

REMINDER

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Why Hillsong Music is Dangerous For Your Church

by Jeff Maples, Editor, Pulpit & Pen

Houston - we have a problem!

BRIAN Houston, that is.

Arguably one of the most influential figures of today's professing church, Houston, is currently the senior pastor of the worldwide multi-site megachurch known as **Hillsong**. The church, founded by Houston's paedophile father, Frank Houston, dominates the contemporary worship music scene, with their songs being played in churches of every denomination around the entire world.

Popular songs like *Oceans and Forever Reign* with lyrics like "Spirit lead me, where my faith will be made stronger," and "nothing compares to your embrace" fill the IMAG screens of Baptist churches, Methodist churches, Pentecostal churches, Catholic churches - churches of every kind during Sunday morning worship. From raging electric guitars, drums, and professional soloists to small choirs with nothing more than a keyboard and a few singers, the music is emotionally captivating, bringing many to tears and arms lifted high, as they sing out praises to God.

So what's not to like?

First, Hillsong is a cult. Particularly, a cult of personality. In a blog post on Hillsong's website entitled *Five Things That Should Matter to a Worship Leader*, one of Hillsong's foremost worship leaders, Jonathan Douglass writes:

"2. *We are about fulfilling our Senior Pastor's vision (not our own)*

It is so important that as amazing as our creative ideas might be, if they don't ultimately line up with what our Senior Pastor and leaders want, then we happily put them aside. The church doesn't exist to build our worship teams... our worship teams exist to build the Church!!"

Here's the problem. **Biblical** churches **don't** exist to fulfill a leader's "vision," churches exist to glorify God, preach and teach the Scriptures, and make disciples. Since Brian Houston, who is currently under investigation by the Royal Commission for his involvement in covering up his father's crimes against children, is the senior pastor of Hillsong Church, Douglass has made it clear who the Hillsong worship program exists to serve. (Hint: It isn't Jesus.)



Brian Houston

So what exactly is the "vision" of Brian Houston that Hillsong seeks to fulfill? You can read his entire vision statement here. However, to summarize, he "sees" **a large, global church centered around worldly culture and music, with the purpose of influencing the world with his watered down, substanceless version of Christianity - and he claims his "vision" is from God.**

But - the Bible says that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world (see John 18:36).

Clearly Houston has no idea what the purpose and function of the church is. While he twists a passage out of Acts 8 in a sorry attempt to prove the church is made up of wicked people, he then states how he loves the fact that his church is full of broken, unrepentant people.

While it's true that "whosoever will" come to Christ is part of the church, upon conversion, we
(continued inside)

cease to be these things, and our identity is now in Christ. Repentance is a necessary part of salvation, and you are not part of Christ's church if you are not saved. Scripture calls us to be separate from the world.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God: (Romans 12:2).

Yet, Houston's church is not built on repentant believers in Christ with Christ and his Word as the chief cornerstone, it's centered around the "whosoever wills" that submit to his "vision." This is evidenced in the fact that one of his campuses had two unrepentant sodomites, with open plans for a homosexual marriage, as active, participating members of the church. **As a matter of fact, one of them was a choir leader.** Houston's response to this was to "love them," and "assist them on their journey," instead of confronting them about their sin, and calling them to repentance. The Bible calls these people "adulterous" and at enmity with God (James 4:4).

Hillsong Church does not exist to preach the Word of God, and to draw people to Christ, bringing glory to His holy name—it exists to draw people to their music, making them money, and giving them power, and giving glory to their man-centered, man-built pseudo-spiritual empire. Brian Houston clearly preaches a false gospel. Southern Baptist leader, Albert Mohler, stated,

"[Hillsong is] a prosperity movement for the millennials, in which the polyester and middle-class associations of Oral Roberts have given way to ripped jeans and sophisticated rock music... What has made Hillsong distinctive is a minimization of the actual content of the Gospel, and a far more diffuse presentation of spirituality."

Brian's Word of Faith gospel teaches that God wants you to be rich and famous so that you can reach millions of people for Christ. Watch the video below for an excerpt of a sermon he gave teaching this.

