

How Randy Views the Churches

(Randy herein lightheartedly calls himself "the pooch" here)

The following was a mail thread after I lightheartedly referred to some Christians as "fundies"

In a message dated 5/6/98 2:34:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time,
raines@premier1.net writes:

<< I have heard of him but have never read anything by him. You may be right that Randy has such "fundies" in mind, we'd have to ask him who he has in mind (if anyone in particular).

Ken >>

I didn't have anyone specific in mind. I often write about psychological principles, freedom of speech, etc. but I am especially grrrrrd when I see people who are fragile and hurting and recovering get told they have to believe something to be whole. It snaps them right back into fear and dread mode!!! Wholeness is a state of mind, not a state of doctrine. I am an exit-counselor, or more appropriately a thought-control consultant and have been for years. I often work in conjunction with Steven Hassan, as many of you know. (www.freedomofmind.com)

What I red-flag on is this: Someone comes onto this list and speaks with a nice face, but won't tell the people they are preaching to that unless they leave the Catholic Church or the Bible Students or whatever that they will be damned. They feed them their truth doses at a time, programming their mind with fear and self-righteousness. I have seen this so many times, I immediately recognize it, long before some of you do. Why? Am I more intelligent? No. Listen.

The Pooch considers himself a Christian and loves Jesus, and was a Foursquare pastor for years. He was a fundy as an elder at Bethel, but since got his rabies shots and is doing better. Yet he gets along fine and is friends with Rob Bowman, the MacGregors, the late Walter Martin, all the major JW ministries except for a couple which he considers questionable in ethics but will not here give his opinion of this. I am well-respected in the Christian community by those that know me, though many consider me rather odd. I have been on Prime-Time TBN, the Rich Bueller show, TBN's JOY in the Morning many times, various radio shows including D. James Kennedy and others. I have spoken at Full-Gospel Businessmen's meetings and I speak in tongues. I am no longer part of a church or intend to be, I am retired from that scene, but not because I don't like or agree with it. Just tired of it, and crowds of serious people in general. I can name many fine churches in my hometown of Manhattan Beach. I have baptized many people who are still my close friends. I have spoken on a Seventh-Day Adventist show and I consider Bible Students my friends, not just because they worship Jesus but because they are some of the best Christians I have been around. If I had lived in New York City at the turn of the century, I might have been a part of Russell's church, given the options back then. :-)) I know Christians who follow current leaders in the church just as devotedly as the Bible Students, and argue a lot more about their leaders being right. I met Chuck Smith (Calvary Chapel) personally and went to one of his baptisms before I became a JW, and talked to him about it

when I left. I brought a friend of mine who was in need to see him personally one day, and Chuck whipped out his checkbook and wrote a check to Larry for \$1000 on the spot, no questions asked. I have never seen another man do this in my life. When I left Bethel I started attending Hope Chapel in Hermosa Beach while I was still a JW and an elder in the El Segundo Congregation. I listened under the tutelage of Ralph Moore before he started his 15 churches in Hawaii, and I attended John Wimber's congregation many times along with our worship leaders to seek the Spirit of God, long before he got the chain of Vineyards going. I have cried out to God when I was 20 and sitting in my garage in Canoga Park in 1972 because I was addicted to cigarettes, a pack a day, and tried so many times to quit I couldn't bear it any longer. I cried to God and told him I really didn't want to quit, and I was so sorry. I went to bed and woke up the next morning absolutely miraculously healed and to this day I have never craved another cigarette or had one.

Bill Cetnar was a friend of mine.

I had a 19-year old pastor who knew Hebrew and Greek and took our little church called Bethel Christian Fellowship (made up of Melrose Place -types and met in the Malibu Colony on Wednesday nights) to Israel, Egypt and Greece for 3 weeks, searching all the TRUE biblical sights, the Old City and all the tombs of Egypt.

I have read the Bible cover-to-cover 5 times, and not just the NWT. I have written several books, some on Bible doctrine. I have sermons on tape for almost every issue you can think of. I used to take my church into other cult-like local churches and record the message, split up the group and made them play different roles and use different expressions on their faces so as to discover the true motivation behind the hucksters. Then we would meet and analyze what we found. I have been to several deliverance meetings, and could tell you bunches of crap about that. I know every trick that power people use to lead others, so I am kind of sensitive to certain techniques.

Dogz often prefers to be viewed as a non-Christian by the more rabid of doctrinal types. They always treat non-Christians better, "for some reason." The Pooch, however, really couldn't care less if some view him as a real Christian or not (like this is new to you.) He often plays the devil's advocate, always has, even as a dub, and always will. I will argue from an atheist's viewpoint sometimes, not to convert you (why?) but to help you see that other people have valid arguments that you might want to consider if you really want to communicate. He is ornery but never holds a grudge, and does not hate anyone that he can remember (Dogz loses memory as he gets old -hehe) That way he helps others to think for themselves. How can we minister to those in cults if we (a) don't deal with them fairly, and (b) don't use plausible and consistent arguments? That is where I like to challenge y'all. I am also a die-hard Okie and am Irish and get bored easily, so sometimes I will be in yer face. I also think these boards are full of people that take themselves far too seriously, so I try to lighten it up a little.

So Christian or not, Dogz is here. In yer face!
peace to all of you.
Randy Watters

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