

# **‘PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY’: Is anything but ‘PROGRESSIVE’.**

Just recently I received an email from a friend who had been distressed by some exchanges he had with a member of the family circle – the exchanges concerned their views on how professing Christians should view the question of things **‘Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender etc.’** My friend would hold to what you might term **Orthodox, Biblical** views on these issues and, as a result, the other family member accused him of being **‘unloving’** and, in addition, another family member who referred to what the Scriptures clearly teach on these matters was then labelled as being a **‘pharisaical witch’**.

The professing Christian family member who was using these ‘descriptive’ terms then informed my friend that she identifies as a **‘Progressive Christian’**. Included in the email sent to me was the link to a short 6+ minute video and to quote his words to me – **‘If you decide to watch it, please watch the whole thing, lest you misunderstand what he is saying’**. This is the link to the video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi9iCW3TdzE>

The reason I highlighted **‘unloving’** in red in my opening paragraph was to highlight an important point brought out in the short video, namely, that misguidedly **‘Progressive Christians’** view themselves as much more **‘loving’** than **‘Orthodox Biblical Christians’**.

The next point of research for me on this subject was to visit a **‘Progressive Christianity’** web site to uncover what they officially believe and that information can be found on this link –

<https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/>

As you will see they have **8 points** listed for this purpose in their own words – **‘By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who ...’**

I now plan to include here those **8 points** (Those quoted are from a version produced by a ‘United Church of The Valley’ in California and they include some slight variations and additions – they are located on <https://ucvchurch.org/the-8-points-of-progressive-christianity/>) and I respond to them by comments shown **in red**.

**Point 1: (We) Believe that following the path of the teacher Jesus can lead to healing and wholeness, a mystical connection to “God,” as well as an awareness and experience of not only the Sacred, but the Oneness and Unity of all life;**

This statement has much more in common with Hinduism and Eastern Mysticism than with Biblical Christianity. In the glossary of Ray Yungen's book 'A Time of Departing' he defines PANTHEISM (Cecil – a central Hindu tenet) as follows – 'God is all things. The universe and all life are CONNECTED (Cecil – emphasis mine) in a sum. This sum is the total reality of God. Thus, man, animals, plants, and all physical matter are seen as equal. The assumption – all is one, therefore all is deity'. Their use of the phrase 'the teacher Jesus' also reflects a worrying trend within professing Christendom as you can read in the article on this link

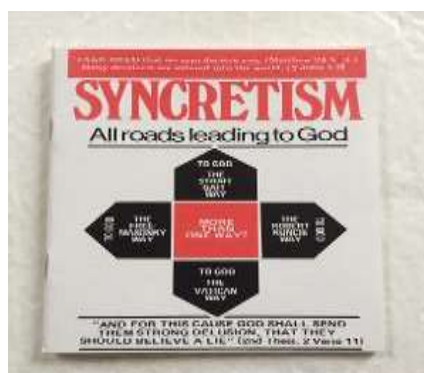
<https://christiantoday.com/article/nearly.a.third.of.evangelicals.think.jesus.was.only.a.great.teacher/135457.htm>

As you will see in this article, NOWHERE in the '8 points' is the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ referred to or affirmed. So, the 'Jesus' of 'Progressive Christianity' is a "false Christ" such as the Lord Himself gave advance notice of (Matthew 24:24-25).

**Point 2:** (We) Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience "God," the Sacredness, Oneness and Unity of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom, including Earth, in our spiritual journey;

Whether 'Progressive Christians' care to admit it or not this statement has elements of both 'Mysticism' and 'Syncretism'. In his book 'The Mystical Maze' Pat Means wrote this on page 86 'But in our generation, Satan has very cleverly reversed his entire strategy. His attacks are no longer focussed on the truthfulness of Christ's claims, but on their uniqueness. Satan is using eastern mysticism today to exert a great levelling influence on Jesus' role and identity'. This is clearly seen in the words 'the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience "God,".

Their claim that 'Jesus provide(s) but one of many ways to experience "God," and that 'that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom, including Earth, in our spiritual journey;' shows their openness to SYNCRETISM. So, what is 'Syncretism'? In his 'Dictionary of Theological terms', the late Dr Alan Cairns wrote this – 'From the Greek verb *sunkretizein* "to combine"; the movement to unite, not merely the churches of Christendom, but all these with all other religions; the movement for a one-world religion'. SYNCRETISM was actually the title of the very first small booklet I ever had published as you can see –



The text of that booklet, SYNCRETISM, is included in my article located on

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2016/February/Pope-Francis-Syncretism.pdf>

In short, Point 2 is an outright denial of the Lord's own words in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me".

One 'way, one 'truth' and one source of spiritual 'life' – the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

**Point 3:** (We) Seek and create community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:

Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,  
Believers and agnostics,  
Those of all races, cultures, and nationalities  
Those of all sexual orientations and all gender identities,  
Those of all classes and abilities,  
Those historically marginalized,  
All creatures and plant life;

When God looks at this world, he sees only 2 'communities' – the first 'community' is made up of His true church, the 'ekklesia', the 'called-out ones', those who have been "born again" of His Spirit, those who are "saved" by 'grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone' (Ephesians 2:8).

