everything about Jesus and His religion. Historians marveled that Christians showed no fear of death. *This gift from Christ was lost when Constantine changed the religion to being about fearing judgment.* Christians fear death today because they're Roman "God-fearing" Christians.

This is a paradigm that's being confirmed with the NDE perspective—a serene, blissful death for all of God's children. Perhaps it's a universal truth that's been lost since original Christianity was squashed by the Romans.

Mankind has existed for tens of thousands of years. In all that time, he's feared death and lived with the specter of a hellacious afterlife. Jacques Choron noted that most people are not convinced they'll be saved through the efforts of the church.

Noted psychic Sylvia Brown had many appearances on *The Montel Williams Show*. Jacques Choron's point was exemplified on one of those programs. A lady in the audience said she tried to be a good Christian, but she was worried that she had not been good enough (for salvation). I love it that Sylvia said, "If you're concerned that you've been good enough, that's enough." It's so important to humanity that so many people lose this false guilt and enjoy their lives to the fullest.

This lady was anxious that she had not been good enough for salvation. Understand that this lady's life was burdened by an anxiety that she was guilted into believing by her

church. This deceptive church indoctrination wrongly compromises the quality of people's lives—and for no reason!

Buddhism recognizes this Christian fault, as with all unnecessary mental burdens, and urges us to release them to set our souls free to improve the quality of our lives.

The tragedy of life is not death, but what we let die inside of us while we live. (Norman Cousins)

Boomers recognize that the church created this oppression and attempt to recondition themselves to being more like Christ wanted us to be. Spiritualists have been doing this for decades.

#### A Victor Zammit Supposition

Suppose we woke up tomorrow and there was this massive headline in the *NY Times*, "Science Proves Life Does Not End With Death." It would help us escape the sense of desperation that this is all there is ... and engender a feeling of serenity, peace and tranquility ... We'd be less inclined to be at each other's throats in this existence ... the end of struggle for the most power, the biggest toys ... because we are all part of a love continuum. This is only seen as a snapshot ... and that while you are here ... you should probably be kinder to people. ([www.victorzammit.com/archives/2012/December7th2012.htm](http://www.victorzammit.com/archives/2012/December7th2012.htm))

Zammit postulates that if science proved immortality, people would be more compassionate and society more serene. This could have been why Dr. Sabom tried to get the *New England Journal of Medicine* to publish the stunning consistency of positive feedback from his NDE research.

According to Scroll Publishing, "At no other time in the history of Christianity did love so characterize the entire church as it did in the first three centuries."

Early Christians were like Zammit's description of what people would be like if they absolutely knew that life continued after death. They weren't competing for wealth and power. Historians note that they showed no fear of death. Is it coincidental that the Cathars didn't fear it either? No, these two groups were pure Christians who accepted Christ's commandments unequivocally. They lived His promise that "God is love." They accepted completely that God loved them without conditions. Pure, original Christianity is the key to not fearing death.

It should also be said that original Christianity does not have a monopoly on this message. Other good religions should be respected for being positive forces in people's lives. It's just that Christ has been the source for Western civilization. Modern Christians fear death because their religion offers Christ's love but with the conditions of pagan judgment. Real Christians have the kind of serenity that Zammit described if we knew for a fact that life continued after death.

Mankind needs God, so we created religions to "help us walk into the mystery of God." (Spong) Religions have helped us secure our place in our cosmos—to justify our existence in an "otherwise incomprehensible universe."

Again,

The idea that the truth of God can be bound ... by any human creed, by any human book is almost beyond imagination for me. I mean, God is not a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist ... All of those are human systems which humans created to help us walk into the mystery of God. (Bishop Spong)

The downside of most religions is that they were founded in ancient times when antiquity was fixated on wrath and vengeance. So as Roman Christians, we literally worry our whole lives about the possibility of a horrifying destiny—when St.

Peter reviews our transgressions during the final exam of our life.

