
Subject: Re: Pagan Christianity, the book
Posted by [william](#) on Mon, 04 Jul 2011 14:42:38 GMT
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Chapter 8 deals with music and worship in the assembly.

Worship in our modern assemblies is usually handled by professionals.

Quote:This is in stark contrast to New Testament teaching and example. In the early church, worship and singing were in the hands of all of God's people.' The church herself led her own songs. Singing and leading songs was a corporate affair, not a professional event led by specialists.

Frank Viola;George Barna. Pagan Christianity?: Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices (Kindle Locations 1651-1653). Kindle Edition.

The book outlines the rise of the 'worship team' which continues to foster the us/them (clergy/laity) mentality. This is also shown to have pagan origins.

Chapter 9 Hits squarely upon the sacred cow of tithing and clergy salaries.

The book shows that the tithe was a part of the Mosaic law and is not a requirement for the Christian Church.

He even deals with the mistaken idea that the tithing command precedes the law and was established by Abraham (we are children of Abraham by faith) thus making it a fundamental requirement for the Christian Church. It is pointed out that Abraham's tithe was totally voluntary and seemingly a one time event. Christian's who want to follow Abraham's example to the letter need only to tithe once in their lifetime to satisfy this voluntary act!

The tithe later became established as a legal requirement under the law to be a sort of 'temple tax'. Christianity has no temple. So unless a Church is predisposed to view the building as their temple there is no need for a mandated tax to maintain the edifice.

Of course this may be a toughie for the modern-day pastor to accept as he is dependent upon the mandated tithe for his own salary. Sadly, in many Churches, tithing is used as a mark of discipleship and is used as a litmus test to judge the faithfulness of those who would wish to be used in Christian service.

Blessings,
William
