

IS IT TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO CHANGE?

SUMMER SERIES WITH RCC





**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY:
NEEDED BRIDGE TO THE NEXT GENERATION
OR DANGEROUS VIEW OF FAITH? +**



What is Progressive Christianity?

What is Progressive Christianity?

- **Description – Wikipedia**

Progressive Christianity represents a post-modern theological approach, and is not necessarily synonymous with progressive politics. It developed out of the Liberal Christianity of the modern era, which was rooted in enlightenment thinking. As such, Progressive Christianity is a "post-liberal" movement" within Christianity "that seeks to reform the faith via the insights of post-modernism and a reclaiming of the truth beyond the verifiable historicity and factuality of the passages in the Bible by affirming the truths within the stories that may not have actually happened."

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - **Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable
 - **Association with Jesus is the key**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable
 - Association with Jesus is the key
 - **Many historical, orthodox theologies are optional – authority of Scripture, person of Christ, nature of crucifixion, resurrection**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable
 - Association with Jesus is the key
 - Many historical, orthodox theologies are optional – authority of Scripture, person of Christ, nature of crucifixion, resurrection
 - **All people go to heaven**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable
 - Association with Jesus is the key
 - Many historical, orthodox theologies are optional – authority of Scripture, person of Christ, nature of crucifixion, resurrection
 - **All people go to heaven**
 - **Jesus and His death were an example of how loving God is. But not necessary.**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- **Theology**
 - Scripture is a good source but not completely authoritative and reliable
 - Association with Jesus is the key
 - Many historical, orthodox theologies are optional – authority of Scripture, person of Christ, nature of crucifixion, resurrection
 - **All people go to heaven**
 - Jesus and His death were an example of how loving God is. But not necessary.
 - **Jesus died for all people and His death applies to all, whether or not they have faith.**

IS IT TIME FOR THE
CHURCH TO CHANGE?



What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- **Expression – “More Loving”**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- **Expression – “More Loving”**
 - **Affirm LGBTQ+**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- **Expression – “More Loving”**
 - Affirm LGBTQ+
 - **Embrace Critical Race Theory – Stand for social justice**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- **Expression – “More Loving”**
 - Affirm LGBTQ+
 - Embrace Critical Race Theory – Stand for social justice
 - **Promote an openness and minimal boundaries approach to “Christianity”**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- **Expression – “More Loving”**
 - Affirm LGBTQ+
 - Embrace Critical Race Theory – Stand for social justice
 - Promote an openness and minimal boundaries approach to “Christianity”
 - **Denial of faith in Christ as essential for salvation**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- **Contemporary origins**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- **Contemporary origins**
 - **View God pictured in Old Testament as inaccurate**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- **Contemporary origins**
 - View God pictured in Old Testament as inaccurate
 - **View evangelicals as arrogant, judgmental, and harsh**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- **Contemporary origins**
 - View God pictured in Old Testament as inaccurate
 - View evangelicals as arrogant, judgmental, and harsh
 - **Church not a safe place to ask questions**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- **Contemporary origins**
 - View God pictured in Old Testament as inaccurate
 - View evangelicals as arrogant, judgmental, and harsh
 - Church not a safe place to ask questions
 - **Church not that diligent in promoting gospel they say they embrace**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- Contemporary origins
- **Nothing New**

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

What is Progressive Christianity?

- Description – Wikipedia
- Theology
- Expression – “More Loving”
- Contemporary origins
- **Nothing New**
 - **Nothing new about taking what you like that’s revealed in Scripture and throwing out what you don’t like.**

What is Progressive Christianity?

- **Nothing New**

- Nothing new about taking what you like that's revealed in Scripture and throwing out what you don't like.
 - ***“You ought to say plainly that you do not believe the gospel of Christ. For to believe what you please, and not to believe what you please, is to believe yourselves, and not the gospel” - Augustine (354-430 AD)***

What is Progressive Christianity?

- **Nothing New**

- Nothing new about taking what you like that's revealed in Scripture and throwing out what you don't like.

- ***“These men falsify the oracles of God and prove themselves evil interpreters of the good word of revelation. They also overthrow the faith of many, by drawing them away, under a pretense of knowledge, from Him who founded and adorned the universe; as if they had something more excellent and sublime to reveal.”***

- Irenaeus (120-200 AD)

What is Orthodox Christianity?