Boomers question that this was ever necessary in the first place. Why can't we keep the wheat and cast off the chaff? What's wrong with keeping the love and compassion and getting rid of the retribution we never deserved in the first place? *Absolutely nothing!* We're only threatened with punishment because that's how the church justifies its existence. "People don't understand that the church has always been in the guilt producing, control business." (Bishop Spong)

The church can't allow us to dump the chaff because they insist the Bible is literally the word of God. Is this truly Christianity? Don't forget that church, Roman Christianity, was not original Christianity. That theology and the Bible were completely unrelated to original Christianity and were generated for the purpose of controlling Western civilization with fear.

The doctrine of salvation ... rests almost exclusively on the work of Paul, and was never taught by Jesus.  
(White Robed Monks of St. Benedict)

This is why the church is in decline. Boomers believe that the church has strayed from Christ's teaching. They're joining other religions, becoming atheists, or becoming Christian Spiritualists, who usually accept His two commandments and develop personal faiths exclusive of church Christianity altogether.

The last two thousand years of Christianity has roughly coincided with the astrological Age of Pisces. Pisces is Latin for fish, which also doubles as a symbol of Christ. It's uncanny how the church is in decline as the Age of Pisces ends and Aquarius opens before us.

When a "Bible thumper" comes to your door, how do you handle the high-pressure pitch? If you're not a Christian,

just let him or her know you have no common ground for discussion. If you're a Christian Spiritualist, tell him or her that you're an original Christian, not a Roman Christian.

### *They'll Want Clarification...*

You say, "Original Christianity was simply a religion of brotherhood and love based on Christ's commandments. Three hundred years later, the Romans changed it to a religion of fear and judgment. Satan, hell, December 25 as Jesus's birth date, and Easter are all pagan concepts that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Roman Christianity was created to control the world with fear."

We're privileged to be the first generation to have the opportunity of a life free of judgment anxiety. A first in all of history, we now have the revelation of the *Life after Life* phenomenon. People all over the world have acknowledged being drawn into a "blissful and loving *light*" from which no one wants to return. Talk to anyone you know who has had an NDE—soak up and let it free you!

If you've seen a chart of the history of technological development, you know that progress was relatively flat until the last 150 years. There was the industrial revolution, then electricity, telephone, flight, and television, but in the last fifty, with computers and the Internet, the graph has skyrocketed through the stratosphere. The digital age has ignited change at a dizzying pace.

On a three-hour flight across half the country, people snooze, or complain about the food or the movie selection. We tend to be amazed at new technology for a week, but then we take it for granted and complain if it's not perfect. How quickly we forget how hard it was for thousands of years before we had it.

It's the same for man's history of the excruciating fear of death. With the exception of the three-hundred-year window

of original Christianity, it's been man's most horrifying fear for hundreds of thousands of years. The church has made matters worse. Spong said they've "fanned the flames higher than others before." Yes, there are a few churchgoers who are convinced they'll be saved, but this book is dedicated to the rest of humanity.

After eons, our generation is the first to be able to live without this accursed anxiety. Just since 1975, the *Life after Life* perspective has supplanted the scary judgment scenario as the mainstream perspective of death. We just need to keep focused on it. It's a priceless gift—a revelation of our time that can lift the church's fear from our hearts.

Don't take it for granted. The more you learn about positive *Life after Life* experiences around you, the more you'll purge a lifetime of fearful death conditioning from your subconscious. Remember that it takes a lot of reconditioning to truly free your subconscious from this curse. When you succeed, you'll enjoy a happier, more fulfilling life until the day you pass into bliss!

Hundreds of thousands of people have briefly slipped into the *light* and returned to tell that there's an afterlife of bliss beyond description. These people have different languages, cultures, and religions, but they remarkably have the same experience. This phenomenon is beyond statistically significant. The vastness of this diverse feedback is substantial enough to allow us to disregard even the most obstinate cynic.

You pull into a convenience store and notice a solemn man by the Dumpster. Have you ever bought a sub and a Coke and given it to him on the way out? He'll usually say, "Thanks and God bless," but next time notice his eyes. The love there will warm you the rest of the day—or maybe *forever*.

Constantine named his altered Roman religion "Christianity" to appease the citizens who had been converting to original



Christianity. It was a shrewd deception to reuse the name of the religion Rome hated. They radically altered it to suit Rome. It never should have been called Christianity, but who was going to argue with a tyrannical emperor? Constantine's Christianity was the religion of Paul and the evolved Roman perspective of what they wanted their religion to be.

