

Weathering The Storm

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Tonight we come to the end of our special series on the Emergent Church Movement. We've looked, very briefly, at some of their beliefs and practices, we've identified some important terms and the prominent leaders, but all of that is useless if we don't have some sort of application.

We do believe that the Emerging Church is in error and we have seen that the movement is gaining momentum, especially among younger, less grounded Christians. We need to hold firm to the truth of God's word **and** we need to reach out to Emergents whenever possible.

The doctrines, practices and writings of the Emerging Church may shock us, they may offend us, they may even anger us, but tonight I would like to remind us of a few things that the Lord has said in His word.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.*

*And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **but have not love**, I am nothing.*
: 1 Corinthians 13.1-2 :

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
: Galatians 6.1 :

Yes, we are told to beware false teachers. Yes, we are to reject heretical teachings and the doctrines of demons. Yes, we should stand against those who would deny the truth of God's word or it's power or it's accuracy. But, we are a people that are to be characterized by **love**. That is our calling. That is the example given to us by Jesus, by the Apostles, by the Holy Spirit.

The Emerging Church is finding it's way into Kings County. It may fade in the coming years, it may gain strength in the coming years. Though the Movement promises a closer, deeper, more 'authentic' relationship with God we have seen that, in fact, it places barriers between God and His people. It places great distance between man and Maker. It tells us that there are things we don't do well enough and that we must garner favor through works and that there is no certainty in what we have learned and that God is unknowable, unapproachable, that He's confusing and that His word cannot be trusted.

If our family or friends or coworkers or fellow students get drawn off by this Movement, our response should be love; compassionate love that draws them back to a healthy, abundant relationship with their Savior.

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
: 1 John 3.18 :

Our outreach to people who are in error, whether they be unbelievers or other Christians, should never be characterized by anger or bullying. Our outreach is about love.

The Emerging Church may make some of us angry. It may intrigue others of us. The truth is that the Emerging Church Movement is, at its core, in opposition to a Biblical relationship with Jesus Christ.

Since we know this we must work hard to help those who are tempted, those who have stumbled and those who are immersed in these teachings.

*That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from which the **whole** body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes **growth** of the body for the edifying of itself in **love**.*

: Ephesians 4.14-16 :