

SAT7 – spiritually not in evangelical ‘orbit’

Recently I received an inquiry from a Facebook friend which read – ‘**what do you know about Sat7? Anything? They Were at our church**’ Well, in truth, I had never heard of **SAT7** so I had to start ‘digging’. This was my eventual reply to my Facebook friend –

Hi xxxxx, SAT7 was new to me so I had a look at their web site and was a bit worried when I saw their connections with the likes of 'Orthodox', 'Armenian' 'Coptic' churches that I don't really see as being in the mainstream evangelical fold. I then came across this article which sort of confirms the concerns that I was feeling - hope it may be of help, C. This is the link –

<https://www.billionbibles.com/sat7.html?fbclid=IwAR13ckGFIDwGWiPQDLVm78GNoOYOzxSHnvpWO2OYsmHEoHz-Sd8kkg14was>

The opening line of the article reads – ‘**SAT-7 is a network of Middle Eastern satellite television stations founded in 1995**’ so that I hope explains the **spiritually not in evangelical ‘orbit’** portion in the title of this article.

The following link gives details of the make-up of the **SAT7 ‘International Council’**

https://sat7.org/organisation-structure/the-international-council/?fbclid=IwAR357u6fmLXXtpW_Rshk7QIYJ3cxrrukMuWcThEiBLM08k2kHbD6MnZHVyI

and there you will see amongst the names listed a number associated with the various ‘denominations’ I mentioned in my reply. Two have connections with ‘**Coptic Orthodox**’ and believe it or not there is a very helpful article compiled by the BBC on the ‘**Coptic Orthodox Church**’ – this is the link to that article –

https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml

It is a comprehensive article but here are a few of the pertinent structural and theological observations –

‘The Coptic Church is led by His Holiness Tawadros II (1952 -), who was consecrated the 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark in November 2012. The Pope is based in Cairo. The Coptic Pope is not regarded as infallible or supreme ... In 451 the Church split from other Christian churches in a major schism at the Council of Chalcedon over the nature of Christ ... the Bible isn't the only source of faith for Copts ... Copts don't believe that God actually wrote the Bible, but that God and the Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote down the words. ...

Holy Tradition then is the part of our Holy Coptic Orthodox Church and Her teachings which are not found in written form in the Holy Bible but which are genuine and have equal authority and truth ... The Church teaches that baptism is essential for salvation ... Confirmation/Chrismation - This sacrament takes place immediately after Baptism. The person is anointed with oil of Myron with 36 signs of the cross on their joints and sense organs. An appropriate prayer is used for each place of anointing ... Confession/Repentance - Regular confession is necessary if a person wishes to take communion ... Eucharist - This is the most important sacrament; The Church accepts the doctrine of transubstantiation.'

Whilst the '**Coptic Orthodox Church**' does not reflect every serious error to be found in **Roman Catholicism** I do believe it adheres to enough error to debar it from being viewed as a faithful Christian church.

Another 'denomination' with 2 representatives on the **SAT7 'International Council'** is the '**Maronite Church**'. The following article shows that they are virtual Roman Catholics in all but name –

<https://classroom.synonym.com/catholic-beliefs-of-the-maronites-12087447.html>

Again here are a few relevant quotations from the article –

'Maronites are full, recognized members of the Catholic Church. They stand in union with the pope and are recognized by the Vatican. They celebrate the same sacraments and profess the same apostolic faith as all Roman Catholics across the world ... Maronite monks and nuns may serve in universities, churches and other ministries in both the Maronite Church and the Roman Catholic Church ... The Eucharist in the Maronite tradition differs from the Western church ... The bishop, priest or deacon dips the Eucharistic bread into the wine and then places it directly on the communicant's tongue.'

In conclusion I would agree with this assessment found in the article I gave details of in my response to my Facebook friend –

'SAT-7 is at best a Roman Catholic and Orthodox-dominated ecumenical group that thus far has succeeded in taking money from Protestants to fund its Roman Catholic and Orthodox programs'

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 22nd January 2024