The 1990 Academy Award-winning movie *Ghost* made some interesting points.

Sam (Patrick Swayze) had been murdered but lingered as a ghost to fend for his lover, Molly (Demi Moore), who could also fall prey to Sam's murderer. After Sam saved her, he kissed her in the *light* and said his last farewell. As she watched him walk into the brilliance, he turned and said, "It's funny, the love ... you take it with you."

People need to realize that this description of the death experience is unique in all of history. This production showed Sam walking into a blissful light with friends and family coming to greet him. There was no judgment—no battle between God and Satan for Sam's soul. Yes, this was just a movie, but popular books and films couldn't portray the death experience this way if the mainstream hadn't already moved past the church's dark scenario of judgment.

Remember, this death perspective didn't exist fifty years ago. This is new; it's beautiful, and it's freeing us from the church's fear of death, so don't take it for granted!

Christ's message of brotherhood was lost in church Christianity. Of course, churches raise money for the poor, but like any bureaucracy, most of it gets diverted to the building fund, missionary work, and staff and clergy salaries. It's like the March of Dimes, UNICEF, the Red Cross, and United Way. Only miniscule percentages of the money ever make it to the needy, while CEOs and execs make millions from your donations. In these times, it's hard to help the poor and suffering, even when you try.

Christ would have preferred we help the poor ourselves in our neighborhoods and communities. In Richmond, Virginia, the local food bank gives 93 percent of donations to the needy. If you can find honorable charities like this one, you'll feel the difference when you make a contribution.

We can't give everything like early Christians, but we can still be inspired to do what we can.

At the end of the day, most people are unable to escape the fear of death even after a lifetime of church commitment. How ironic that Christians live with this biblical fear, when Christ wanted to free us from it. The early Christians who witnessed Jesus had no fear of death, but we do today thanks to the ancient wrathful traditions brought to us by the church.

I was born in a small town ...  
Taught to fear Jesus in a small town.

—John Cougar Mellencamp

It's so true about rural areas. Small towns crescendo the "fear of Jesus," the second coming of a terrifying Jesus, the Jesus "to judge the quick and the dead," the Jesus of Corinthians—"all shall come to be judged before the seat of Jesus"—and the Jesus of vengeance and retribution.

*Remember, this was not the teaching of Jesus Christ.* This was the paganized Jesus of the Romans, of Paul, and of the politically scheming Emperor Constantine and his Roman-published bible.

According to Jesus's sermon, the church is deceiving us about what He intended. His message was that God is a god of love, not of judgment and punishment. Paul, the Romans, and the church overruled Christ and remade Him into a vengeful god, just the opposite of what He intended. They called Him "God" but then twisted His message to control us.

This is why the White Robed Monks wrote, “There are two forms of Christianity. One that the historical Christ is said to have taught (love and forgiveness) and one that the Church teaches (guilt, shame and blame).” Many Christians know that Christmas and Easter are pagan festivals. But these aren’t just isolated pagan occurrences of Roman Christianity. It’s like the Wizard of Oz telling Dorothy to “pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!” The Romans controlled the world and made sure that Roman Christianity was more Roman than Christian to control their rebellious citizens with fear.

So boomers are recognizing the church misrepresents Christ. They teach Roman “guilt, shame and blame” because the Romans hated Jesus Christ and only wanted us gripped in fear. Which kind of Christian are you?

Why anyone would believe that the tortured Pauline mind could ever be called the Word of God ... for attempting to harmonize attributes such as retribution, hate and wrath with God’s love is beyond me. (Bishop Spong)

Paul... greatly aided in the Romanizing of the Church... Emperor Constantine completed what Paul had begun—a world hostile to the faith in which Jesus had lived and died...

[www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/4366-christianity-in-its-relation-to-judaism](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/4366-christianity-in-its-relation-to-judaism)

Buddhists believe we’d be better off shedding the anxiety of Roman Christianity. This is what Spiritualists have been doing. This savvy generation knows about the murderous history of the church. Earlier, less educated generations couldn’t grasp it. This is why Elisabetta Povoledo said that the Catholic Church would need to be careful selecting a successor (pope) who could guide the church through this increasingly secular era.

