

Evangelism: Part 2

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- We should be concerned that generic Evangelicalism has drifted towards the celebrity pastor, therapeutic worship songs, and making discipleship optional.



Versus



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- I personally believe Erie is a little bit behind with trends. Therefore, I wouldn't be shocked if we found people joining our church because being Reformed and liturgical is trendy.



Versus



Evangelism: Part 2

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- RPC is the only Evangelical, Presbyterian, and liturgical church in town. That makes us unique.

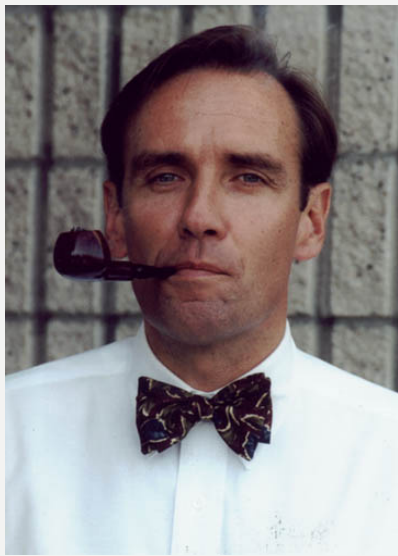


Versus



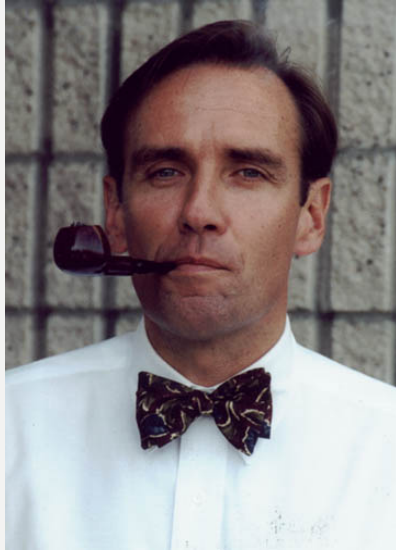
EVANGELICALS (CONTINUED...)

- We should conceive of the broader church community as each having strengths and weaknesses. Baptists (non-denominational) get you saved, **Presbyterians** excel with education and discipleship, Episcopalians/Anglicans start schools, charismatics have a tradition of experiencing God in profound ways.



D. G. Hart

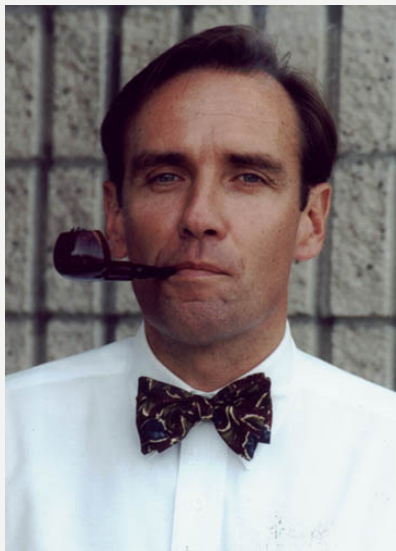
Evangelism: Part 2



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EVANGELICALS *(CONTINUED...)*

- Therefore, it is okay to realize that we might be the stop after somebody gets saved in the Baptist (non-denomination) tradition and starts to get serious about their faith.



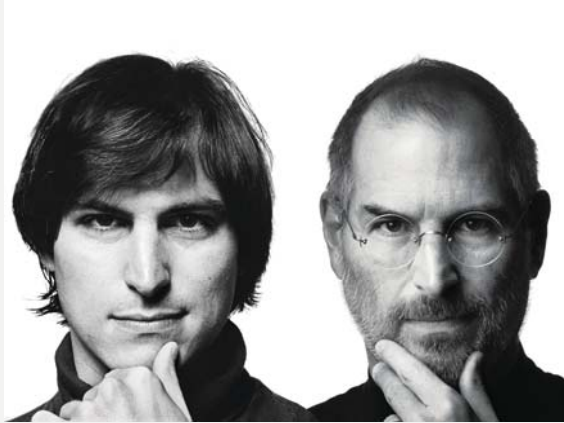
D.G. Hart

EVANGELICALS *(CONTINUED...)*

- We should not be embarrassed if people from other churches in town want to join RPC for our Christian formation programs.

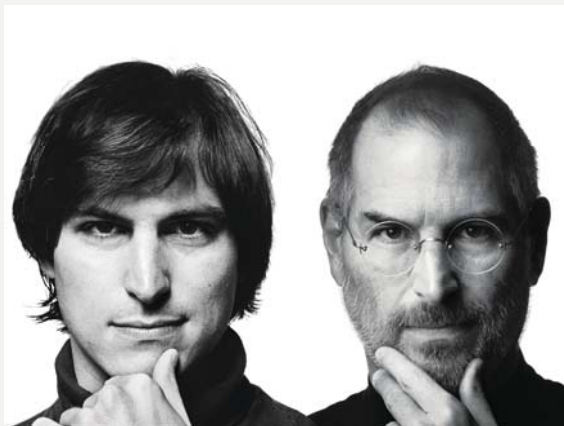
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CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- What if people didn't know what they wanted? This was Steve Jobs' premise when starting Apple.

