

# SPURGEON'S COLLEGE: The 'DOWNGRADE' continues.

In my June 2001 'News From The Front' ministry newsletter which can be accessed on <https://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-2001/> I included an item headed – 'DOMINUS IESUS' and 'SPURGEON'S COLLEGE' – this is what I wrote –

In 'The Record' [Issue 119: April 2001], which is the magazine issued by 'Spurgeon's College' there is a response to the Vatican document ['Dominus Iesus'] of last September. It is written by 'Canon' Tom Smail...a regular lecturer and preacher at Spurgeon's College'. He states early on 'Now that things have settled down a little it might be good to think more calmly about some of the issues it ['Dominus Iesus'] raises'.

In a clearly stated desire 'to be positive' Mr Smail writes 'In our pluralistic world **Dominus Iesus reasserts** on the one hand the uniqueness and on the other hand **the universal validity of what he [Jesus] has done for us**. It displays a clarity and lack of ambiguity that cannot but win the consent of all who remain faithful to the creedal orthodoxy which expresses **and protects the heart of the biblical gospel**. The more evangelical we count ourselves **the more clearly we shall see that on this make-or-break issue we may be in closer unity with the Pope than we are with people within our own denominations** by whom that claim is modified or denied'.

Can I remind Mr Smail that this Pope, with whom he claims 'we may be in closer unity' because this document approved by him supposedly would find favour with those who 'remain faithful to the creedal orthodoxy which expresses and protects the heart of the biblical gospel' is the same Pope that declared the 1994 Catholic Catechism to be a 'sure norm for teaching the faith' and in that 'sure norm' we are told in paragraph 1129 'The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation'. **IS THE POPE HERE 'PROTECTING THE HEART OF THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL'?**

On 6th December last year the Pope issued a further statement prompted [many observers believe] by criticism of Dominus Iesus in which he stated 'Those who have chosen the way of the Gospel Beatitudes...will enter the kingdom of God...Those who lovingly bear the sufferings of life will enter the kingdom...All the just of the earth, including those who do not know Christ and His Church, who under the influence of grace, seek God with a sincere heart, are thus called to build the kingdom of God by working with the Lord' [even though they don't know Him!] Again I ask Mr Smail – **IS THE POPE HERE 'PROTECTING THE HEART OF THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL' particularly in the light of verses like John 14:6; Acts 4:12 and Psalm 115:1-8?**

Mr Smail states later in his article 'We are saved by Christ himself and the faith [fiducia – trust] that relates us to him. Not by correct beliefs about him or by belonging to the ecclesiastical set up that he is perceived to have instituted'. According to this line of thinking the 'Christ' of the Judaisers who only needed a little bit of religious ritual ['circumcision'] and a few other Mosaic observances to be added to His atoning work at Calvary to ensure a person's salvation was in fact the same 'Christ' that Paul had faith in alone for salvation. **WHAT NONSENSE!** Mr Smail needs to consider again the words of Jesus Christ Himself in Matthew 7: 13-23 and Matthew 24:23-24.

In the final paragraph Mr Smail writes 'To me one of the greatest gifts of the charismatic renewal was to get to the point where I was able to sit down with Roman Catholic leaders. To talk about their contentious Marian doctrines in a relationship that gave us the freedom to enquire, to learn and to disagree. Within the safety of the shared experience of the Spirit of Christ we were enabled to regard one another as no doubt deficient but also accepted believers in the Lord'. What was the over-riding unifying aspect when Mr Smail met with these Roman Catholics? It was 'the shared experience of the Spirit of Christ'. What Mr Smail fails to recognise is that the Roman Catholic 'Christ' is one of the "false Christs" the Lord forewarned of in Matthew 24:24 and it is precisely because he is a "false Christ" that 'contentious Marian doctrines' [and many other contentious doctrines such as purgatory and indulgences] have been formulated by Rome to 'bolster up' the insufficient saving work of their 'Christ'.

