

Christ Hates the Deeds of the Nicolaitans

The Crisis Unfolding in America Today

By Jeremy James



"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matthew 7:6)

We ought to be grateful for every peaceful day that we have left to enjoy. As difficult as life may be for many Americans today, it will be much more difficult when the bombs go off.

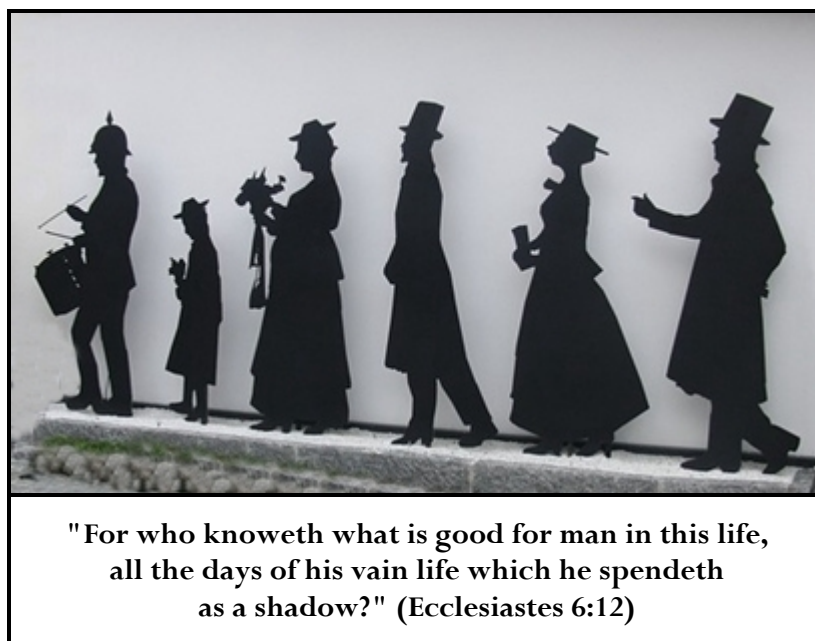
In the Book of Revelation, Christ spoke twice about a group whom he called the Nicolaitans, who are not otherwise mentioned in Scripture. To whom was he referring? His words were incredibly sharp: "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." (Revelation 2:6) and "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate." (Revelation 2:15). Whoever they were, they must have posed a deadly threat to the well-being of the church and the preaching of the true gospel. We know from the context in which these remarks were made that they comprised professing members of the church and not an external group or pagan assembly.

Historically, no specific group or movement is known to have operated under that name. For this reason many Bible scholars believe that the spiritual character of the group may be found in the name that Christ himself used to describe it. The original Greek word *Nikolaitēs* is usually taken to mean "destruction of the people", but its import may be better understood by examining the original Greek words from which it is compounded – *nīko*, meaning victory, and *laos*, meaning people. Thus the Nicolaitans – whose deeds Christ hates – are those who try to secure victory or control over the assembly of believers.

As the commentary by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown states, "...they are not a sect, but professing Christians who, like Balaam of old, tried to introduce into the Church a false freedom..." [*emphasis added*]

The Rise of the Nicolaitans

The seven churches that the Lord addresses in the Book of Revelation were representative of the church as a whole and have an ongoing historical application. Every local assembly of believers throughout history has in some way reflected the strengths and weaknesses of one or more of these churches. The Nicolaitans have always existed within the church, striving continually to push aside the Word of God and gain control by introducing a 'false freedom'.



As this age of spiritual darkness progresses, we can expect the Nicolaitans to strengthen their hold over professing believers everywhere and develop more and more ways of promoting a 'false freedom'. These are the leaders who want to bring about an 'apostolic reformation' in the church, to develop a new way of 'doing' church, to shape an 'emerging' church or a 'purpose driven' church, a church that will bring in 'the kingdom', a church that will break down 'walls', a church based on 'inclusiveness' and 'relevance' and 'personal experience', and so forth.

Today the Nicolaitans are in control and most of the 70,000 or so Christian pastors in America are glad to have it that way. Their income is assured and their numbers are steady or increasing. Their tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status – which imposes legal restrictions on what they can and cannot say – does not hamper in any way the broad, feel-good gospel that they like to preach. Their flocks are controlled by fads and fashions that beguile the mind and keep them entertained, and the world around them has been neutralized by a social gospel that was virtually unknown a hundred years ago.

So, when the attacks start, where will they look for answers? Who will they blame? The Marxist, Christ-hating president whom they elected to office, not once but twice? The pagan-filled Masonic Lodge they call Capitol Hill? The greed-addicted leaders of corporate America? The subversive tax-exempt foundations? The pathological liars who control the banking sector? The myth-making mandarins of the American media? Or a society that has no difficulty killing a million of its own children every year? The list goes on...

In their quest for explanations, they will likely overlook the enemy that Christ himself identified in the Book of Revelation. While he got angry with the Pharisees on several occasions, none of the four gospels record explicitly that Christ hated anything, and yet in the most prophetic book of the Bible, which is laden with bleak descriptions of the coming End Time judgments, he twice declares his hatred for the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans.