The second community consists of all other human beings, those who are still "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) and upon whom His wrath still rests (John 3:36).

God instructs His people, His Church, not to enter into any form of alliance with "unbelievers" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14-16) and commands them to "come out from among them and be ye separate" and if they do that He says "I will receive you" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:17).

Only the members of God's community, His true Church are counted as "righteous" in His sight (Romans 3:21-22; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:8-9; Isaiah 61:10).

All others, including some of the designations mentioned such as 'skeptics', 'agnostics' and questionable 'sexual orientations' and 'gender identities' which God in His Word clearly views as sinful are not "righteous" in His sight but are viewed by Him as "unrighteous" and His Word clearly states "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God?" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9).

**Point 4: (We) Know that the way we behave towards one another and Earth is the fullest expression of what we believe, therefore we vow to walk as Jesus might have walked in this world with radical compassion, inclusion, and bravery to confront and positively change the injustices we experience as well as those we see others experiencing;**

There is an element of 'general truth' in this statement but God's Word is more 'specific' concerning His true church as we read in 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not grievous"; John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another".

True loving behaviour must be rooted in love for Christ and will manifest itself in obedience to God's commandments as we read in John 14:15 where Christ says "If ye love me keep my commandments".

That being the case, our behaviour towards unbelievers must always be willing, in love, to alert them to and to confront them with aspects of their life-styles that God clearly identifies as sin – this of course is something that 'Progressive Christians' would not accept as right behaviour when we revisit **Point 3** that details their 'all-inclusive' community.

Is it unloving for Christians to challenge people with God's truth on these matters? – not according to His Word – "henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Cecil – this certainly applies to so-called 'Progressive Christianity') **But, speaking the truth in love"** (Ephesians 4:14-15)?

As Christians, we are being genuinely loving friends in our behaviour to those we challenge, rather like Paul when he challenged the false beliefs of those swayed into error and false beliefs by the Judaisers and he wrote to them **"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth"?** (Galatians 4:16.) The only belief that counts in the sight of God and has eternal blessings is summed up in firstly John 3:36 **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son"** (Cecil - such as a number of those identified by the 'Progressive' community in point 3) **shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"** and then secondly in Acts 16:31 **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"**.

**Point 5: (We) Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning with an open mind and open heart, than in absolutes or dogma**

The search for 'understanding' is totally fulfilled in two ABSOLUTE TRUTHS. The first is The Incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said concerning Himself "I am the way, THE TRUTH and the life" (John 14:6). The second is again found in what Christ said in John 17:17 to His heavenly Father "Thy word is TRUTH".

God has not left us in the dark in the search for 'understanding' – we read in Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path". Psalm 19:7 is even more explicit "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple".

Unsaved people such as those evidently found within 'Progressive Christianity', appear to believe that ABSOLUTE TRUTHS are to be rejected in favour perhaps of a consensus between divine revelation mixed with human wisdom. Such likely unsaved 'Progressives' evidence what Paul wrote in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man (Cecil – an unsaved person) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned".

In the previous chapter Paul also wrote these relevant inspired words "For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to them that perish; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the UNDERSTANDING of the prudent" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:18-19). The closing phrase "the understanding of the prudent" has also been reliably translated as 'the cleverness of the clever' and even described as 'tricky scheming'.

Embedded in God's TRUTH is "sound doctrine" and we are clearly seeing in 'Progressive Christianity' a fulfilment of what Paul wrote in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3-4 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine (Cecil – i.e., biblical ABSOLUTE TRUTH) but, after their own LUSTS, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the TRUTH and shall be turned unto fables". Speaking of the Greek word *Muthos*, translated as 'fable', Vines Dictionary says that 'it is to be contrasted with *aletheia* "TRUTH".

'Progressive Christians' elevate 'questioning' divinely-revealed TRUTH over 'accepting' divinely-revealed TRUTH. The Lord Jesus squashes that notion in these words "Verily, verily (Cecil – double emphasis) I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). That is an ABSOLUTE TRUTH to securely build one's eternity upon.

**Point 6: (We) Work toward peace and justice among all people and all life on Earth;**

This sounds very like the popular social, political 'gospel' to be found in various forms around the world. A helpful summary of this 'gospel' is to be found on – <https://www.gotquestions.org/social-gospel.html> I particularly noted these words 'Those who adhered to a social gospel sought to apply Christian ethics to social problems such as poverty, slums, poor nutrition and education, alcoholism, crime, and war. These things were emphasized while the doctrines of sin, salvation, heaven and hell, and the future kingdom of God were downplayed.'

I also think these words are very relevant 'Jesus never issued any call for political change, not even by peaceful means. He did not come to earth to be a political or social reformer. The gospel Jesus preached did not have to do with social reform or social justice or political change. Rather than attempt to change governments and institutions, which are made up of people, Jesus came to change people's hearts and point them to God's kingdom. He preached the saving power of the gospel and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.'

The over-arching mission of the true church is encapsulated in these words of the Lord Jesus – "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The Apostle Paul echoed that truth when he wrote "woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:16) and earlier in that letter he reminded the Christians in Corinth "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:2).