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**
 - **Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.**

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

Progressive Christianity viewpoints:

“The Bible is an ancient book and we shouldn’t be surprised to see it act like one. So, seeing God portrayed as a violent, tribal warrior is not how God is but how he was understood to be by the ancient Israelites communing with God in their time and place.”

- Peter Enns

Progressive Christianity viewpoints:

“The Old Testament is the inspired telling of the story of Israel coming to know their God. It’s a process. God doesn’t evolve, but Israel’s understanding of God obviously does...It seems obvious that we should accept that as Israel was in the process of receiving the revelation of Yahweh, some unavoidable assumptions were made. One of the assumptions was that Yahweh shared the violent attributes of other deities worshiped in the ancient Near East. These assumptions were inevitable, but they were wrong.”

- Brian Zahnd

Progressive Christianity viewpoints:

“The Jewish Scriptures, which are full of anecdotes of destiny, failure, sin, and grace, offer almost no self-evident philosophical or theological conclusions that are always true... We even have four, often conflicting versions of the life of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There is not one clear theology of God, Jesus, or history presented, despite our attempt to pretend there is.”

- Richard Rohr

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**

- Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.
- **There is one God who is holy and loving.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**

- Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.
- There is one God who is holy and loving.
- **We are not holy. We are all sinners.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**

- Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.
- There is one God who is holy and loving.
- We are not holy. We are all sinners.
- **Sin must be paid for. God's holiness demands it. Hell.**

Progressive Christianity viewpoints:

“A staggering number of people have taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better. It’s been clearly communicated to many that this belief is a central truth of the Christian faith and to reject it is, in essence, to reject Jesus. This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus’ message of love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that our world so desperately needs.” - Rob Bell

Progressive Christianity viewpoints:

“Jesus certainly did not lay the foundation for an afterlife theology that claims all non-Christians go to hell. This has become a common way of thinking about heaven and hell - ‘Christians go to heaven; non-Christians go to hell’ - but it is not based on anything Jesus ever said.”

- Brian Zahnd

Jesus' View of Hell:

John 3:16-18, 36

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is

John 3:16-18, 36

condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Jesus' View of Hell:

“I would say that if you don't believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and Messiah, and that he rose again from the dead and by his sacrifice our sins are forgiven, you're really not in any meaningful sense a Christian.”

- Christopher Hitchens (Antitheist)

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**

- Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.
- There is one God who is holy and loving.
- We are not holy. We are all sinners.
- Sin must be paid for. God's holiness demands it. Hell.
- **Jesus paid for our sin.**

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Progressive Christianity Viewpoints:

“God didn’t need the blood of sacrifices. People did. God didn’t need to kill someone to be ‘happy’ with humanity. What kind of God would that be? Awful. Horrific.”

-Rob Bell

Progressive Christianity Viewpoints:

“I believe Jesus’ death on the cross is a revelation of the infinite and participatory love of God, not some bloody payment required by God’s offended justice to rectify the problem of sin. Such a story line is way too small and problem oriented.”

“Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God...There was no transaction necessary, there was not a blood sacrifice necessary.”

-Richard Rohr

Progressive Christianity Viewpoints:

“One of the narratives about God is that because of sin, God required child sacrifice to appease a sense of righteous indignation and the fury of holiness-Jesus being the ultimate child sacrifice. Well, if God is like that, then doesn't it make sense that we would follow in God's footsteps? But we know intuitively that such a thought is wrong, desperately wrong.”

- William Paul Young (author, The Shack)

IS IT TIME FOR THE
CHURCH TO CHANGE?



What is Orthodox Christianity?

