



WHO ARE THE PEOPLE? WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

Hillsong had its beginnings in 1986 and was the inspiration of Mark and Darlene Zschech and Geoff Bullock. Bullock was a leader in the “music ministry” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s Hills Christian Life Centre at Castle Hill, Sydney. Along with Pat Mesiti who eventually founded Youth Alive, the Zschech’s were formerly part of a band that outreached to high school kids. (Pat Mesiti eventually rose to the exalted position of National Director of Australian Christian Churches.) The Zschech’s were introduced to Hills CLC by Mesiti and were soon thrust into the “music ministry” alongside Bullock. When Geoff Bullock “resigned” from Hillsong, Darlene Zschech stepped into his position and became “worship pastor” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s growing Hillsong Church.

Brian is the son of Frank Houston, an ex-General Superintendent of the AOG in New Zealand. Frank Houston moved to Australia from NZ in 1977, in controversial circumstances of a sexual nature, and established Sydney Christian Life Centre. Despite the covered-up sexual offences committed in NZ, Frank Houston rose to a position of eminence and great respect in the Pentecostal churches, as well as to the most senior position in the AOG in NSW. In 2000, Frank Houston was exposed as a repeat paedophile offender, both in NZ and Australia.

When questioned by a Sydney Morning Herald news reporter (27/03/2002) about the prevalence of sexual misconduct in high places in the AOG, Brian Houston, speaking as General Superintendent of the movement, informed the reporter that, of the AOG’s 2000 Australian ministers, no more than five in any year were exposed and disciplined for sexual misconduct. He went on to defend the former AOG New Zealand General Superintendent, Jim Williams, who served as an AOG pastor in Brisbane but whose licence in New Zealand was permanently revoked for his involvement in “adulterous offences and other indiscretions involving different women over an extended period of years.”

If you are like me and the SMH reporter, by this time you will probably be asking also, “Why is there so much sexual misconduct among the leaders of these highly popular and famous organisations, which confidently profess to be Australia’s representatives, with a clear mandate from God Himself, to lead the nations into His presence in holy worship?”

WORSHIP OF THE WORLD

The Bible clearly teaches, in 1 John 2:15-16, that people who profess to be Christians are to be separate and distinct from the things of the world. The seriousness of what Scripture says on this

subject seems to be totally lost upon the leadership of Hillsong Church, and upon the Hillsong band members and musicians.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Further, we read in James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

IS HILLSONG WORLDLY?

Spiritual adultery is the sin of preferring the world’s fashions and amusements to the things of the Lord. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, Hillsong, by their actions, are promoting just that. Despite whether their motives are good or otherwise, and despite whether they are nice people or otherwise, the simple fact is that they are using the worldly and ungodly medium of rock music, which they naively describe as worship, in their attempts to bring believers and unbelievers alike, into a relationship with a holy God.

Worship should not be offered to God, nor should the Gospel be presented in such a way that they are coupled with the standards of the world, for God says, *“Be not conformed to this world...(Romans 12.2)”* Attempting to use the things that belong to the “god of this world” in order to bring people into the presence of the holy God of the Scriptures is unacceptable to Him.

As well, lost sinners can not be called out of the wickedness of the world by a church that has adopted its lifestyle and entertainment values. It is understood by virtually every serious Christian that to employ in worship something that is historically associated with, or has arisen from an alternative culture of free sex, godlessness, drunkenness, drugs, and emotional orgies, is worse than inappropriate - it is sinful and demonstrates deception.

“ROCK & ROLL” MUSIC AND SEX - TWO PEAS IN A POD

Being confused about what is appropriate to offer to God in worship is not the only area where Hillsong leadership is being misled. Their conformity to the world and preoccupation with fleshly things is demonstrated elsewhere in their “ministry”.

“Pastor” Bobbie Houston (wife of Brian Houston) had a series of taped messages extolling the virtues of “Kingdom Women.” One of the messages in the series, which was formerly advertised on the Hillsong website, had the sensual title “Kingdom Women Love Sex.”

You could be forgiven for asking the question, “What type of message does this title and subject send to Christians, particularly to Hillsong’s target audience of teens and young adults?” Does the title of this series sound to you like Hillsong leadership is concerned about mortifying the deeds of the flesh?

But why should we expect anything different from the leadership of Hillsong? Using worldly and fleshly methods to attract members will simply guarantee worldly and fleshly results - their track record demonstrates this truth. Even the un-saved know that Rock music, rebellion and sensuality are all peas in the same pod.

EVIL COMPANIONS DEFILE GODLINESS

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God... (1 Cor. 15:33-34)”

What do you know about the theological beliefs of Hillsong and their companions? Are you aware that they are supporters and promoters of Word of Faith teachers and their erroneous doctrines? The Word of God counsels Christians to separate from and expose false teachers. Do Hillsong leaders warn their congregations of the heresies promoted by Word of Faith teachers? Or do they allow them to spread their diabolical heresies from Hillsong’s pulpit? The following are all friends of Hillsong, despite them teaching heretical doctrines!