**Point 7: (We) Protect and restore the integrity of our Earth and all of Creation;**

This sounds very much like a re-run of 'Emergent Church' teachings advocated by the likes of the heretical Brian McLaren. Some years ago, a 'Green bible' was published and one of those who contributed an essay in it was Mr McLaren. A helpful article on this is once more found on the 'Got Questions' web site and on this link - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Green-Bible.html> Although I was absolutely no fan of Eugene Peterson and his personal paraphrase of the bible called 'The Message' I think he summed up very astutely the 'short-comings' of the 'Green Bible' in these words from that article -

"The Green Bible sets out an urgent agenda for the Christian community." It seems clear that the main goal and purpose is to promote the "green" agenda and implies that God in His Word confirms this as a primary theme. However, the "urgent agenda" for the Christian community is not the reclamation of the earth, but the reclamation of souls destined for an eternity in hell. Anything that distracts Christians from this most basic reason for our existence is antithetical to God's plan for His people. Interestingly, the *Green Bible* does not seem to be prominently used as a tool by those who support today's "green" movement, no doubt because there are too many other truths in God's Word that contradict the basic philosophies of the "green" agenda. The *Green Bible* in reality is a perfect example of what the Apostle Paul speaks about in Romans: "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen" (Romans 1:25).

One final point to note – in Point 7 they refer to ‘our Earth’ – I have news for them, the earth is not ‘ours’ as we learn from Psalm 24:1 **“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein”**. A very basic but **ABSOLUTE TRUTH**.

**Point 8:** (We) Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love on this journey toward a personally authentic and meaningful faith.

‘authentic and meaningful faith’ **is not something we ‘journey toward’ – rather it is God’s gracious** (Cecil – unmerited and unearned) **gift to those whom in mercy He saves** “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that NOT of yourselves, it is THE GIFT of God, NOT of works lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Believers must always be “Looking unto Jesus, the author (Vines – ‘Cause’) and finisher (Vines – ‘Perfecter’) **of our faith”**. From the moment they are truly “born again” believers possess ‘a personally authentic and meaningful faith’ and FROM that should spring “good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10B) because “we are HIS workmanship created in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:10A). The path of a true believer is not a journey into the unknown, it is a “walk” with a loving Saviour to a settled destination **“For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens ... Therefore, we are ALWAYS confident, knowing that, whilst we are home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: For we walk by FAITH, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”** (2nd Corinthians 5:1 & 6-8).

I hope you will see that each of these 8 points have a common theme – each represent a direct challenge to or contradiction of the TRUTH of God’s Word. The warning penned under divine inspiration by the Apostle Paul to the believers in Colossae has application to **‘Progressive Christianity’** – namely – **“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”** (Colossians 2:8)

Pastor John MacArthur’s comments on this verse in his Study Bible reinforce its application where **‘Progressive Christianity’** is concerned – he wrote – **‘False teachers who are successful in getting people to believe lies, rob them of truth, salvation and blessing. “Philosophy” (literally ‘love of wisdom’) appears only here in the New Testament. The word referred to more than merely academic discipline, but described any theory about God, the world, or the meaning of life ... Paul however equates the false teachers’ philosophy with ‘empty’ or worthless ‘deception’ (“vain deceit”). Far from being advanced (Cecil – ‘Progressive’) profound knowledge, the false teachers’ beliefs were simplistic and immature like all the rest of the speculations, ideologies, philosophies and psychologies the fallen satanic and human system invents’**.

One of the driving forces behind ‘**Progressive Christianity**’ was an **Episcopal Bishop** called **John Shelby Spong**. You can glean information about him on this link

<https://progressivechristianity.org/bishop-spong-newsletter/>

The article on the following link is a good lead-in to understanding just how unbiblical this man is and the other articles referred to ‘flesh-out’ his gross heresies –

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/735-john-shelby-spong-anglican-nightmare>

In this article you will read this concerning **Mr. Spong** – ‘Spong is saturated with Darwinism.’ **Answers in Genesis** picked up on this in their short article on –

<https://answersingenesis.org/theistic-evolution/spong-is-wrong/>

Just as an aside, the **Episcopal Church** that **Mr. Spong** is a Bishop of is the same ‘church’ that **Bishop Michael Curry** is connected to – remember him? – he was the ‘charismatic’ preacher at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meaghan Markle back in May 2018. Clearly, he is ‘tarred’ with some of the same ‘**Progressive**’ (Cecil – bible challenging and contradicting views) “**philosophy and vain deceit**” as **Mr. Spong** – see

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/a-trial-that-should-shame-all-anglicans/134377.htm>

Another ‘driving force’, although he may not have realized at the time what his views would lead to in this day and age, was yet another **Episcopal Bishop**, this time in Scotland, called **Richard Holloway**. Helpful information on him can be found on these links –

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Holloway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Holloway)

This excerpt is enlightening

‘He was Bishop of Edinburgh from 1986 and was elected Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1992. He resigned from these positions in 2000 and is now regarded as one of the most outspoken and controversial figures in the church, having taken an agnostic worldview and commenting widely on issues concerning religious belief in the modern world. His own theological position has become increasingly radical and he has described himself as an “after-religionist”, with strong faith in humanity’.

