

*Lifeboats and Maps for the*  
**TITANIC FAITH**  
*in the Western Church*

Section One –

**THE PROBLEM**

“A Perfect Storm is Brewing for Believers”

*“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man...*

*Therefore **God gave them over in the sinful desires** of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

*They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.*

*Because of this, **God gave them over to shameful lusts...***

*Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God **he gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do what ought not to be done...”*

– Paul (Romans 2:21-28), 57 AD

It appears a perfect storm of social chaos and spiritual conflict is moving through the United States. It is likely the church senses a change in the cultural atmosphere and the local climate, but it is even more likely that the arrogant church interprets this change as “progress” or merely dismisses it as something they will deal with as the need arises. The ignorance of the church prevents it from effectively evaluating these social “weather patterns”. In this state of self-delusion the local church does not realize that the storm that is rising will claim the soul of their modern Church while it forces individual believers to either abandon the faith completely or seek true transformation of their own soul. The Western Church is not prepared for the storm that is rising.

Perceiving itself to be the unsinkable “light of the world”, the compromised church set itself to sail through the abyss of failing social standards. The church sailed out on a social mission to bring light and truth to their community. Having left behind the traditional navigation instruments the church began to depend on their self-directed compass of emotions and the inner-voice of mysticism to guide them deeper into the darkness of culture. Unknowingly, or at least, without admitting it, the church began to search for direction and meaning for itself in this vast emptiness. Having lost the traditional message, the church had no voice, no promise of hope to share, and no answer to give those who had followed this titanic church into the

blackness of the night, that is, until the church saw the Northern Light of Western Culture – materialism. The esteem of possessions, the security of wealth, the hope of the good life, the infallible medicines and the inventions of science helped the Western Church regain its bearings. Soon the church found “the way”. The church again began to cry out a message of hope and a promise of deliverance from despair. The church had found a God of love. And, a God of love had given the church a message of love. And, in this culture of materialism love was security, love was wealth, love was possessions and the good life. If Jesus was the rock then the church would preach a message of security.

The Western Church finds itself comfortable in a successful, materialistic culture while seekers from this pagan culture find themselves comfortable in these Titanic churches. “Christ-seekers” can easily commit to a local church that is more than pleased to encourage these seekers to stay and continue their Titanic journey through the church’s unchallenging spiritual atmosphere.

This mutual admiration between pagan seekers and the Titanic church grows into gatherings of people who meet weekly for emotional, self-help seminars. Yet, the very same culture that sends these seekers to board the Titanic church is the same pagan culture that aggressively confronts traditional Christian values. Even the Titanic churches themselves are willing to abandon the validity of biblical teaching for the sake of preserving unity with this confrontational pagan culture. In order to finish their building programs and christen their community centers the Titanic church strains itself to remain culturally relevant even including the buzz word “tolerance” to the growing list of sanctified synonyms for the “love” of God.

While Christianity and biblical revelation are challenged, marginalized and legally discriminated in Western democratic culture, the religion of Islam becomes more and more accepted. Islam waggles its way towards the center of the public arena and the court of law in the Western world whose mantra of “tolerance, tolerance” grows louder and louder. Yet, Christianity is ridiculed as offensive which places even more peer pressure on the adolescent Titanic church to separate itself from Truth and embrace the cool, contemporary, relevant culture clique.

Do understand the repercussions of this segment of the Titanic church’s voyage! If the Western church continues to focus on becoming more accommodating to the pagan culture in order to attract and keep the pagan seekers, while this culture’s center becomes more and more influenced by Islam, then the church is going need to choose to sail around this iceberg either on the right side or the left side. But, either side, both emerge with the predictable fate of any ship entitled Titanic.

On the left side of the iceberg: The Titanic church will need to accommodate the new cultural views to remain relevant. The Titanic church will need to embrace Islam as an equal and viable religious option. (Ironically, the misinformed, historically irrelevant Titanic church may pursue this route around the left side of the iceberg, but the Islamic religion is most likely NOT going to bring the same enlightened insight to the negotiation table. Islam will not offer to recognize the church as “an equal and viable religious option.” To do so would undermine 1,300 years of Islamic practice and theology. But, if it makes you sleep better at night you can pretend the last 1,300 years doesn’t have anything to do with your current, relevant, brave new world. Just pretend you never read this.)

Avoiding the iceberg on the right side: The Titanic church will need to make a stand. It is never necessary for the church make a stand AGAINST Islam, but the biblical church will need to make a stand FOR Jesus Christ. This means the Titanic church will somehow have to commit to the biblical revelation of Jesus and communicate this insight to their tolerant-frenzied Western Culture. Jesus, the man, is the Christ, the Son of God, the Creator of the Universe, the Second member of the Trinity, the crucified and resurrected Savior of the World and the King of the Kingdom of God. In this scenario, if it comes up during the discussion, the Titanic church will have to make some kind of statement that indicates Muhammad did not agree with any of these insights. In fact, if a person were to take such a “stand FOR Jesus Christ” such a person would be classified as an infidel by Muhammad. (Research Islam’s treatment and conversion of infidels for further insight.)

So, the culturally relevant Titanic church is destined for temporal disaster either way. The fate of the Titanic church is set. They will be overthrown if they swerve to the left in peace. And, they will be overthrown if they swerve to the right in conviction. The Titanic church will lose. The only question is will they lose their soul to destruction or to transformation. Jesus referred to both scenarios. First, to the one who tried to compromise Jesus said:

*“Whoever wants to save his life will lose it...  
What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul.”*  
– Jesus (Matthew 16:25-26), 30 AD

Second, to the one who took a stand Jesus said:

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and  
take up his cross and follow me. . .Whoever loses his life for me will find it”*  
– Jesus (Matthew 16:24-25), 30 AD

I predict the Titanic church will be pragmatic enough to anticipate their fate if they were to swerve to the left or to the right of Islam. As a natural reflexive response developed through years of repetitious rehearsal of social reaction the Titanic church will by default hold their straight and steady course guided by the North Star of cultural relevance and materialism. Keeping their navigation instruments set on the North Star the Titanic church will hit the iceberg of Islam head on and be absorbed. The Titanic Churches’ Community Centers will become Islamic Centers, their pulpits will be filled with Islamic activists and through the continuation of emotionalism and the practice of mysticism the Titanic worshippers will adapt to prayer rugs. The voyage of the Titanic church will be complete. Their captains will be commended for their skillful use of navigational instruments that averted a Titanic-like disaster. The leadership teams will be praised for having demonstrated the courage to act on their insight that safely led their communities into a new age of religious unity, peace and love.