

The Danger of Doctrinal Drift — Keep Your Faith Rooted in Christ

A Reflection on Interfaith Dialogue and Doctrinal Integrity

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I hope all who took part in the recent debate will kindly find time to read through this.

There is a dangerous trend emerging, in which the line between interfaith dialogue and doctrinal compromise becomes blurred. While the academic study of other religions has its place, particularly in institutions such as seminaries, it is crucial for Christians to avoid building their lives upon a patchwork of conflicting doctrines. This, in the end, leads only to confusion, spiritual distress, and a weakened faith.

The allure of a universal truth, a mystical sound said to resonate from creation itself, is a tempting one. However, attributing man-made chants and practices to some cosmic reality is not only misleading; it also creates a spiritual vacuum. This emptiness, rather than drawing us closer to God, becomes a breeding ground for doubt, and for other, potentially harmful influences. Instead of seeking fulfilment in external rituals or in foreign doctrines, we ought to focus on being filled with the Holy Spirit, the true source of spiritual grounding and guidance.

To cite individuals such as the Reverend Thampu, who take part in interfaith dialogue, as a justification for blending doctrines, is misleading. Such engagements, generally conducted by strong and discerning Christians, are meant to defend and clarify Christian doctrine, not to dilute it. To attribute one's own personal interpretation to their actions, in order to justify doctrinal compromise, is to misrepresent their intentions.

The seminary model offers a valuable lesson: immerse future pastors in the Bible, establish their understanding of Christian doctrine, and fortify their faith in Jesus Christ. This strong foundation equips them to navigate the complexities of both ministry and the world, while remaining anchored in what they believe.

Ultimately, while a respectful understanding of other religions has its value, true peace and spiritual fulfilment come from a deep and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, and from adherence to Biblical teaching. Let us be wary of diluting the power of our faith with doctrines that contradict the core tenets of Christianity, and strive instead to remain firmly rooted in the love and the teaching of Christ.

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