

## Multiculturalism: The Threat Level Needs to Be Raised

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A monument stands in front of Union Station in Toronto, Canada, that represents and celebrates one of the most detrimental movements to have swept through America over the past 50 years. This sculpture, built by Francesco Pirelli in 1985, depicts a man standing in the middle of a growing globe as doves are drawing out the latitudinal lines as they fly from the south to the north. The man in the middle is reaching above his head, striving to connect two of the lines as the world is coming together.

What is this highly celebrated movement you ask? It's simply known as **multiculturalism**, and it has taken the world, and more specifically the United States of America, by storm. At its core, this belief system teaches that we should reserve the differences each culture brings to the table for the sake of diversity. It also teaches that it would be wrong for any one person to elevate his culture above another's. Thus, according to multiculturalism, we are to learn and grow from all cultures and exercise complete tolerance (meaning acceptance) for **every** aspect of those cultures, including religious differences.

As Christians, we see the beauty in people from various cultures as we reflect on God creating mankind (which would include all nationalities) in His image (Genesis 1:27). Also, as Christians we are told to extend a helping hand to those who are in need regardless if they are aliens or strangers or natives, so if it helps immigrants (coming legally to America) escape persecution or hunger, then we should celebrate their new beginning. However, multiculturalism has created serious challenges when it stresses

acceptance of various cultural religious beliefs as equal, thus tremendously (and negatively) impacting the religious climate in our country.

Our children hear, on a daily basis, that beliefs found in Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Bahia'ism, Scientology, and Christianity (not to mention the hundreds of divisions found within each of these) are all equal and acceptable in authority. This teaching is seen, not only in school textbooks when dealing with the different ways societies view families, marriages, politics, etc., but also in entertainment media such as television shows that poke fun at Christians who claim they have the only truth. This bias is found in magazine articles dealing with the subject of tolerance or the climate of religious change taking place in America as we move to a more "spiritual" society – which simply means everyone is free to choose which beliefs they will add to their plate at the religious buffet line.

Besides the fact that multiculturalism flies in the face of logic when it goes against the Law of Noncontradiction (two statements can't be in opposition and be both correct at the same time), it doesn't gel with the teaching found within the Word of God. The children of God, when engaged in the conquest of Canaan, were to completely purge the land of its inhabitants and their gods. This is explained in Exodus 23:32 when God says, "They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you" (NASB). He would go on to say in Exodus 34:13, "...You are to tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and cut down their Asherim for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (NASB). So living amongst various religious beliefs wasn't

something to be celebrated, but rather it was something to be avoided because God knew some of His people would be carried away into the captivity of deception.

That's exactly what has happened today. It has been repeated enough that some now believe that Christians are being intolerant or bigots if they stand up and profess that Jesus is the Son of God, that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, and that all other religions claiming otherwise are not true. When you reflect back to the sculpture created by Perili, with the man standing in the middle pulling the world together, what kind of world is he really creating? One that will help your children understand the authority of God's Word, or one that will make it even more difficult for you to instill that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one will go to the Father, but through Him? If we will counter the deleterious effects of multiculturalism we must remember and implement, as Paul wrote, "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5, NASB).