Spong said the church will die if it doesn't make significant changes. This "doubting Thomas" secular generation is more than a passing irritant to Roman Christianity. They know that the church has never followed the teaching of Christ.

Many think Spong is attacking Christianity. He's been asked why he doesn't leave the church. He didn't write "Why Christianity Must Change or Die" to harm the church. He's a brilliant bishop who loves his church. The largest protestant denomination believes it will lose half its churches in the next twenty years. The church is dying, so he's offering his unique perspective as constructive criticism to help save it.

Parade Magazine said one fourth of Americans have left church for a whole new category known as "spiritual, but not religious." The Catholic Encyclopedia acknowledges that many have left the church for the "strange wanderings of the 'Get back to Christ' movement." This is exactly what Christian Spiritualism is about just as it was what the Cathars were about. This is about striving to be loving, compassionate and tolerant like Christ asked us to be. This is the teaching of Christ and the "Get back to Christ" movement is needed because the church has never been about the teaching of Christ. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11567b.htm>

The Southern Baptist Convention is dying, so they're trying to find a different way to present their message. They're going to continue to wither because they won't stop pushing their Roman religion of fear. It's a lie, and people are catching on. Try to remember that true Christianity was the religion of love Christ came to announce to the world. He would not proclaim a religion of love and intend that it would ever be transformed into the religion of fear that it has become.

If you're not a Christian, I hope you'll accept our deepest apology for our past condemnation of your religion. We've been misled by our churches that your faith is false. That's been wrong, but please trust the broad signs that we're

making substantial progress with our newfound yet sincere respect that other good religions are as valid and sacred as our own.

*Never forget:* “We are all one ... Only egos, beliefs and fears separate us” (Anonymous).

I'm not deluded enough to expect that one book or one hundred books will convince Christendom to shed 1,700 years of senseless fears that had nothing to do with Christ. My wife, who is wiser than I'll ever be, keeps telling me that if this book frees just one person from the church's guilt trip, my effort will have been worthwhile.

Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed by the masses. (Plato)

When Indiana Jones and the Nazi platoon stumbled onto the *Fountain of Youth*, they learned that it only worked if you drank the water from the cup of Christ. The trick was picking His goblet from dozens on a table. The Nazi leader chose a jewel-studded golden chalice. It was so dazzling, he said it was, “surely the goblet of a king.” He drank and crumbled into dust. The undying soldier said he “chose poorly.” Indiana chose the plain wooden cup. He poured the water on his father's mortal gunshot wound, which was instantly healed.

The original Christianity of Jesus was plain and simple like His wooden cup. It was just unconditional love. Roman Christianity is a complex religion offering God's love, but with a litany conditions and eternal hell for those who don't satisfy them. It's like Tübingen University tells us...there are two separate and opposing Christianities in history. The Catholic Encyclopedia refers to original Christianity as “primitive Christianity” because they don't want it respected as viable Christianity. They want you to write it off because it's the opposite of their religion of judgment by their vengeful version of Jesus. Don't be misled that the original Christianity

of Jesus was lacking anything. He told us everything we need to know.

Paul and Constantine reversed the religion of love that Christ came to announce to the world, to the “guilt producing, control business” of Roman Christianity. And remember that the Jewish Encyclopedia says, “Pauline Christianity greatly aided in the Romanizing of the Church... Emperor Constantine completed what Paul had begun—a world hostile to the faith in which Jesus had lived and died...”

The Roman Catholic Church was the wealthiest and most powerful institution in the world. That never could have happened if the citizens just loved their neighbors and enemies. The nations and armies of Europe could never have been pressed into “Christian” wars if they were pacifists. No, the church has never been interested in the teaching of Christ. That’s why the Romans changed Christianity to being based on fear as a control tactic. “The everlasting pit of fire and brimstone (was the tactic) with which the Catholics kept their masses subdued and controlled.” Choose your Christianity wisely. (<http://hubpages.com/hub/Catharism-should-basic-Christianity-be-revived>)

Certainly there are churchgoers who are confident they’ll be saved from the Bible’s hell, but the fact remains that churchgoers fear death more than those who don’t go. They fear it because the church teaches them to fear God and His judgment. So they are “God-fearing Christians” who fear dying and judgment.