The Rejection of Biblical Christianity

There is clearly a significant link between the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans and the collapse of true Christian preaching as the End Time unfolds. So when millions of Americans start asking why God has abandoned their nation, they will be slow to acknowledge and accept the only valid answer, namely, their rejection of true Biblical Christianity.



Nowhere to hide.

The Nicolaitans secured their first major victory with the removal of prayer and corporate reading of the Bible from public schools in 1963. The Supreme Court decision effectively confined corporate prayer and recitation of the Bible to church buildings and thereby transferred extraordinary power into the hands of local pastors. The Nicolaitans moved to exploit their new role as the sole custodians of God's Word. The traditional interpretation of Christian doctrine, which had been preserved intact for over a hundred and fifty years through the public school system, was now subject more than ever to the personal opinion of the local pastor.

The influence of the Nicolaitans increased dramatically on foot of this ruling. They were now able to teach their version of Christian doctrine without having to contend with the commonly shared interpretation passed from generation to generation through the public school system. Their hand was strengthened even more with the rise of the Charismatic movement in the 1970s, the arrival of so-called modern prophets, and widespread use of the heretic's favorite weapon – "Touch not mine anointed!" As pastors became prophets and then apostles, there was virtually no limit to the number of ways they could pervert God's Holy Word.

The Ecumenical Movement

The Ecumenical movement, which is co-ordinated and funded by the Roman Catholic Church, marked another major development. It began in earnest with the Second Vatican Council when, in his opening address on October 11, 1962, the Pope declared:

"The Church has always opposed these errors, and often condemned them with the utmost severity. Today, however, Christ's Bride prefers the balm of mercy to the arm of severity. She believes that, present needs are best served by explaining more fully the purport of her doctrines, rather than by publishing condemnations...The great desire, therefore, of the Catholic Church in raising aloft at this Council the torch of truth, is to show herself to the world as the loving mother of all mankind; gentle, patient, and full of tenderness and sympathy for her separated children."

The Pope was conceding that the previous method which the Roman Catholic Church had used to suppress and destroy Protestantism – a method that employed "the utmost severity," meaning force of arms, torture and slaughter – was now being replaced by "the balm of mercy...gentle, patient, full of tenderness." Where murder had failed, deception would succeed. One way or another the "loving mother" would pursue "her separated children" – the churches of Protestantism – and bring them back into the Roman Catholic fold.

Her agents have infiltrated the most influential Christian institutions in the United States and quietly taken control of the main denominations. Bit by bit the heads of these institutions have been leading Bible-believing Christians into the arms of Rome. They have applied the Jesuit oath with ruthless zeal by pretending to be born-again Christians and then, after rising to positions of influence, have secretly promoted a brand of Christianity that denies the basic principles of the Reformation. Through stealth and cunning, they are working to undo the work of the Reformation and subject professing Christians everywhere to the dead hand of Rome.

The goal is to have all professing Christians accept the Roman Catholic Church as "the one and only Church" and to bow before the Roman Eucharist, the piece of bread which they claim has been transformed by the Roman priest into the actual body of Christ:

"...when the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion have been gradually overcome, all Christians will at last, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, be gathered into the one and only Church..." – Pope John XXIII, *Decree on Ecumenism*, November 21, 1964.

Note the visible test that Rome is using to measure the success of her Ecumenical campaign. It is very similar to the ritual that the Emperor of ancient Rome had used to test the fidelity of his subjects. As Pontifex Maximus, the supreme head of all pagan religions, he demanded that all of his subjects publicly acknowledge his divine status at least once a year by eating food sacrificed in his name. For a long time the Jews got around this by making a sacrifice, not in his name, but *for* his name, a compromise that suited the Roman authorities. However, Christians were not given this option and when they refused to eat meat sacrificed in the Emperor's name, they were executed.



Rome's insatiable appetite.

The Book of Revelation refers explicitly to this deadly sin in verses 14 and 20 of chapter two. Even though Christ condemns the eating of "things sacrificed to idols", the modern Pontifex Maximus – which is one of the Pope's official titles – requires that his 'subjects' eat the 'flesh' supposedly created by supernatural means in the 'sacrifice' of the Mass. By her own admission the same test of fidelity and orthodoxy will be used by Rome to sift the ranks of the coming One World church. Presumably anyone who refuses to eat this blasphemous food will be punished with "the utmost severity." (The Book of Revelation makes it quite clear that "the balm of mercy" will have run out by then.)

