

THE CUP OF GOD'S WRATH

1 Thessalonians 2:16

DEFINITION

“God intensely hates all
sin and is obliged by
His Holy Nature to judge
and punish all sin.”

The New American Religion

Moralistic = being nice and good

Therapeutic = feeling good about self

Deism = God exists but is impersonal

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

God exists and is Creator; watches over human life; God wants people to be good, nice, fair as taught in the Bible and in most world religions...

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about one's self; God doesn't need to be particularly involved in my life except if I need Him to solve a problem; good people go to heaven.

A Form of Relativism

“Whatever” is just fine; ethical truth
depends upon the person holding
those truths;

individualism is king.

John 17:17; 18:37-38

M.T.D. and Relativism

Religious views are vague, limited and at variance with actual biblical teaching; being non-judgmental is stressed; reluctance to declare right and wrong; violated by assertions of strong theological convictions.

What's Going On?

American “Christians” either do not really comprehend their own religious traditions, or they do and they don’t care to believe it; vast emptiness at the heart of understanding; lack of serious thinking; absence of intentional faith.

American Religion Today

Central to living a good and happy life is being good, moral person; being nice, kind, pleasant, respectable, responsible, working on self-improvement, and being successful. Religion is centered in being nice = no strong theological convictions.

Therapeutic Religion

Must have therapeutic benefits; not a religion of sin, repentance, grace, service, prayer, suffering, gratitude; about feeling good, happy, secure, subjective well-being, resolving problems, getting along with others.

Deism

A unique understanding of God; He exists, created the world, defines the general moral order, but He is not particularly, personally involved in one's affairs, especially affairs I'd prefer Him not to get involved in. He is a God who keeps a safe distance.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

This is not a God who thunders from the heavens, nor serves as Judge. He is an undemanding deity interested in solving our problems and making us happy and feel good about ourselves.

Radically Undemanding Faith

Is true Christian faith undemanding?

No! It is the opposite. It is so demanding that God sent His Son to die for our sins, and call us to holiness.

Should I Hate Myself?

A biblical self-image is

- 1) In Christ; 2) Love God; 3) Love others; 4) Deny myself.

Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:3

Say goodbye to self-preoccupation!

The New American Religion

A radical transformation of Christian theology and belief replacing the sovereignty of God with the sovereignty of the self. Sin, wrath, justice are discarded as out of step with the times and unhelpful for self-actualization.

Self-Exam

1. Why do you exist? Do you exist for God or does God exist for you?
2. Do you prefer serving or to be served?

Self-Exam

3. Can you articulate and define your theological convictions? Do you have any? What about creation, man, sin, grace, redemption, atonement, justification, sanctification, future events, heaven and hell?

Self-Exam

4. What is the driving passion of your life? What do you live for? What occupies your thoughts? To live for the glory of Christ? To be happy? To feel good about yourself? To be successful, loved, accepted?

Self-Exam

5. What does it mean to you to be a Christian? To be a good person? To intentionally love Christ, obey His commands, and witness for Him?