



Unmasking The Emerging Church 2

Presented by Eric Douma



Where We Are Going

- We will look at the “engine” that drives emergent theology.
- We will look at unbiblical mystical practices emergents use.
- We will contrast emergent divination with the means of grace God has given us.



Understanding The Emergent “Engine”

Epistemology → *starter* “No one can know truth”

Emergence Theory

Eschatology → *engine* “Everything is improving”

Philosophy
Ken Wilber

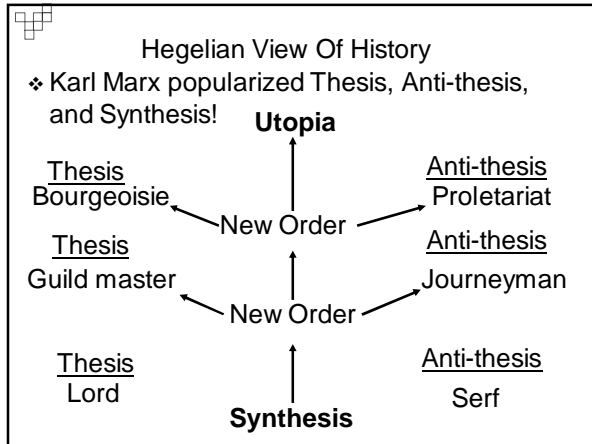
Theology
Jurgen Moltmann

G.W.F. Hegel

Thesis

Synthesis

Anti-thesis



Goal Of Marxism

1) complete equality of all citizens, 2) abolition of private ownership of the means of production (factories, mines, railways, etc.), 3) the replacement of a market economy with one in which everyone got whatever they needed in return for such labor as they were able to give. In addition, Marx envisions the abolition of all states and governments, and as a consequence, an end to war. (Washington State University <http://www.wsu.edu>)

Perfection Comes When Jesus Comes

Isaiah 2:4 And He shall judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.



Marxism Seeks Christianity's Destruction

Karl Marx "Undoubtedly," it will be said, "religion, moral, philosophical and juridical ideas have been modified in the course of historical development...But communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience." (Communist Manifesto)

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The Human Desire For Autonomy

Psalm 2:1-3 Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!"


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
Jurgen Moltmann "Christianizes" Marxism

"...theology will have to take the hardened antitheses and make them fluid once more, to mediate in the contradiction between them and reconcile them. That, however, is only possible when the category of history, which drops out in this dualism, is rediscovered in such a way that it does not deny the antithesis in question, but spans it and understands it as an element in an advancing process" (Moltmann, Theology of Hope, pg 50).


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 **Emergent's Marxist Agenda**


"More and more Christian leaders are beginning to realize that for the millions of young adults who have recently dropped out of church, Christianity is a failed religion. Why? Because it has specialized in dealing with 'spiritual needs' to the exclusion of physical and social needs. It has focused on 'me' and 'my eternal destiny,' but it has failed to address the dominant societal and global realities of their lifetime: systemic injustice, poverty, and dysfunction" (Brian McLaren, *Everything Must Change*).

 **Scot Mcknight**

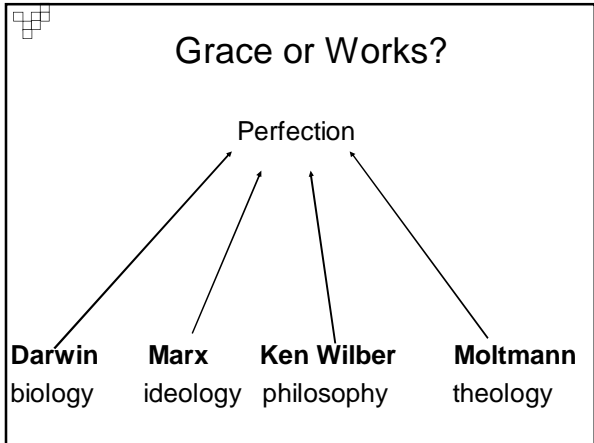
I have publicly aligned myself with the emerging movement. What attracts me is its soft postmodernism (or critical realism) and its praxis/missional focus. I also lean left in politics. I tell my friends that I have voted Democrat for years for all the wrong reasons. I don't think the Democratic Party is worth a hoot, but its historic commitment to the poor and to centralizing government for social justice is what I think government should do. (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/february/11.35.html?start=6>)