- **Theology**

- Scripture is the inspired Word of God – Completely reliable.
- There is one God who is holy and loving.
- We are not holy. We are all sinners.
- Sin must be paid for. God's holiness demands it. Hell.
- Jesus paid for our sin.
- **Forgiveness is available to all who treasure Jesus. Must have faith.**

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Romans 5:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**
 - **Expression of Progressive Christianity**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Place God as a priority in your life, meaning it's okay to accept bits and pieces of what has been revealed about Him and reject others. A full view of God is not essential.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Expression of Orthodox Christianity**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Expression of Orthodox Christianity**
 - **The only way in which we can truly love God is to know Him as He is, have an accurate view of Him.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - **Love God**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Expression of Orthodox Christianity**
 - The only way in which we can truly love God is to know Him as He is, have an accurate view of Him.
 - **Eternal. Holy. Loving. Sin separated us. Only He could save us through faith in Jesus, unchanging character.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - Love God
 - **Love others**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - Love God
 - **Love others**
 - **Expression of Progressive Christianity**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - Love God
 - **Love others**
 - **Expression of Progressive Christianity**
 - **The best way to love others is to accept everyone where they are without encouraging them to change who they are or how they view God.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - Love God
 - **Love others**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Expression of Orthodox Christianity**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- **Expressions**
 - Love God
 - **Love others**
 - Expression of Progressive Christianity
 - **Expression of Orthodox Christianity**
 - **The best way to love others is to meet them where they are and to encourage them to consider a more full, accurate picture of God, who is both infinitely loving AND holy.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- Expressions
- **Nothing new**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- Expressions
- **Nothing new**
 - **Scripture – Our completely reliable and authoritative source of truth that God has revealed about Himself.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- Expressions
- **Nothing new**
 - Scripture – Our perfect source of truth that God has revealed about Himself.
 - ***“The Holy Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, are of themselves sufficient toward the discovery of truth.”***

(Athanasius 293-373 AD)

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- Expressions
- **Nothing new**
 - Scripture – Our perfect source of truth that God has revealed about Himself.
 - **Jesus – Faith in Jesus is essential for anyone to inherit eternal life.**

What is Orthodox Christianity?

- Theology
- Expressions
- **Nothing new**
 - Scripture – Our perfect source of truth that God has revealed about Himself.
 - Jesus – Faith in Jesus is essential for anyone to inherit eternal life.
 - ***“For what else but his righteousness could have covered our sins? In whom was it possible for us, the lawless and ungodly, to be justified, except in the Son of God alone?”***
(Epistle to Diognetus, 2nd Century)

IS IT TIME FOR THE
CHURCH TO CHANGE?



What can we learn about Progressive Christianity?

What can we learn about Progressive Christianity?

- Asking questions about God is fabulous and should be celebrated

What can we learn about Progressive Christianity?

- Asking questions about God is fabulous and should be celebrated
- **Promoting thinking is foundational**

What can we learn about Progressive Christianity?

- Asking questions about God is fabulous and should be celebrated
- Promoting thinking is foundational
- **Christianity is about love**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- **Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- **Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- **Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture**
 - **Make themselves the determiner of what is true**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- **Diminish God's holiness**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- Diminish God's holiness
- **Diminish our fallenness**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- Diminish God's holiness
- Diminish our fallenness
- **Diminish the essential person and work of Jesus on the cross**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- Diminish God's holiness
- Diminish our fallenness
- Diminish the essential person and work of Jesus on the cross
- **Diminish the essential nature of genuine faith**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- Diminish God's holiness
- Diminish our fallenness
- Diminish the essential person and work of Jesus on the cross
- Diminish the essential nature of genuine faith
- **Actually diminish God's grace and love**

What concerns should we have about Progressive Christianity?

- Attractive: Appears to increase God's grace and love
- Diminish authority and reliability of Scripture
- Diminish God's holiness
- Diminish our fallenness
- Diminish the essential person and work of Jesus on the cross
- Diminish the essential nature of genuine faith
- Actually diminish God's grace and love
- **More focused on morality than salvation**

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)
- **Empathize (Understand where they are coming from)**

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)
- Empathize (Understand where they are coming from)
- **Love**

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)
- Empathize (Understand where they are coming from)
- **Love**
 - **Meet them where they are**

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)
- Empathize (Understand where they are coming from)
- **Love**
 - Meet them where they are
 - **Build a relationship**

How do we help those considering or embracing Progressive Christianity?

- Listen: (Ask questions)
- Empathize (Understand where they are coming from)
- **Love**
 - Meet them where they are
 - Build a relationship
 - **Share the love of Christ**