Since early Christians and the Cathars believed that “God was unconditional love,” neither feared death. The Cathars sang as the church’s crusaders marched them into fire. They believed in Christ, so they knew they were returning to their “God of love.” If you believe His word, how bad can returning to Him be?

Since “God is love” without conditions, life after death can only be wonderful. Accepting Jesus will save you, but not from the church’s pagan Satan. If you believe His Word that “God is love,” then He saves you from your fear of death. That’s all you need because after that, all is bliss beyond imagination!

The Greco-Roman world died. Let their dark pagan religion die with it. The church will need to move beyond its pagan skeletons in order to survive this educated secular world.

When the Romans complicated Christ’s theology, His message was lost and people fell back into fear. It’s why that lady hoped Sylvia Brown could tell her if she had been good enough. The church’s guilt trip has nothing to do with Christ and we need to move beyond it. His message was simple, but we don’t get it because the church has kept us “dangled...between their imaginary heaven and hell, as a control tactic.” (Spong) Boomers are leaving the church to find their way back to His plain wooden cup.

When the Romans complicated Christ’s theology, His message was lost and people fell back into fear. Boomers have been leaving the church to find their way back to His plain wooden cup. His message was simple, but we don’t get it because the church has convinced us that the theology is too complex for us to understand and that we’ll need them to teach us how to “save” ourselves.

Remember Thomas Jefferson said, “(The church) perverted the purest religion ever preached to man into mystery and jargon, unintelligible to all mankind, and therefore the safer for their purposes.” Lincoln didn’t believe in Hell because he couldn’t conceive that a “God of love...could create the circumstances for which he would condemn his own children.”

Christ wouldn’t have wanted the cross or the crucifix to symbolize His religion—not symbols of His torture and

execution. His wooden cup might have been more appropriate to remind us that His message was very simple.

Christ only said, "God is love." He didn't say there were conditions. Believe it! Christ wouldn't proclaim it for a day, a month, or a year. His "good news" was eternal, so He'll never change into a god of vengeance. Christ wouldn't lie. Have faith! The lies were the Roman Church's "holdovers from paganism" that we should never worry about again.

If you live your life focused on "God is love," and learn from people who've had glimpses of *Life after Life*, you'll be as carefree as a bird until the day you pass into the light to your friends and family. Google "near death experiences," and start wiping your fears away! These are just confirmations of the message of Christ.

Where are we going? We still don't know, but we know more now than we have for seventeen hundred years. We know Jesus wanted us to know that our maker is our loving Father who will be there for us when we depart this life! If we accept the teaching of Christ that God loves us, when we die there will be no pain or punishment. Meditate on that. It's really all we need to know.

Be fulfilled by your kindness that ripples around and rolls back in time. It's not hard to find joy in people if you look for it. And never dread the end of your life. Since "God is unconditional love," your last words can only be, "Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow!" *Now that's good news!*

Peace on earth, and goodwill toward men and women of all good religions in the world.



## ***A Happening***

Christopher Stewart, who designed the cover of this book, is my cousin. He was very close to my father, so like the rest of our family, was changed by my Dad's positive near death experiences.

Chris told me after he started helping with this book, that he found out that a childhood friend of his had died. He said the family was having a memorial service at Lewis' Moose lodge in Richmond.

He told me a week later that there were about 40 people at the service. He recognized Lewis' sister and reminisced with her about tree forts and bicycle adventures. He told her that he and Lewis enjoyed softball together and had spent some weekends at each other's homes. Afterward, Chris got a beer and walked over to the collage display of family pictures.

He was captivated by some of the familiar images so he lingered there for a while. Chris said he didn't know the 60 year old man who hovered over the pictures beside him, but said he was a pretty rough old biker dude type.

With leathery skin, tattoos and nose studs he didn't look real sociable. But after ten minutes of edgy silence, Chris asked him how he knew Lewis.

He said, "Oh, Lewis and I had some pretty wild times together."

Chris told him he couldn't imagine Lewis doing anything wild.

The man replied, "Oh yeah, he did..." and then he added, "Well, I may have helped him to some of it..."

