
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Do television evangelists represent true Christianity?***

Let me begin reading a news article which appeared on the WSB Radio website on the date of January 16, 2008. (This is an Associated Press article.)

Court officials say the 80-year-old leader of a suburban Atlanta megachurch pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge he lied under oath.

Cobb County Magistrate Frank Cox said Archbishop Earl Paulk of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at Chapel Hill Harvester Church was sentenced to ten years probation and a \$1,000 fine for the felony charge.

Paulk turned himself in to authorities last night after a warrant was issued for his arrest the previous day. The charges stem from a deposition Paulk gave as part of a civil lawsuit by a former church employee who says she was coerced into an affair with Paulk.

This man who calls himself "*Archbishop Earl Paulk*" is not representative of true Christianity for at least 4 reasons.

1) He wears a religious title of "*archbishop*."

If you do a search for that word, you will not even find the word in the entire Bible. There is a reason for this. Archbishops are not from a divine source. If archbishops came from God, they would be mentioned in the Bible. Since they are not mentioned in the Bible, where do you think they came from?

Jesus said this:

Matthew 23:6-10

⁶ They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' ⁸ But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

Here Jesus strictly forbade the wearing of religious titles which would exalt one member above another.

Television evangelists, like Earl Paulk, do not represent true Christianity because:

2) They use their position to commit acts of evil.

The scripture says:

1 John 2:3-4

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Again, the apostle Peter writes about false teachers and describes them this way:

2 Peter 2:14-19

¹⁴ having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. ¹⁵ They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, ... ¹⁸ ... they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹ ... they themselves are slaves of corruption; ...

This describes television evangelists like Jimmy Swaggart, Earl Paulk and others. Men who claim to be teachers of the Bible, who use their position to entice women to commit adultery with them are not true Christians; they are not representative of true Christianity.

Television evangelists, like Earl Paulk, do not represent true Christianity because:

3) They use their position to enrich themselves.

The apostle Paul wrote this:

1 Thessalonians 2:5

⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor **a cloak for covetousness** — God is witness.

Covetousness means greed. The apostles did not use their position to enrich themselves. Again:

1 Timothy 6:5

⁵ ... [some are] men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, **who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.** From such withdraw yourself.

This passage is saying some men see preaching as a way of enriching themselves. This is wrong.

Neither the prophets, nor the Lord Jesus, nor the apostles used their positions as religious leaders to enrich themselves. Jesus was so poor He had not even a place to lay His own head down at night (Mt 8:20). The apostles were all poor men (2 Cor 6:10).

The singer, Ray Stevens, wrote a song a few years ago entitled, *"Would Jesus Wear A Rolex On His Television Show?"* Mr. Stevens saw the hypocrisy of television evangelists who claimed to be preaching for Jesus, but living nothing like Jesus.

When you see a preacher like Creflo Dollar, Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, Earl Paulk and others:

- Driving luxury cars,
- Living in luxury houses,
- Wearing expensive jewelry – you can rest assured they are not representative of true Christianity.

Television evangelists, like Earl Paulk do not represent true Christianity because:

4) They do not preach the truth of the gospel.

Listen to the message of men like Earl Paulk and you will never hear them tell people what the apostles told people.

Acts 2:37-38

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

You will never hear most television evangelists tell sinners to "*repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.*" Billy Graham never taught anyone this. Oral Roberts never taught anyone this. Neither did Earl Paulk.

True gospel preachers preach exactly what the apostles taught.

Acts 2:42

⁴² And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

There are probably other reasons that could be given as to why many television evangelists do not represent true Christianity, but this is enough. If only one reason was given, that would be enough to prove you should stay away from these shysters. Don't send them your money. Don't support their churches or their broadcasts. Jesus said it like this:

Matthew 15:14

¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Mr. Earl Paulk's church is called The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Mr. Paulk is said to be the founder of this church, according to the news story. There are two things to notice before we close:

- Mr. Paulk is indeed the founder of this church – for the Lord did not found it, nor is the Lord behind it.
- Mr. Paulk's church may be a cathedral of a spirit, but it is not the Holy Spirit – for the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with the sinful practices Mr. Paulk has been participating in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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