

This is a citation from my book *Redefining Christianity* copy right 2006, pages 209, 210.

A Loving Appeal to Rick Warren

Pastor Warren I believe you are an evangelical, one with an evangelical heritage that goes way back, way farther than mine. I was a latecomer, having been saved from liberalism when I was 20. I do not assume that you are motivated by money—I am quite sure you are not. I believe you sincerely want to spread your version of evangelicalism throughout the world. I believe you sincerely want to make a worldwide version of Christianity that will indeed wipe out world problems and spread Christendom where it has not been. I believe that you sincerely believe the truths in your statement of faith.

The problem is with what you proclaim and what you add to those beliefs. By muting the most important ones in public proclamations and by adding of ideas from the wisdom of man you have made the message of the Purpose Driven Church very different from historical, evangelical preaching.

My appeal is very simple. Pastor Warren, you have the biggest audience right now of any evangelical on the planet. You have the most influence. You have the tools, the resources, the education, and the scholarly ability to understand, proclaim and expound the truths of the gospel and God's word. Please use them! We need you to use them. Take up the Sword of the Spirit and mobilize people to slay the GIANT of people abiding under God's wrath, not knowing it, and living in a world that is on a slippery slope toward judgment. That is the weapon most of your evangelical forefathers used.

In conjunction with that, please repent of the practice of putting out material that obscures, confuses, and ultimately redefines all the important aspects of Christianity. Join those who are fully willing to accept these truths: "*They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error*" (1John 4:5, 6). None of us who are evangelical need the world to love us or our message. Nor do we need the help of those in its sinful grips to fulfill our calling. We need boldness to proclaim what they hate, but what we know God will use to rescue some of them. May the Lord grant you that boldness to preach the gospel and the grace to return to His definition of Christianity.

Bob DeWaay