The article on this link by a ‘supporter’ of **Mr. Holloway** gives additional information

<https://johnian.wordpress.com/2012/02/21/believing-bishops/>



An interesting excerpt from it reads

‘A favourite writer of mine is that turbulent priest **Richard Holloway**, ‘controversial’ former Bishop of Edinburgh, so I am glad to see that he has published his autobiography, recently sympathetically reviewed by Andrew Motion. I look forward to reading it ... I remember reading a passage in a book by **John Shelby Spong**, another firebrand in the episcopal church, in which he described the incredulity and hostility with which parishioners greeted his attempts to explain the origins of the Nativity story ... **Richard Holloway** has moved away from the church but he has also thereby liberated himself to think the unthinkable, propose the unimaginable ... I look forward to reading his book’

Finally, the article on this link, which was centered on problems linked to ‘**Operation Mobilisation**’ having distributed pro-Roman Catholic booklets supportive of Mel Gibson’s movie, ‘**The Passion**’ has a relevant portion on page 3 –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2019/February/operation-mobilisation-purge-mv-doulos-of-passion-books-promoting-roman-catholicism.pdf>

‘Other ‘Christian’ authors listed in the STL catalogue include the late ‘Cardinal’ Basil Hume, the late ‘Mother’ Teresa, USA ‘convert’ to Roman Catholicism Scott Hahn, the heretic Benny Hinn, **Richard Holloway** who according to The Guardian [G2 supplement of 18 August 1999 published during his tenure as Scottish Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh] reportedly ‘**didn’t have any hang-ups about young people experimenting with casual sex or soft drugs**’, stated in relation to the Bible that ‘**obviously it is not meant to be taken literally**’ and gave his view on Jesus as follows – ‘**He was a sacred person. He had an encounter with the transcendent meaning we call God...My own preaching of the resurrection is evolving. I preach it as symbol, not necessarily as a brute physical fact. I’m agnostic on that**’

Whilst the **Episcopal Church** might in some ways equate to ‘**WUHAN**’ as regards the location-source of the ‘**pandemic**’ of ‘**Progressive Christianity**’, in many ways, to use an expression that has come into vogue in the past year, these individuals loom large if we use ‘**track and trace**’ to identify influential individuals involved in the emergence of this co-called ‘**Progressive Christianity**’.

However, that ‘spiritual virus’ has not confined itself to affecting just the **Episcopal Church**, as can be seen by going to this link on the web site of the **Progressive Christianity Network** in the United Kingdom – it has ‘invaded’ many denominations -

<https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/locations/churches>

There you can see mention of **Unitarian, Quaker, Church of Scotland, United Reformed, Baptist, Methodist, Metropolitan Community Church** (openly LGBT) and **Anglican** ‘churches.’

On their web site they also have a 'blog' page which gives assorted authors an opportunity to express their views – you'll never guess who is quoted – **JOE BIDEN** – what a BIG surprise!!

<https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/blog/post/the-greatest-commandment-has-guided-my-politics-by-joe-biden-the-christian-post>

Listen to this extract –

**'My Catholic faith drilled into me a core truth – that every person on earth is equal in rights and dignity, because we are all beloved children of God. We are all created "imago Dei" – beautifully, uniquely, in the image of God, with inherent worth. It is the same creed that is at the core of our American experiment and written into our founding documents – that we are all created equal and endowed by our creator with inalienable rights.'**

However, for **Joe Biden**, being 'equal in rights and dignity' and 'endowed by our creator with inalienable rights' does not extend to the unborn. This quote, attributed to **Pastor Mike Riccardi of Grace Community Church** 'nails it' -

**"A person who believes anyone has a 'right to choose' to tear a baby apart limb from limb, or to burn a baby to death with a chemical solution, is a barbarian, and doesn't belong in polite company, let alone political office."**

In contrast, another blog-contributor came as no surprise at all – **GILES FRASER** –

[https://unherd.com/2021/03/when-conversion-is-abusive/?tl\\_inbound=1&tl\\_groups\[0\]=18743&tl\\_period\\_type=3&mc\\_cid=0228aa8537&mc\\_eid=fa4457c82e](https://unherd.com/2021/03/when-conversion-is-abusive/?tl_inbound=1&tl_groups[0]=18743&tl_period_type=3&mc_cid=0228aa8537&mc_eid=fa4457c82e)

If you're not familiar with **Giles Fraser** then let me direct you to my article on –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2009/July/enemies-of-the-cross-of-christ.pdf>

