

STUDY PACK 8

NEO-EVANGELISM

“New Evangelism is a movement born of an effort to compromise the Christian faith with certain theologically liberal ideas, tendencies and philosophies. It is a theological position, as well as a mood or attitude, that attempts to bridge the gap _____ and neo orthodoxy in an effort to _____.

~~ Grace Bible Church, Fresno, California ~~

I. NEO-EVANGELICAL LEADERS

The term neo-evangelical was coined by Harold Ockenga in 1947. For him it was a positive. Significant promoters of the neo-evangelical position include Billy Graham, Edward Carnell, Carl Henry and Bernard Ramm.

Organizations promoting neo-evangelicalism include Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter-varsity, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF NEO-EVANGELICALISM

- A. A very _____ and _____ definition _____ - also called Mere Christianity.
- B. A toleration of questionable views of _____.
- C. Attempts to reconcile Scripture with science falsely so called.
- D. An emphasis on _____ over _____.
- E. The advocacy of _____ into mainline denominations rather than separation from them.
- F. A willingness to accept the possibility that the apostolic gifts are for today.
- G. A willingness to use _____ as a method of evangelism and church growth.
- H. A desire to cooperate with _____ in religious programs.
- I. Promotion of the social gospel.

- J. Strong criticism of traditional fundamentalism, hymns, the King James Bible and modesty.
- K. Rejection of the idea that God has different roles for men and women to play in the ministry.
- L. An increased emphasis on scholarship.

III. GENERATIONAL MORALITY

In its more extreme forms, neo-evangelicalism has advocated the idea that God has different moral standards for different generations. The morality taught in the Bible was simply the morals that God wanted for that generation.

In order to be relevant and to reach people, God intends for us to form new moral standards acceptable to each generation. This is referred to as being “woke.”

IV. A WARNING FROM WILLIAM ASHBROOK

- A. New Evangelicalism is a movement born of compromise.
- B. Second, it is a movement nurtured on pride of intellect.
- C. Thirdly, it is an appeasement of evil.

V. A WARNING FROM ERNEST PICKERING

“The new evangelicalism, while propagated by sincere and able men, is not worthy of the support of Christians. It lacks moral courage in the face of great conflict with apostasy. It lacks doctrinal clarity in important areas of theology. It makes unwarranted concessions to the enemies of the cross of Christ. Christians everywhere should resist it steadfastly in the faith.”

VI ELASTIC THEOLOGY

Neo-evangelicalism has become a very elastic term. It is now used by many people and groups to refer to many different things.