EXAGGERATIONS AND THE TROUBLES THEY CAUSE

Paul Arveson
July 20, 2013

Raphael
“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” Luke 12:1
Mathias Grünewald, Kunstmuseum, Basel
In 1184, the Roman Catholic Synod of Verona legislated that burning was to be the official punishment for heresy, as Church policy was against the spilling of blood.

Civil authorities burned persons judged to be heretics under the medieval Inquisition. Burning at the stake was also used by Protestants during the witch-hunts of Europe. In Massachusetts, they were hanged, but not even in death were the accused witches granted peace or respect. As convicted heretics, they had been excommunicated from their churches; none were given proper burial. Their bodies were thrown into a ditch.
ON PUNISHING HERETICS

• "Whoever shall maintain that wrong is done to heretics and blasphemers in punishing them makes himself an accomplice in their crime and guilty as they are. There is no question here of man's authority; it is God who speaks, and clear it is what law he will have kept in the church, even to the end of the world. Wherefore does he demand of us a so extreme severity, if not to show us that due honor is not paid him, so long as we set not his service above every human consideration, so that we spare not kin, nor blood of any, and forget all humanity when the matter is to combat for His glory."
http://books.google.com/books?id= iwOAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
“OBSESSION WITH PERFECTION”
STEP 1.
STEP 2.
STEP 3.
“GOD’S WORD IS TRUE”

Rep. Paul Broun of Georgia, House Science, Space and Technology Committee

Play video
DAYTIME OR NIGHTTIME?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daytime and Nighttime</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A:</strong> Form: Usage of the terms 'daytime' and 'nighttime' is valid even though they cannot be precisely defined. People generally understand what these terms mean.</td>
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<td><strong>B:</strong> Freedom: Strictly speaking, it is not possible to precisely define daytime and nighttime; there is a period of twilight that makes any such distinction somewhat arbitrary.</td>
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<td><strong>-B:</strong> Exaggeration of form: We must define terms precisely; there must be an absolute distinction between daytime and nighttime.</td>
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<td><strong>-A:</strong> Exaggeration of freedom: There are only shades of twilight; there is no such thing as 'daytime' or 'nighttime.'</td>
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# Christian Life in the World

## In But not Of

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<th>A: Live IN the world. Most Christians are not called to escape from the real world but to live in it and engage it, just as Jesus lived among the &quot;publicans and sinners&quot;.</th>
<th>B: Do not be OF the world. &quot;Worldliness&quot; refers to the lusts and evil systems in the fallen world. We are to avoid and oppose these. God calls us to an abundant life beyond what this world offers.</th>
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<td>-B: Worldly: We may be easily distracted by the cares and riches and pleasures of this world.</td>
<td>-A: Escape: In order to resist the world's temptations we must come out of the world and be separate.</td>
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“Forms of Intellectual and Ethical Development in the College Years: A Scheme”, William G. Perry Jr.
SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN DILOGIC FORM

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<th>3. COMMITMENT: Acceptance of self’s experience and choices.</th>
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<td>4. PLURALISM: Orientation and implications of commitment within a world of diverse others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. BASIC DUALITY: Absolutes = Authority; we are right and they are wrong.</td>
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<td>2. RELATIVISM: No absolutes; no authority; no personal commitments.</td>
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THEOLOGY HAS 2 OR 3 DIMENSIONS

- Doctrines are balanced by other doctrines
- Exaggeration of one doctrine negates another
- Therefore pairs of doctrines must be held in tension
- This tension is not irrational or illogical
- The 2 dimensions cannot be “flattened” to one
- Jesus warned us all to beware of hypocrisy
- *Don’t exaggerate!*
MORE EXAMPLES ON THE WEB

• [www.hypertheology.org](http://www.hypertheology.org)
  • Physics: Form & Matter, Being & Becoming, Quantum Interpretation
  • Epistemology: Objective & Subjective, Two Revelations, Faith & Reason
  • Ethics: Holiness & Love, Justice & Mercy
  • Practical Life: Optimism & Pessimism, Precious & Temporal
  • Theology: Trinity, Christology, Church, Marriage, Nature, Human Nature, Theodicy