C. Peter Wagner, “The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium. This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets.” Wagner is speaking here of a new foundation based upon latter-day apostles and prophets, with himself as the chief apostle. However, the Bible teaches that the foundation for the Church was laid 2000 years ago with Christ as the Chief Corner Stone.

George Otis Jr., of Transformations Video fame, “Christ has not redeemed us by giving His life as a ransom for our sins in order that He might release us. God never kept man captive in sin. The truth is Christ paid no man’s debt.”

Kenneth Copeland, “I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the bible actually is. The biggest one in the whole Bible is God.”

Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, et al., teach that Christ did not complete the Work of Redemption upon the Cross of Calvary, but in Hell. He was defeated upon the Cross, died spiritually, and was taken to Hell by Satan and tortured and tormented for three days and three nights. After enduring this additional suffering, Christ was reborn as the first born-again man. They teach that it was not only the physical death upon the Cross that paid for man’s sins.

These teachings will not lead anyone to eternal life, but to certain damnation. Perhaps someone should ask Hillsong why they don’t warn God’s people of this certainty.

RHYTHM - INDULGING & ENTERTAINING THE FLESH

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephes. 5:19)”

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)”

These Scriptures teach many things about music in the church. Christians do not evangelise unbelievers, or entertain other Christians, with worldly Rock music. The Gospel is the power of God to save all who will believe, not worldly Rock music. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, not Contemporary Christian Rock, are for the purpose of teaching and admonishing Christians the Word of God. Singing and making melody comes from the heart and is directed to the Lord, not the unsaved. Christians are to make melody in their hearts to the Lord. True spiritual music is based upon melody which feeds the spirit. The world’s music is based upon rhythm, predominantly drums and bass guitars, which feeds the flesh.

The contemporary Christian music scene mimics the world in method, dress and sound. This is not true worship, as Hillsong will try to convince you that it is. Hillsong is a business selling worldly entertainment (and making millions) which they promote to young and unlearned Christians as worship to the Lord.

ECUMENISM AND THE SOON-COMING ONE-WORLD CHURCH

Sensual rock music, accompanied by lyrics containing much false teaching is being used by the Devil to build bridges between professing Christian churches, and other religious groups of unlike faith and practice, and Hillsong has been at the forefront of leading a multitude of young, scripturally ignorant, professing Christians from Pentecostal and Charismatic churches into accepting gross Roman Catholic errors. More lately, Hillsong's music, and CCM music generally, is becoming more accepted in conservative churches, like the Independent Baptists. However, instead of warning Christians about the damnable heresies of the Roman Catholic Church, the leaders and musicians of Hillsong Church sing aloud the praises of the Pope, holding him up as a great "Christian" leader, and even join with him in ecumenical evangelistic outreach programs.

For example, Pope Benedict was praised and entertained at the 2008 Roman Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney by Hillsong's "worship leader" Darlene Zschech, who even went so far as to publicly make the following dangerous statement: "We see World Youth Day as a great opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in it's vision to present the gospel and reach out to our city, our nation and our world in unity."

When asked by a Sydney Morning Herald reporter why Hillsong church is so successful, Brian Houston replied, "We are scratching people where they are itching" ("THE LORD'S PROFITS," *Sydney Morning Herald*, JANUARY 30, 2003). 2 Timothy 4:3 describes a time in Church history when people will lust for an unbiblical version of Christianity that endorses their fleshly and worldly lifestyles. They will seek out false teachers who are willing to preach messages that soothe the conscience rather than convict the conscience of sin - preachers who scratch where mediocre, luke-warm Christians itch. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."*

"Once upon a time Baptists believed and preached Amos 3:3, 'Can two walk together except they be agreed?' Someone should ask, 'If Hillsong walks with those who deny the saving efficacy of the death of Christ, with those who promote the worst excesses of the Charismatic Movement, with those who promote the latest form of modernism (in the emergent "church"), and with New Age prophets, and with Buddhist priests, then what is their true theology?' The answer? It is the ecumenical, syncretistic theology of a one world religion, the deadly amalgam of heresies of every stripe, the doctrines of the Antichrist and the False Prophet as described in Revelation 13, 17, & 18." (PASTOR BUDDY SMITH - *HEADS UP!* JULY 20, 2013).

We live in days of great spiritual deception and apostasy, and central to promoting that apostasy, through their music, is Hillsong. The Bible warns us in Romans 16:17 to "mark and avoid them."



Some valuable free downloadable teaching resources from **Way of Life Website** which will protect you from being ensnared by the rampant CCM that is flooding into the churches in our day:

"Independent Baptist Music Wars" http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/independent_baptist_music_wars.php

"Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians" http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/directory_of_contemporary_worship.php

"Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music" http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/transformational_power.php

Free Teaching Videos re CCM http://www.wayoflife.org/free_evideo/