Most of the 70,000 or so Christian pastors in America today are cravenly implementing the Nicolaitan philosophy. In doing so they are promoting books which teach a sickly counterfeit of true Christianity, books like *Jesus Calling* (Sarah Young), *The Harbinger* (Jonathan Cahn), *The Message* (Eugene Peterson), *The Shack* (William Young), *The Purpose-Driven Church* (Rick Warren), *Blue Like Jazz* (Donald Miller), *Celebration of Discipline* (Richard Foster), *The Emerging Church* (Dan Kimball), *The Final Quest* (Rick Joyner), *God of Intimacy and Action* (Campolo & Darling), *Love Wins* (Rob Bell), *Power Evangelism* (John Wimber), *The Ragamuffin Gospel* (Brennan Manning), *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (Henri Nouwen), *The Practice of the Presence of God* (Brother Lawrence), *When Heaven Invades Earth* (Bill Johnson), and on and on and on. The number of creepy, deluded, spurious and crafty books in so-called Christian bookshops – all approved by thousands of American pastors – is truly horrifying.

For hundreds of years the Roman Church strictly forbade Catholics to read or even consult the Bible and only removed this wicked prohibition in 1966. A similar mindset now pervades the church in America, where the authority of the Bible has been undermined to the point where believers in search of spiritual direction are turning instead to popular authors and self-appointed experts. The structures and programs in place in the Purpose-Driven Church, the Emerging Church, and the New Apostolic Reformation, among others, have been designed to engender this dependency.

The Great Betrayal

The rise of the Nicolaitans has been bolstered by a series of high-level betrayals by persons who ought to be upholding true Biblical Christianity. Instead of defending its doctrines they are throwing them to the wolves. Ever since Vatican II, the Roman Church has been organizing international events to advance her ecumenical agenda. These have included the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization 1974, a major conference in Manila in 1989 known as "Lausanne II", and another in Cape Town in 2010 ("Lausanne III"). Each of these has eaten away steadily at the authority and finality of God's Word, passing more and more power and discretion into the hands of expert committees to decide which doctrines and practices should constitute true Christianity in the world today. The changes made by Lausanne I, II and III and their spin-off institutions have been immense. The following are only some of the changes:

- o mutual recognition of baptism
- o mutual acceptance of the Nicene Creed (a Roman construct)
- o a marked emphasis on the social gospel (achieving social goals)
- o a marked emphasis on transforming society
- o a greater emphasis on social equity and wealth redistribution
- o a new emphasis on the brotherhood of man
- o cultural contextualization of the gospel
- o more dynamic and experimental modes of worship
- o a greatly reduced emphasis on literacy in evangelization
- o evangelization to mean *Christianizing communities*, not saving souls
- o much greater emphasis on the arts in sharing the gospel

- o explicit measures to make the gospel more 'relevant'
- o a much stronger focus on what churches have in common
- o a greater willingness to set aside doctrinal differences
- o acceptance of theistic evolution
- o greater concern for world peace
- o greater concern for the environment and global warming.

The really big changes are hidden among all of these, presumably by design. To be a Christian means simply to profess Christ. Roman Catholics are now regarded as Christian. The Reformation went too far and must be reversed. Fixed doctrines must give way to dialogue and mutual understanding. The existing differences between Christian denominations is not pleasing to God. Since God is love, the gospel must be shared primarily through love rather than doctrine. To experience fellowship, brotherhood and unity with other 'Christians' is our primary goal. World peace, global prosperity, and the *Christianization* of all nations will emerge naturally from the unification of all believers.

Few Christians seem to see this for what it is – the planned destruction of Biblical Christianity. And that is the real goal of Ecumenism, whereby a way is cleared for the coming One World Church.

All professing Christian leaders who took part in the Lausanne assemblies have departed radically from true Biblical Christianity. They have sided with Rome and misled their respective denominations, concealing from them the real purpose of Lausanne and the Ecumenical movement. Here are the names of just a few:

Billy Graham
 Tim Keller
 Richard Mouw (Fuller Theological Seminary)
 Rick Warren
 John Piper
 Nicky Gumbel (Alpha Course)
 Ronald Sider
 David Neff (*Christianity Today*)
 George Wood (Assemblies of God)
 John Stott
 Leighton Ford
 J I Packer
 Jack Hayford
 George Otis Jr
 Os Guinness
 Luis Palau
 Charles Kraft (Fuller Theological Seminary)
 C Peter Wagner (Fuller Theological Seminary)

Whether or not we should describe these particular individuals as Nicolaitans is not the issue here. What matters is the 70,000 or so Christian pastors in America who have submitted meekly to the changes imposed by Lausanne, as well as similar declarations and agreements, such as *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* (1994) and the *Manhattan Declaration* (2009). Between them they have opened the gates to the Enemy. And when the spiritual gates swing open, it can only be a matter of time before the physical gates swing open as well.

Christ warned of the Nicolaitans in such strong terms in the Book of Revelation seemingly to highlight the role they will play in the great End Time apostasy. As the Preacher said, "Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good." (Ecclesiastes 9:18)

So, when the coming great wave of fear sweeps across the nation, professing Christians everywhere will surely consider how different everything would have been had their pastors preached the true gospel. The gates would not have been open, and millions of vigilant believers would have been watching night and day on the walls of their encircled nation, ever mindful that the Serpent never sleeps.

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