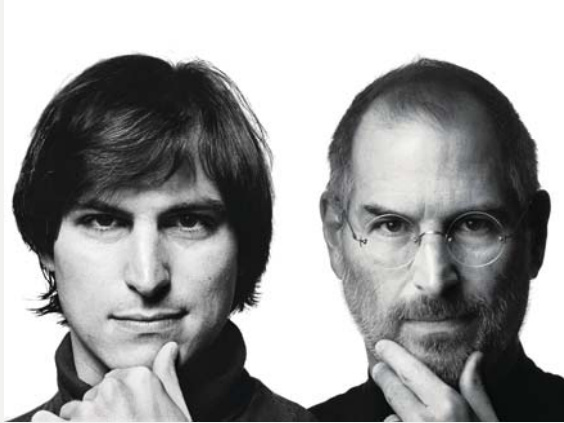
CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- We have what people don't know they need, the gospel.

Evangelism: Part 2

CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- We have what people don't know they need, a pure and simple mode of Christian worship.

WEEK ONE: CONCLUSIONS

- If we do not do a better job at broadly-construed evangelism at RPC, our inaction will threaten the longevity of our church.

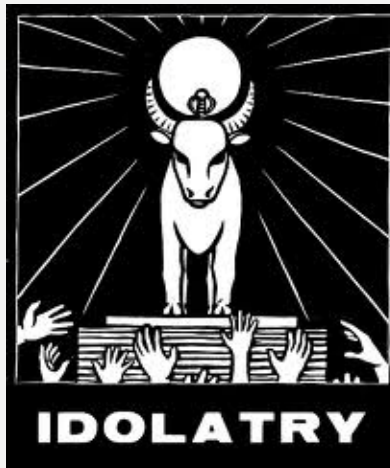


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WEEK ONE: CONCLUSIONS

- This is a command by our Lord.
Evangelism isn't "optional".
- We will double in size if each family gets another family to join RPC.

WEEK TWO: AMERICAS CURRENT RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE



Evangelism: Part 2

PROPHETIC WITNESS



- The church transcends the present order. It has its own gospel, modes of worship, religious symbols, and liturgy.

PROPHETIC WITNESS



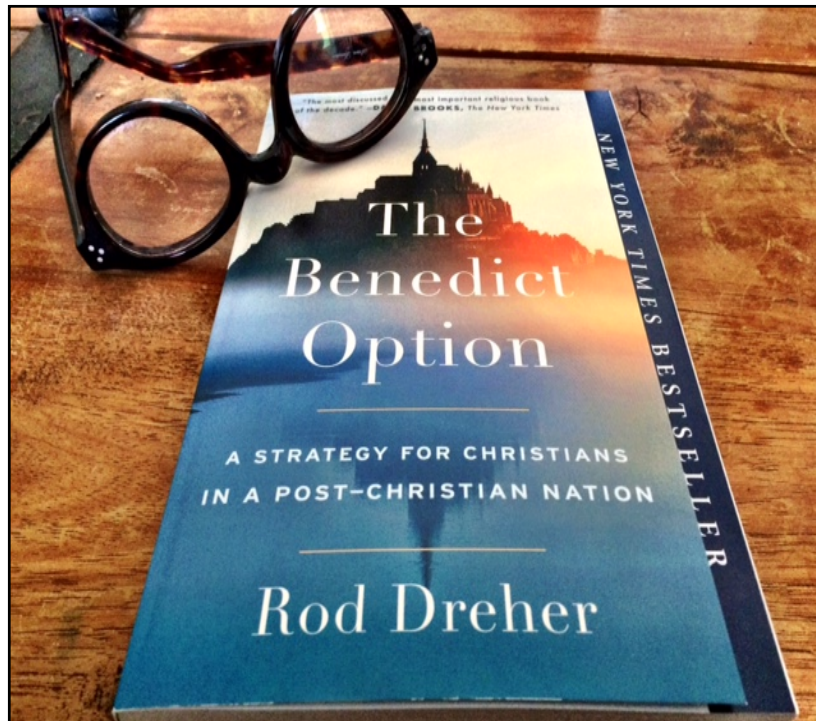
- In order to be a prophetic witness, we need to know what we are up against!

Evangelism: Part 2

PROPHETIC WITNESS



- Christians appeal to “the world to come”. We pray: “come Lord Jesus.”
- We learn to burn away the idolatry in our hearts.



POST-CHRISTIAN NATION

Evangelism: Part 2

IDENTIFYING IDOLATRY

- Identifying idolatry gets to the heart of sin. Not simply saying “God said so,” or appealing to morality.