This magazine was sent to me by a former student of 'Spurgeon's College' who wrote to me 'One can scarcely imagine what **Spurgeon** would have said if he had known...the college he founded would be giving a cautious endorsement to such a document'. **I think he would have repeated forcibly what he said in January 1873** [from the back cover of the book, 'Geese in their Hoods']

**'The sooner we let Archbishops and Cardinals know that we are aware of their designs, and will in nothing co-operate with them the better for us and our country. Of course we shall be howled at as bigots, but we can afford to smile at that cry, when it comes from the church which invented the Inquisition. "No peace with Rome" is the motto of reason as well as of religion'.**

As for Mr Smail, well I think this is one 'canon' that should be 'fired'!

That response to '**Dominus Iesus**' by Mr Smail of/for '**Spurgeon's College**' was an absolute insult to the memory and legacy of **C H Spurgeon** - he would have been appalled.

That was 2001 – fast-forward now to Mid-May 2023 and by way of introduction please watch this short 7-minute video highlighting **Rick Warren's** ecumenical track-record – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXTcGww5a8>

This follow-on video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDCXIVxcizk> addresses mid-way the '**DOWNGRADE**' that Spurgeon in his day confronted head-on and the point to note is that Spurgeon would NEVER compromise on what he viewed to be '**matters of primary doctrinal importance.**' **Rick Warren** is the very epitome of someone who does compromise on '**matters of primary doctrinal importance**' particularly because of his ecumenical 'love-in' with Roman Catholicism. Again, what an insult to the memory and legacy of **C H Spurgeon**.

The following link will take you to the video put out by '**Spurgeon's College**' of the ceremony in which **Rick Warren** is inducted as chancellor. On a personal note I was saddened to see who the current Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the college is, **Philip McCormack**, someone who pastored a church very close to where I used to live and with whom I then had some friendly interaction. Anyhow, this is the link to the video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFt0Kg4cvVs> It is worth looking at some of the comments posted in relation to this 'back-slapping'/'dog-like-nodding' charade involving amongst others a female 'Rev.' I suggest you have a sick-bag handy.

My friend, **Justin Peters** made these astute comments in a Facebook post



**Justin Peters** ✓  
@JustinPetersMin



Don't be swayed by Warren's voice quivering with emotion as he takes this oath as Honorary Chancellor of Spurgeon College. Spurgeon would be rolling over in his proverbial grave. Rick Warren represents the antithesis of Spurgeon's theology and practice.

Having Warren in this position would be akin to me being asked by the Kenneth Hagin founded Word-Faith Rhema Bible College to serve in the same capacity. This is a sad day for Spurgeon College and telling as to where that institution is.



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Downgrade! Purpose-Driven Pastor Rick Warren Becomes First 'Honorary Chancellor' of Spurgeon's College. [protestia.com/2023/05/16/ric...](https://protestia.com/2023/05/16/ric...)



The WEF will be pleased that a number of their Davos-attending puppets like Hillary Clinton (Chancellor of Queens University Belfast)

[https://clintonwhitehouse4.archives.gov/WH/EOP/First\\_Lady/html/generalspeeches/1998/19980202.html](https://clintonwhitehouse4.archives.gov/WH/EOP/First_Lady/html/generalspeeches/1998/19980202.html)

and now Rick Warren (Chancellor of 'Spurgeon's College')

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/2216849728>

are being installed into positions of academic/social/and in Warren's case, supposedly spiritual influence.

Back in March 2010 I was asked by a church on the Isle of Man to come over and speak about concerns I had with **Rick Warren** and his **Purpose Driven** ideology.

A recording of that talk can be accessed on this link

<http://www.gbc-peel.org.uk/index.php/audio-recordings/message/the-purpose-driven-error>

Then when **Pastor Gary Gilley** was my guest here for meetings some years ago, amongst those he spoke about in the topic I had assigned to him was **Rick Warren** and the 2-part video of his talk can be accessed on these links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqjZgQL3JQQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-nHNtcs0pY>

In the light of what both **Gary Gilley** and myself had to say I think that unitedly we would view this appointment of **Rick Warren** by ‘**Spurgeon’s College**’ as nothing less than a tragedy, for that is exactly what it truly is.

**Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**