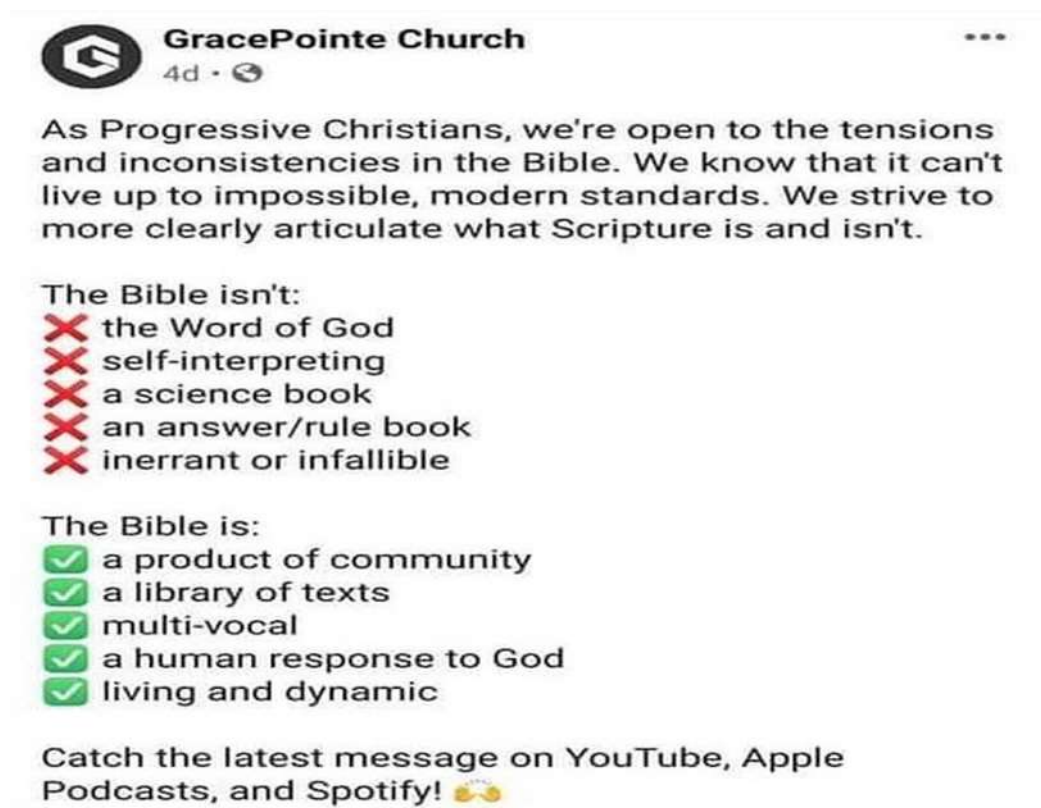
and what you read there under the heading '**Giles Fraser**' from page 12 to the top of page 17 will demonstrate why he is a 'perfect fit' for so-called **Progressive Christianity**.

Moving on from individuals let me now illustrate how so-called **Progressive Christianity** 'plays out' in a number of 'churches.' One in America and one here locally in Northern Ireland.

My introduction to the American '**Progressive Christian**' 'church' happened on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when a Facebook friend posted the following –

This is the same bunch of wicked folks that march in the Pride parades each year and tell sodomites that it's ok to stay gay. They blocked me on their church page because I was preaching the gospel to them. Anybody to them that hates sin are haters. They told me that's not the kind of God they serve. I agreed with them. My reply was, no you serve the god of your own imaginations and wicked desires. Boom! I was blocked. They are a wicked bunch. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." II Corinthians 11:13-15 NKJV

That comment was then followed by this image



I then did a search for the web site of this 'GracePointe Church' and located it on –

<https://www.gracepointe.net/about-us>

On that page we learn the following –

### OUR BELIEFS

At our core, GracePointe holds to these principles with open hands and humility:

1. God is a mystery to be explored, **not a doctrine to be espoused.**
2. Life is a gift to be enjoyed.
3. Love is a responsibility to be shared.
4. **The Good News is that you are inherently united with God.**

## OUR VALUES

5. As a community, GracePointe places an emphasis on these values that define our culture and the way go about our lives, both individually and collectively.

### 6. COURAGE

7. We stand for what we believe.

### 8. CURIOSITY

9. We keep asking questions.

### 10. GRATITUDE

11. We don't take what we have for granted.

### 12. HONESTY

13. We believe in and express our authentic selves.

### 14. HUMILITY

15. We hold gracious space for differences.

### 16. LOVE

17. **We see the Divine in one another.**

I have highlighted **in red** several of the very obvious unbiblical compromises and errors but in the light of my analysis earlier of the **8 points of Progressive Christianity** I'm sure you will hopefully also recognise the double-speak compromises and contradictions contained in other parts of what they have posted on their web site.

The following is also posted on their web site page –

## PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

**The GracePointe community is leading the theological development and practice of progressive Christianity.** This is at the core of what makes us distinct, and is far from a simple label change for a modern repackaging of traditional beliefs. **Although Progressive Christianity defies specific doctrines,** here is a helpful explanation from [ProgressiveChristianity.org](http://ProgressiveChristianity.org). **By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who:**

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life.
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey.
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, believers and agnostics, women and men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, those of all classes and abilities.
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people.
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth.
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.