We Become What We Worship

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF IDOLATRY

G. K. Beale



IDENTIFYING IDOLATRY

- For example: Cohabitation. What is the idol? Self-ism, consumerism (contract-based relationships), and individualism.

We Become What We Worship

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF IDOLATRY

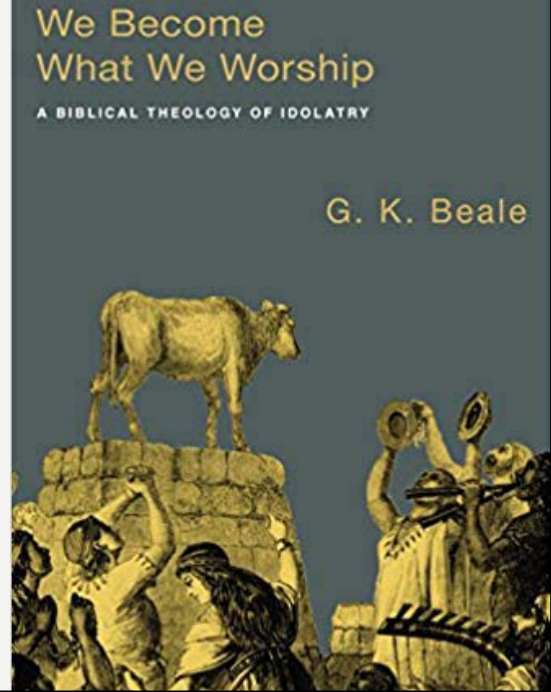
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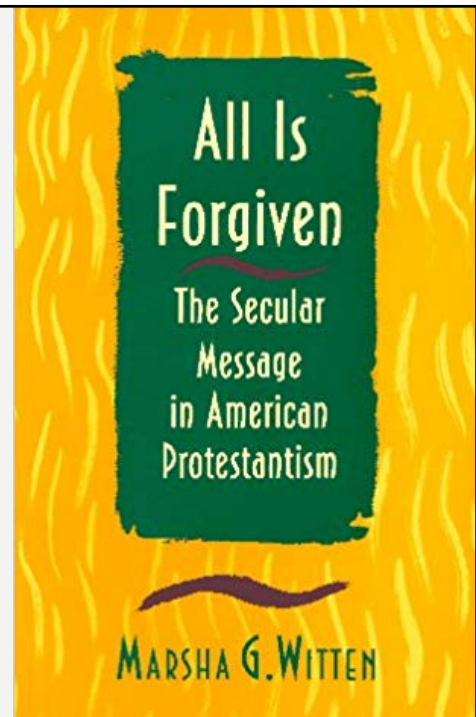
IDENTIFYING IDOLATRY

- Why not cut the whole tree down from the trunk instead of just trimming the branches?



ALL IS FORGIVEN: MARSHA WITTEN

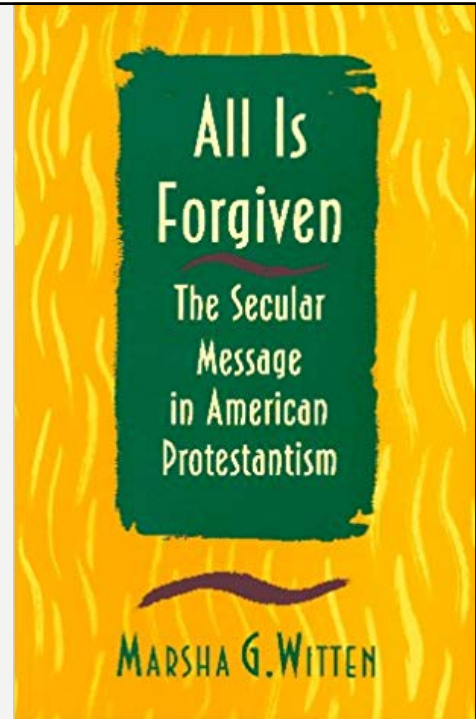
- God as daddy. Not God is God.
- Mitigations of sin. "I just screwed up."
- The transformed self is focus of sermons.



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ALL IS FORGIVEN: MARSHA WITTEN

- She does discourse analysis on fundamentalist and liberal mainliners. The results? Same message about Jesus!
- Youth were catechized with bowling and pizza.



CHURCH IS NO LONGER...

- ...“Respectable.” Mainliners have really struggled with this hard truth.



Evangelism: Part 2

CHURCH IS NO LONGER...

- ...“Relevant.”
Clergy are not as respected as they used to be. They are no longer considered in the same class as doctors and lawyers.



CHURCH IS NO LONGER...

- ...“The moral compass of America.”
People are increasingly looking towards politicians/other means to define truth.





Evangelism: Part 2

CHURCH IS NO LONGER...

- To quote Bob Dylan:
“*The Times They Are A Changing.*”
I would add, fast!

