

### *What is the convergent church movement?*

The Convergent Church Movement seeks to depart from traditional religious practices.

Rev. Eric Elnes wrote:

As far as I can tell, the “Convergence Movement” was a term used a few years ago by a handful of evangelical and charismatic Christian leaders as part of a call churches back to their roots in early Christianity that did not take hold...

...[T]he term Convergence Christianity is a phenomenon primarily among post-evangelical and post-liberal Christians who have left their native traditions behind – or remain within them but have let go of what they consider to be the “baggage” of their traditions – and are now discovering each other out in the wilderness. They’re finding that each group has gifts to share that the other has been yearning for, and minus the baggage, these folks are great fun and inspiring to be with.

What follows is twelve characteristics of what I’m finding at the grassroots which I identify with Convergence Christianity...

...What I find particularly intriguing about this new reality is that it is providing a substantial foundation of common ground not only between Christians who have previously been on opposite ends of the theological spectrum, but between adherents of many faiths. Certain Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and other communities on the fringes of their traditions are discovering that they share more in common with each other than with the more resistant strands of their own traditions. Even though the framing beliefs of these communities remain distinct from one another, their core values are looking increasingly similar.<sup>1</sup>

While bad traditions should be abandoned (Mk 7:13), good teaching should be maintained (1 Co 15:58). Jesus said that he is: the way, the truth and the life and that no man comes to the Father but by him (Jn 14:6).

Syncretism is an attempt to merge several belief systems into one (2 Pe 2:1). Christianity stands apart from all world religions in that it says that faith in Christ is the only way to have life (Jn 20:31). The apostle John said that one who rejects the Son also rejects the Father and one who receives the Son (Col 2:6-7) has the Father also (1 Jn 2:23).

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<sup>1</sup> Elnes, Eric Rev. Characteristics of Convergence Christianity. DarkwoodBrew.org. 2 Aug 18: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/characteristics-of-convergence-christianity/>

The Convergent Church movement emphasizes two good things: love of God and love of neighbor (Mt 22:36-40)<sup>2</sup>; but; it adds one bad thing (Ga 5:9) which is love of self.<sup>3</sup> Men do not need more selfishness (loving one's self first)—sinners have plenty of that (Phil 2:21, 2 Ti 3:2)—they need more selfless love.<sup>4</sup>

God does not move over on his throne to make room for man (Is 42:8). Men are not good (Lk 18:19, Ro 3:10-12)—God is good (Ps 31:19). Man is justified without a cause (Ro 3:28)—meaning that there is no goodness in him which enables him to be saved (Eph 2:8-9).

Lovers of self are not helpful in kingdom work. The apostle Paul said, "All seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus (Php 2:21)."

Christians should strive to love God with all of their: heart, soul, strength and mind (Lk 10:27) and love their neighbor as they *already* love themselves (v. 28).

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<sup>2</sup> Commandments: (1) The first (22:37–38): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." (2) The second (22:39) : "Love your neighbor as yourself." Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Mt 22:37–39). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Self-exaltation. Manifested by: Satan (Is. 14:12–15), Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:4), wicked (Ps. 73:9). Evils of, seen in: self-abasement (Matt. 23:12), pride (Prov. 16:18). Antidotes of: humility (Prov. 15:33), Christ's example (Phil. 2:5–8). Ibid, p. 555.

<sup>4</sup> Avoidance of, by: seeking the good of others (1 Cor. 10:24), putting Christ first (Phil. 1:21, 22), manifesting love (1 Cor. 13:5). Ibid, p. 556.