On the web page giving details on ‘**The Team**’ at the church – located on

<https://www.gracepointe.net/our-team>

we learn the following about one of ‘**The Team**’ –

**NATHANIAL GREEN  
COMMUNICATIONS & OPERATIONS SPECIALIST**

A degree-required internship brought Nathaniel (he/him) to **GracePointe** in the summer of 2018 where he served in a role on the Creative Arts Team. That September, prior to the community’s move to a new location, Nathaniel joined the team as the Communications & Operations Specialist. The following year, he joined the staff of **Q Christian Fellowship** full time as their Communications Manager. **Nathaniel lives in Nashville with his husband Elliot** and dogs Oliver and Winston.

Details of **Nathaniel’s** role with **Q Christian Fellowship** can be seen on

<https://www.qchristian.org/team>

Then on this page –

<https://www.qchristian.org/about>

we read

**Q Christian Fellowship** is cultivating radical belonging for LGBTQ+ Christians and allies.

and when I initially did a google search for **Q Christian Fellowship** I noted this summary –

The **Q Christian Fellowship** is an **ecumenical Christian ministry** focused on **servicing lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, queer, and straight ally Christians**. It was founded in 2001 as the **Gay Christian Network** by Justin Lee and is currently administered from Denver, Colorado. – **Wikipedia**

Moving on then from this ‘**GracePointe Church**’ located in Nashville, TN I want to look at a local ‘church’ based here in Northern Ireland.

It is known as **Harbour Faith Community** and is located in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. This is the web site address

<https://harbourfaith.com/>

Proudly on their Homepage they declare –

The home of **Progressive Christianity** in Carrickfergus

The minister of **Harbour Faith Community**, **Steve Ames**, was widely reported in the Belfast Telegraph of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 as being totally in favour of so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’ being conducted with all ‘the trappings’ of religion and, according to the article, ‘**In an open letter to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and other government agencies, Mr Ames said, while he would be delighted to perform same-sex marriages in a religious context, he cannot do so until the conclusion of the upcoming consultation.**’. You can read that article on this link –

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-pastor-demands-right-for-same-sex-couples-to-hold-religious-weddings-38880122.html>

As regards any rules they have for engaging in **Communion**, it is certainly an **unbiblical** ‘**Open Table**’ as we can read on this link –

<https://harbourfaith.com/#/communal/>

The words ‘**Through this single sacramental act we leave behind the individualised identities that culture so readily fashions for us**’ are somewhat disingenuous for on this page –

<https://harbourfaith.com/lgbt>

Harbour Faith Community state – ‘*We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.*’ That’s not ‘culture fashioning individualised identities’ but rather Harbour Faith Community doing it. Their declaration also flies totally in the face of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10 **“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”**.

It also ignores the clear warning given in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:28-29 **“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat that bread and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation (judgment) to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body”**. In his commentary on these verses Geoffrey B Wilson writes – ‘Paul says, “Let a man examine himself”. This means he must not come to this table in a spirit that is unworthy of it ... Such self-examination is necessary because the man who fails to discern the sacred character of this meal, so far from furthering his salvation actually eats and drinks to his own condemnation’.

Commenting on the previous **verse 27** which reads **“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”** John MacArthur in his Study Bible writes ‘To come to the Lord’s Table clinging to one’s sin does not only dishonour the ceremony, but it also dishonours His body and blood, treating lightly the gracious sacrifice of Christ for us. It is **necessary** to set all sin before the Lord (**v 28**) then partake, so as not to **mock** the sacrifice for sin, by holding on to it’.

A further article in the Belfast Telegraph on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 once more charted the ‘Progression’ of **Steve Ames** in this whole area of so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’ as you can read on this link –

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-irelands-first-religious-same-sex-wedding-taking-place-today-39853875.html>

In the article we read ‘**Northern Ireland's first ever religious same-sex marriage will take place in Co Antrim today, following legislation introduced in July ... Pastor Steve Ames from Harbour Faith Community will be officiating today's first same-sex religious ceremony ...** "Not a lot of people realise that there are a number of ministers and faith communities who do support the rights of LGBT folk to marry," he explained ... **"Our own scriptures tell us that, 'Anyone who loves has been born of God and knows God'"**, 1 John 4:7.’

It seems to me that in quoting **1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7 Mr Ames** believes that he has played a biblical **‘trump card’** to silence any who would dare to object to a ‘loving’ so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’.

Commenting on this verse and **verse 8** in his Study Bible, **John MacArthur** writes ‘**Those who are born again receive God’s nature** (cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:4). **Since God’s nature exhibits love as a chief characteristic** (Cecil – ‘chief’ but not ‘supreme’) (see also verse 8), God’s children will also reflect that love. **Someone may profess to be a Christian** but only those who display **love like their heavenly Father** actually possess His divine nature and are truly born again’.

So, does **‘divine love’** manifest itself in so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’? There are many scriptures that make clear what God thinks of perverse sexual-union between those of the same sex – I could refer to a number but in **Romans 1:26-28** we read **“For this cause** (Cecil – dishonouring the God of creation) **God gave them up unto vile affections** (Vines – ‘passions of dishonour’): **for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And, even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient** (Vines – ‘befitting’)”.