Further, it exists to convert existing churches, including biblical churches, into churches that conform to their ideology. Hillsong, while having similarities with charismatic and pentecostal churches, was actually founded on Latter Rain ideology, now known as the New Apostolic Reformation, and uses aggressive and unscrupulous tactics to take over churches.

What happens when Hillsong plants a large church in a new area? Many of the smaller churches die, because -

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:4).

Hillsong, through its attractive music, that has a form of godliness but denies His power (II Tim 3:5), creeps its way into solid churches, deceptively turning people on to their ideology, drawing people to their "vision"—Brian Houston's "vision." A

wide-ranging variety of music, some that may seem very solid theologically **on the surface** (even Satan masquerades as an angel of light, II Cor 11:14), and some that's blatantly shallow and even unbiblical, is the effective method of takeover. **It's deceptive, and it's evil** (Mark 13:22).

The substance and theology of the music is irrelevant to Hillsong. *It's the attractive nature of the music, not the theology, that draws people to it.*

Hillsong's music program funds the entire church **and every time your church sings one of their praises, you are lining Brian Houston's pockets, and carrying out his "vision."**

Listen to the words of the music. When compared to Scripture, it becomes very clear that Jonathan Douglass and Hillsong Church music industry is fully executing its mission to fulfill the senior pastor's "vision" of a worldly, theologically shallow church that's tolerant of sin, and conforms to the lost. The music tends to carry an almost universalist theology, in that in Christ, we're all free, and free to do as we please without fear of God's wrath. But in Christ, we aren't free to continue sinning, we are freed from sin, and practice ongoing repentance. However, the Bible says that God is not in those who love the things of the world.

If the sappy, emotional music were removed, and only the lyrics of the songs you love were spoken, rather than sung, would you get the same warm, fuzzy feeling, the same emotional high? Would you be "moved" all the same? Would you be able to discern the truth from the "almost truth?" Or, is it the **music** that you worship, rather than God, through his eternal Word?

Examine yourself to see that you are truly in the faith (Second Corinthians 13:5). Are you led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14), or are you led by the lusts of the world (First John 2:16)?

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Corinthians 6:17).



**Worshipping
Religious Liberty:
SBC Joins Mosque
Building Effort**

Southern Baptists, through their Ethics And Religious Liberty Commission and their International Mission Board, have joined hands with Muslims and others to help build a mosque.

But they have to. It's inevitable when you hold closely to the tenets of American Christianity.

While Muslims across world want to see the **demise** of America and Israel, the SBC's ERLC and IMB have joined in with the likes of the Center for Islam and Religious Freedom, the Interfaith Coalition on Mosques, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, the Sikh Coalition, and other unlikely

allies to support building a mosque. According to The Becket Fund For Religious Liberty (An organization in which Russell Moore is on the Board of Directors) over 20 “interfaith” groups have united to push forward the agenda of the god of religious liberty in support of the mosque.

The specifics of the case itself are described in the March 10 article in the New York Times, ***Muslims Sue Over Denial To Build A Mosque in New Jersey.*** The New Jersey township of Bernards, a suburb about an hour from Manhattan, has denied an application for a mosque to be built in their town. The two SBC agencies have joined in the legal brief supporting the Muslims because of the religious liberty implications of the case.

For those who merely worship Americanism – with no regard for any God – the notion voiced by an opponent of the New Jersey mosque is likely amenable, stating that Islam and its Shariah law is “one of the greatest threats to American values and liberties.” ***How can a mosque be allowed merely an hour away from where Islamists perpetrated the greatest act of terrorism on American soil?***

However, for one driven by the theology of “American Christianity,” the prevalent flavor of faith within evangelical pews, especially Southern Baptist ones, mosque building becomes, perhaps, a “love your neighbor” issue. When you define your faith by your nation, and that nation inherently defends “freedom,” the American Christian must abide by the demands of tolerance implicit within the framework of the Constitutional Republic. But freedom, unrestrained, leads rapidly to corruption, destruction, and civil anarchy.

Indeed, American Christianity, as exhibited here by two SBC agencies, must worship the idol of religious freedom. Southern Baptists, led by Russell Moore and the ERLC, are increasingly vocal evangelists for this god, and they do it without clear Scriptural compulsion. The compulsion they presume comes from the implied notion that America is particular to God, chosen by God, favored by God. But, again, this notion glaringly lacks Scriptural credence.