Chris and the man both moved down the display to look at other pictures... After a few of minutes the biker said, "Lewis saved my life."

Chris said, "I believe that."

Expressionless, the biker replied, "You can't begin to know. We did a lot of things...I just hope I didn't help him to a bad place now."

Chris replied, "You don't have to worry about that..."

The biker looked at Chris and asked, "You know something I don't?"

Chris explained his uncle, who was a man of few words, flat-lined a couple times in his life and told us about similar near death experiences both times. Chris said, "Uncle Bill said each time he entered a light, met with old friends, had experiences and went places too blissful to describe. He explained that his uncle was more honest than Abe and assured us that death was nothing anyone should ever worry about. Chris told the biker if he had known his uncle and heard him talk about it, that he'd never worry about dying either."

The biker looked at Chris like he'd seen a ghost, and said, "Why do I know this?" He thought for a bit and said when he was a kid, he fell off his bike, hit his head on a curb and was unconscious for a few minutes. He told Chris he had a very similar dream, but never mentioned it, fearing people would think he was crazy.

Then a voice called everyone to the main hall for the memorial service.

The biker firmly shook Chris' hand and said he'd never forget what he told him. After the service, the man drove past in an old pickup and gave Chris a warm nod. Chris knew the biker dumped some biblical guilt at the Moose. Chris said he felt good that he was able to help him lighten his load with a simple understanding of the Life after Life phenomenon.

## ***Reflecting...***

Ebenezer Scrooge was horrified by a visit from the ghost of his old partner Jacob Marley. Marley was laden with long chains and cumbersome weights that represented the countless sins of his life. This is the guilt tradition of our culture because it was imposed on our religion by the pagan Roman Empire.

The irony is that we call ourselves Christians, but this religion of consequences was never taught by Jesus Christ.

Baptists are baffled that they're going to lose half of their churches in the next twenty years. They know the church is dying and blame young adults as being secular and godless. The Parade Magazine poll agrees they're leaving church, but they're not leaving God... The magazine found that they're just shifting from religion to spirituality. Young adults may not realize it, but they're intuitively rejecting the "guilt, shame and blame" theology of the church and moving toward some kind of positive spiritualism.

As Joseph Ratzinger's first seminary acknowledged, there were two opposing Christianities in the second century. Christian Spiritualists are migrating from Roman church Christianity back to original Christianity.

Contrary to what church-goers believe, "Life after Life" is a pro-Christian phenomenon. It just doesn't work with the church's judgment theology. Its positive message about death confirms the teaching of Christ that God will be there for us with love, so it agrees with original Jewish Christianity. Roman churches oppose "Life after Life" because it frees us from the church's fear that they use to subdue and control us. The church's Roman Christianity is the opposite of the Jewish Christianity "of love, which Christ came to announce to the world."



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TRUE DIRECTIONS

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*The Church is Dying. Is Christianity Dying?  
Absolutely Not!*

The Baptists expect to lose half their churches in the next 20 years. They revamp their message, but nothing works because they can't face the real problem that plagues all churches.

According to the Christian website, [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org), few young adults have a "biblical worldview," because they don't believe in Satan, hell or that Christianity is the only true religion. The problem is that Christianity has an identity crisis that gives young adults good reason to doubt the church.

Joseph Ratzinger (pope) quit his first seminary because it conceded that two separate and opposing Christianities existed in the second century. One was the Jewish Christianity of Jesus and the other was the Roman gentile Christianity of Paul. They noted that Paul was "indifferent to the teaching of Jesus... and *the opponent of the religion of love*, Christ came to announce to the world."

Jesus' Christianity had no judgment, Satan, hell, Easter or Christmas for 300 years! *These were not the teaching of Christ*, but pagan traditions added by the Romans when they commandeered the religion later. *These facts don't discredit Jesus Christ at all!*

Bishop John Spong of Newark says "the church has always dangled us between their imaginary heaven and hell as a control tactic." This savvy, secular world gets it, and is unmoved by the church's brimstone threats. They know it has nothing to do with the religion of Jesus Christ.

The church is dying, but as they say, "When God closes a door, He always opens a window." So now, *Christian Spirituality*, more like original Christianity, *is a star on the rise*.



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