Those who indulge in such sexual activity, **God gives them up, God gives them over** – God basically hands them over to the desires emanating from their own “**reprobate mind**” – a depraved, useless worthless mind as far as God is concerned – basically they are, as an expression goes, ‘**beyond the pale**’ (To be ‘**beyond the pale**’ is to be unacceptable; outside agreed standards of decency – see <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/beyond-the-pale.html>)

So, going back to my question – does ‘**divine love**’ manifest itself in so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’? as **Mr Ames** clearly thinks it does, the testimony of Scripture is totally opposed to his opinion and he would do well to ponder this truth from the ‘**great love chapter**’ – **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13** where we read concerning “**love**” in **verse 6** that it “**Rejoiceth NOT in iniquity**”. According to **Vines**, this use of “**iniquity**” literally means ‘**unrighteousness**’ so God clearly does not look upon so-called ‘**Same-Sex-Marriage**’ with a divine smile of approval for we read in **Habakkuk 1:13** concerning God “**Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil and canst not look on iniquity**”.

Earlier I agreed that **God’s ‘love’** was a ‘**chief characteristic**’ but not His ‘**supreme characteristic**’. God’s greatest and supreme characteristic/attribute is **HOLINESS** (Isaiah 6:3) and not ‘love’. Indeed, His love in Christ (Romans 5:8) cannot be rightly understood until a person understands the **perfection of His holiness** and **our complete unrighteousness** as Paul wrote in Romans 3:10.

The ‘**Progressive Christianity**’ of both ‘**GracePointe Church**’ and **Harbour Faith Community** proclaims a **false God** and a **false Christ** and extends a **false assurance** of salvation to those who believe in their message. In reality, there is nothing ‘**Progressive**’ about their views, they are in effect ‘**Regressive**’ – **regressing** all the way back to the **Garden of Eden** and once more parroting Satan by saying “**Yea, hath God said**”? (Genesis 3:1)

By way of conclusion here are a few links that make for interesting reading on this topic of ‘**Progressive Christianity**’. The first relates to supposed ‘Christian’ reaction to the death in 2020 of an American Supreme Court Judge, **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** – clearly no friend of the Lord Jesus Christ or The Bible but that didn’t stop some ‘Christians’ posting tributes to her – note in particular the one by **Jim Wallis** of **Sojourners**.

[https://disrn.com/opinion/opinion-progressive-christians-canonization-of-rbg?fbclid=IwAR36asoEBnQJRgZt-FWeMQtLw6DU-ZdLHVknoEInMDK8XqWHcXzEhYy\\_SA0](https://disrn.com/opinion/opinion-progressive-christians-canonization-of-rbg?fbclid=IwAR36asoEBnQJRgZt-FWeMQtLw6DU-ZdLHVknoEInMDK8XqWHcXzEhYy_SA0)

Earlier in this article (top of page 10) I drew attention to the surprising inclusion of an article by **Joe Biden** on the **Progressive Christianity Network** web site. Well, these links will show clear thinking and connections between **Jim Wallis** and **Joe Biden** –

<https://pulpitandpen.org/2018/04/06/jim-wallis-leading-way-evangelicals/>

[https://www.mobilize.us/joebiden/event/328689/?fbclid=IwAR1Z4sLVZYS T98ICJt\\_sKWWm8aMZSBogo5imi9W6XrhMYuJdqA2znRxdqS8](https://www.mobilize.us/joebiden/event/328689/?fbclid=IwAR1Z4sLVZYS T98ICJt_sKWWm8aMZSBogo5imi9W6XrhMYuJdqA2znRxdqS8)



Further helpful information about **Jim Wallis** can be found on

<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=4545>

Then, on the following link, there is a short blog drawing attention to what sounds like a helpful book analysing this whole subject of **'Progressive Christianity'**. I have to confess that I am only now getting round to ordering a copy of the book in question **'Another Gospel'** by **Alisa Childers** so obviously at this stage I can't give it carte-blanche approval but if it turns out to be problematical, I shall update this article accordingly. (See **UPDATE** included in **MAJOR CAVEAT** on page 18)

[https://breakpoint.org/why-progressive-christianity-is-another-gospel/?fbclid=IwAR316WvvFVz\\_GZGZrLeIS5tcV5sLw3pr2sX59NEbeKa4wQmlj9lw0PiCq0U](https://breakpoint.org/why-progressive-christianity-is-another-gospel/?fbclid=IwAR316WvvFVz_GZGZrLeIS5tcV5sLw3pr2sX59NEbeKa4wQmlj9lw0PiCq0U)

Incidentally, I did not order the book through the blog as it would have involved giving a donation to the **'Colson Centre'** (named after Charles Colson, the arch ecumenist) so instead I ordered my copy via this link –