It is the necessary worship of the god of religious liberty that compels Moore and the ERLC to be regularly out front chanting the mantra of a god not found in Scripture. From aligning with Muslims in the mosque lawsuit to standing with Catholics over Obamacare abortion mandates, the hypocrisy of failing to stand firm with any and all in the protection and propagation of this fundamental tenet would be tantamount to engaging in harlotry.

The Baptist Press, on May 25, reported on the latest interfaith consortium led by the ERLC. ***All Need Religious Liberty, Baptist, Others Contend*** highlights the latest multi-faith panel assembled by Moore to promote religious liberty in America. Moore is quoted stating that religious liberty ***“is about having the freedom and the opportunity to be genuinely different, to be able to genuinely respect one another and be able to have disagreements with one another, including about the issues that we believe are of ultimate, ultimate significance,”*** while at the

same time saying, ***“These are not matters of coercion, and we do not need a government referee to come and settle those issues.”***

Looked at in light of American Christianity, it seems incumbent that Christians vigorously defend religious liberty. After all, they may shut us down if we don’t. On the other hand, Moore and others look to the government for the very thing they bemoan – interference that demands protection but not authoritarian coercion. But looking to government, rather than God, for protection seems a woefully unfaithful form of obedience, does it not? Is our God not faithful should persecution come our way?

While it is unsurprising that the ERLC would join hands with the world – the agency does that zealously – it does come as a surprise that the SBC’s IMB, under David Platt, would find a motive to add its moniker to the legal battle. Are they hoping that such a stance might be a “scratch my back” example of co-existence that might be reciprocated elsewhere in the world? Do we have some denominational plans for a church plant in Mecca? While that would be tremendous, the fact remains that the Saudis do not entertain the worship of this particular idol.

Herein lies a critical issue when your flavor of faith is first “American” and **then** “Christian.” The Word of God nowhere offers such a contracted definition of faith. While some may claim “Christianity” is the priority – as surely the ERLC and IMB would – it is their behavior that reveals the truth. “American” takes precedence.

Proclaiming “there is no other name under heaven by which men may be saved” seems uncannily hollow when you’ve just joined hands to help build a Christ-denying mosque. Once again, Christianity becomes just another flavor of religion to an onlooking world and our witness as Southern Baptists diluted by our religious liberty defenses.

If your faith isn’t viewed through the lens of God’s sovereignty or His faithfulness and is seen instead through the lens of theologically-aberrant “American Christianity,” it is of little comfort that God is with you always. What seems, rather, substantially more important is that the god of religious liberty is with you always. And that god demands defense for itself at all costs with whoever is willing to battle alongside for it. Indeed, the first commandment is supplanted in “American” Christianity, it seems, by one more akin to “thou shalt have no other gods before me, except the god of religious liberty.”

We have been supremely blessed in America to have been founded on principles drawn from Scripture. But those principles, in themselves, do not make us an intrinsically “Christian” nation. By strict definition, we have never been a “Christian” nation, but rather we have, for a blessedly brief tenure, been a nation of Christians. We once were Christians first, and Americans second. It wasn’t a subtle distinction, but an intentional one. It’s one we seem to have lost since now we worship religious liberty, rather than the God who is with us always ... regardless.

Should Christians stand and fight for religious liberty? Of

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*
Cradle Roll 2: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *Kristi Hooper*
Cradle Roll 2: *Andrea Hooper*
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *Shirley White*
Cradle Roll 2: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of May 29, 2016

Sunday School ----- 17
Sunday Morning Service ----- 21
Sunday Evening Service ----- 18
Wed. Eve., 06/01/16 Service ----- 26

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of May 22, 2016

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 376.00
Missionary Offering, Dr. Waller ----- \$ 10.03
Total Received for Week of 05/29/16: \$ 386.03

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
to operate the church EACH WEEK,
as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

PLUMBING REPAIR FUND -

Amount For Entire Project ----- \$6,606.99
Amount Received So Far ----- \$ 882.00
Total STILL NEEDED to pay off: \$5,724.99

LISTEN TO -



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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



**Please Remember To
Be Faithful to Give!**

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today - OK?* Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
----- Greeter
Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford ----- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

