

What is the divine union doctrine within the g12 movement?

The G12 movement was founded by pastor Cesar Castellanos of International Charismatic Mission in Bogota, Colombia. He claims to have had a vision from God about: the structure of authority and discipleship in the church, and church growth. His critics have called his church a cultic pyramid scheme.

The church itself has stated:

“God made a covenant with Abraham to increase his numbers so that he could be a father of many nations (see Gen 17:2-4). This Abrahamic covenant is still relevant to us as a church of Jesus Christ (see Gal 3:6-9). We are called to “father the nations”.”

In Christ there is neither Jew nor gentile. Those in the body of Christ are called *one* in Christ Jesus (Ga 3:18). Christians do not think of themselves as Jews (e.g. they typically do not celebrate Jewish feasts or wear traditional Jewish religious attire) but, the apostle Paul did say that those who are of the faith are sons of Abraham (Ga 3:7).

What matters is not the circumcision of the flesh; but, the circumcision of a heart for God (Ro 2:25-29, Eph 2:11).

“The basis for the number 12 is the example of Jesus and his 12 disciples. He chose 12 to be his helpers in ministering to the masses (see Matt 9:35-10:1). He stayed with them continually, hence, there is a permanence of relationship.”

Church unity is important (1 Pe 3:8). Jesus asked the Father that his disciples be one as he and the Father were one (Jn 17:22); but, in reality churches do divide. Indeed, when it comes to essential Christian doctrine; unfortunately, they must divide.

Paul said, “There must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized!” 1 Co 11:19. In this way iron sharpens iron (Pr 27:17). Jesus’ church will be build his way not man’s way. Our Lord said, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18).”¹

Another attendee of a Divine Union/G12 church, Annette Colon-Alvarenga, believed it was:

...[N]othing more than a strategy for church growth.

Pastors must be concerned with growing God’s kingdom not their own (Mk 16:15).

Ms. Colon-Alvarenga stated:

I will not get into whether I believe Pastor Cesar Castellanos did or did not receive a vision from God; as he has related which gave birth to the G12 movement...

Her concerns revolved more around the techniques employed by the church for bringing and keeping one repentant—namely their abuse toward post-abortive coverts to Christianity.

¹ “This article is written in response to the G12 model of Faith Community Baptist Church (FCBC), Singapore. The written statements of the church are taken from its official G12 booklet and could be found at www.fcbc.org.sg.” Source: CalvinistGuy. A Theological Response to FCBC and its G12 Model. August 09, 2005: <http://wooq.blogspot.com/2005/08/theological-response-to-fcbc-and-its.html>

She said:

...Imagine, after being told you have been forgiven of your sins, you are confronted with horrifying video of the very sin you committed. I will not pretend to be an expert in mental health, but I believe this type of experience causes regression rather than regeneration.

The Christian is forgiven of sin after receiving Christ as savior (Jn 8:11, Ac 10:15, 2 Co 5:17).

She continued:

Another matter which caused me great concern is the apparent *excitement* that certain persons serving in the encounters expressed when there was a demonic manifestation. We are there to experience God's presence through His Spirit, not demons. I have a question that no one seems to want to answer: Why is it that demons feel free to manifest themselves to such an extreme at these events? And when they do manifest themselves, should excitement be our first response?

Demons, of course, are not to be honored (Jud 9). Ms. Colon-Alvarenga had a valid concern regarding deliverance ministries being mixed with normal church service.

She continued:

Some of the doctrine taught, such as generational curses, coupled with the above was more than enough for me to walk away.²

It is common for children to stumble in the same way that their parents did; but, the bible is clear--God does not punish children for the crimes of their parents (Deut. 24:16; see Ezek. 18:19-32).

There are some concerns with the divine union movement/G12 churches. As always, discernment must be used when picking a church (1 John 4:1-6).

It's wise to pick a bible church that is faithful and true to God's word.

² Colon-Alvarenga, Annette. 17 Nov 09:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20130910152018/http://gotdiscernment.com/2009/11/17/the-truth-about-the-g12-movement/>