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Another-Gospel-Christian-Progressive-Christianity/dp/1496441737/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?adgrpid=112184058144&dchild=1&qclid=Cj0KCQjw9YWDBhDyARIsADt6sGbPdiyekExRJmNbDK1z4gb0GUeF9gdyrxYk9VnOZgKKcEMW-atoyg8aAqmUEALw\\_wcB&hvadid=452266834799&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=1007274&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=13728419319627395505&hvtargid=kwd-898707777803&hydadcr=24436\\_1816130&keywords=another+gospel+alisa+childers&qid=1617031886&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Another-Gospel-Christian-Progressive-Christianity/dp/1496441737/ref=sr_1_1?adgrpid=112184058144&dchild=1&qclid=Cj0KCQjw9YWDBhDyARIsADt6sGbPdiyekExRJmNbDK1z4gb0GUeF9gdyrxYk9VnOZgKKcEMW-atoyg8aAqmUEALw_wcB&hvadid=452266834799&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=1007274&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=13728419319627395505&hvtargid=kwd-898707777803&hydadcr=24436_1816130&keywords=another+gospel+alisa+childers&qid=1617031886&sr=8-1)

For readers living in North America, it can be purchased via this link

[https://www.amazon.com/Another-Gospel-Christian-Progressive-Christianity/dp/1496441737/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=39D9PL4X5O22J&dchild=1&keywords=another+gospel+alisa+childers&qid=1617032353&s=books&srefix=another+gospel+alisa+childers%2Caps%2C240&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Another-Gospel-Christian-Progressive-Christianity/dp/1496441737/ref=sr_1_1?crid=39D9PL4X5O22J&dchild=1&keywords=another+gospel+alisa+childers&qid=1617032353&s=books&srefix=another+gospel+alisa+childers%2Caps%2C240&sr=1-1)

Having just mentioned **Alisa Childers**, this short 14-minute video where she interacts with a **Mike Winger** on a **'tenet'** of **'Progressive Christianity'** is helpful and informative. As I said, I am not overly familiar with the views of **Alisa Childers**, or for that matter, **Mike Winger**, but what they shared on this video sounded helpful –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zMPOUFxvPc>

**MAJOR CAVEAT** (Updated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

On this link

<https://www.alisachilders.com/books.html>

**Alisa Childers** details various books that she feels might be helpful to people to increase their understanding of Christianity – sadly, for me, there would be a number of serious **red flags** such as – ‘**Mere Christianity**’ by **C S Lewis**; **Several books involving Norman Geisler**; ‘**The Reason for God**’ by **Tim Keller**; ‘**The Resurrection of the Son of God**’ by **N T Wright**; ‘**Why does God care who I sleep with?**’ by **Sam Allberry**; ‘**Orthodoxy**’ by **G K Chesterton**

The upshot of this **MAJOR CAVEAT** is that I think **Alisa Childers** would benefit from seriously researching critiques of the ‘**red flag**’ names I have mentioned – she does appear to have a ‘teachable spirit’ and a good grasp of biblical issues where strands of ‘apologetics’ are concerned but I think that interaction with perhaps the likes of **John MacArthur** and **Phil Johnson** of **Grace Community Church** would help her greatly to sift-out some **literary chaff** from amongst what she thinks are **literary wheat**.

I went to the contact page of her ‘blog’ located on <https://www.alisachilders.com/contact-me.html> and I sent the following message on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 -

Dear Alisa, for 30+ years I have served the Lord with an apologetics ministry based in Northern Ireland called 'Take Heed' Ministries. In the course of researching and writing an article on so-called 'Progressive Christianity' I have included near the end a section that mentions your book 'Another Gospel' (which I have just ordered) and gives a link to a short video you did with Mike Winger. I have explained that you are 'new' to me and with further research I have included in my article a MAJOR CAVEAT relating to some book resources you have mentioned. I would like to ask you to look over what I have written (it's short) and let me have your feedback. If you are willing, probably the easiest way to send what I have written would be by email so for that I would need your email. Sent to you in the love of Christ and His truth, Cecil Andrews

This was the automated response I received –

Thank you for writing. Due to the high volume of messages received, I apologize that I'm not able to respond to each inquiry personally. Please see my resource page for specific theological or apologetics questions, and feel free to join the conversation on Twitter (@alisachilders), and Facebook (@alisachildersblog).

**UPDATE – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Two days ago, I finished reading Alisa's book 'ANOTHER GOSPEL' – it is excellent and will be a valuable resource in combatting the serious challenge posed to genuine Christian belief and practice by so-called **Progressive Christianity**. Yes, some folks that I do have reservations about are quoted favourably, but those do not detract from the excellent rebuttal made by Alisa.

By way of final conclusion, at the bottom of page 9 I listed various church denomination's that had some affiliation with the **Progressive Christianity Network** in the United Kingdom and one such grouping mentioned was **Unitarian**. Here in Northern Ireland, we have a denomination called the **Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church** and many of their congregations are in fact **Unitarian**.

Just recently I wrote an article prompted by a Radio Broadcast service that featured one of their congregations. This is the link to that article and I think you will see that they sit comfortably with what is now known as **Progressive Christianity** –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2021/March/simon-henning-and-richard-yarr.pdf>

I personally think that this so-called '**Progressive Christianity**' poses one of the greatest threats to **Biblical Christianity** that has ever emerged during my lifetime – for this reason – it appeals to the liberal, counter-authoritarian (particularly correctly understood biblical authority) culture that pervades much of society today. As ever, the warning concerning so-called '**Progressive Christianity**' is “**take heed that no man deceive you**” (**Matthew 24:4**)

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