 **Emergent's Distorted Kingdom**

"Even if only a few would practice this new way, many would benefit. Oppressed people would be free. Poor people would be liberated from poverty. Minorities would be treated with respect. Sinners would be loved, not resented. Industrialists would realize that God cares for sparrows and wildflowers—so their industries should respect, not rape, the environment. . . . The kingdom of God would come—not everywhere at once, not suddenly, but gradually, like a seed growing in a field, like yeast spreading in a lump of bread dough, like light spreading across the sky at dawn" (McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 111).

 **The King Comes Suddenly**


1st Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.



 **The City of God or The City of Man?**

Revelation 18:21 "So will **Babylon**, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer."


Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new **Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

 **Emergence Theory**

Ken Wilber – pantheist


- Everything that exists is spiritual and has consciousness.
- Spirit has forgotten itself.
- You and I are to help the emergence of kosmic consciousness through meditation.

Mclaren: "...I am trying (with Ken Wilber's help) to make clear that there is something above and beyond the current alternatives of modern fundamentalism/absolutism and pluralistic relativism...this 'above and beyond' is, I believe the way of Jesus...It integrates what has gone before so that something new can emerge" (*A Generous Orthodoxy*, 287).


 **Emergent Meditation**

1. Centering Prayer
2. Lectio Divina
3. Labyrinths
4. Yoga

"Western Christianity has (for the last few centuries anyway) said relatively little about mindfulness and meditative practices, about which Zen Buddhism has said much. To talk about different things is not to contradict one another; it is, rather, to have much to offer one another, on occasion at least" (Mclaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 255).


 **Centering Prayer**

- Choose a sacred word that best supports your sincere intention to be in the Lord's presence and open to His divine action within you.
- Whenever you become aware of anything (thoughts, feelings, perceptions, images, associations, etc.), simply return to your sacred word, your anchor.
- Ideally, the prayer will reach the point where the person is not engaged in their thoughts as they arrive on their stream of consciousness.


 **Refuting Emergent Divination**

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.


Divination: Any attempt by man to gain secret information or favor from the spirit world other than what is revealed by God.

 **Refuting Emergent Divination**


Galatians 5:19-20 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions.

 **Lectio Divina**


- In *lectio divina* we, too, heed that command and turn to the Scriptures, knowing that we must "hear" - listen - to the voice of God, which often speaks very softly. In order to hear someone speaking softly we must learn to be silent. We must learn to love silence. If we are constantly speaking or if we are surrounded with noise, we cannot hear gentle sounds. The practice of *lectio divina*, therefore, requires that we first quiet down in order to hear God's word to us. (http://prayerfoundation.org/lectio_divina.htm)

 **Labyrinth**

- A labyrinth is an archetype with which we can have a direct experience. We can walk it. It is a metaphor for life's journey. It is a symbol that creates a sacred space and place and takes us out of our ego to "That Which Is Within."
- Illustrated above are my beliefs on the spiritual evolution of humankind.
(<http://www.lessons4living.com/labyrinth.htm>)

 **Christian Yoga?**

- Being quiet with God allows us to create enough psychological and spiritual space that God can truly create an inner sanctuary in us. Being quiet enough to hear our Lord's voice is not optional-- it's essential for growth. Let God bless your efforts to get closer to Him and the joy-filled, healthy life He has planned for you!
(<http://www.christianyoga.us/home.htm>)

 **God's Ordained Means of Grace**

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Word of God: Colossians 3:16; 2nd Timothy 3:15-17, 4:2
2. Fellowship: Romans 12:10; Hebrews 10:25
3. Lord's Supper: 1st Corinthians 11:23-28
4. Prayer: Ephesians 6:18; 1st Thessalonians 5:17



Man Made Religion

Colossians 2:20-21, 23 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"...These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self made religion and self abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.



The Sufficiency of Scripture

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Believers need nothing more than what God has given us!
