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"New" Calvinism. Not!

Just when you think you've heard it all, along comes another cult. But, of course its practitioners don't think of it as being anything but a legitimate form of worship. They espouse established Calvinist doctrine, which teaches salvation as being the completely independent work of God that it is, with assumed deference to his perfect righteousness, and sovereign divine authority.

But, it must be recognized, that with most of the people involved in this movement, it is an intellectual vs. spiritual adoption of scriptural truth, especially as it relates to the true gospel. The other distinguishing characteristic of the "new" Calvinism, is the addition of a cultural component of contemporary music, and other social adaptation, as a necessary element of that "faith", or religion.

It may sound like a questionable qualification for me to say that there cannot be any such thing as new Calvinism! Because, what is Calvinism, essentially, but a name for belief in a literal, monergistic meaning of gospel doctrine, versus a liberal misinterpretation of certain salvation principles, known as Arminianism?

In the context of Rev. 22:18-19, nothing is to be added, or taken away from the truth that God has scripturally established. All doctrine is a complete science in itself, as with the gospel, as it was imparted to the original and early churches--to be perpetuated faithfully throughout church history! But, which by and large has not happened, to the church's detriment, and shame!

Neither is the inclusion of a contemporary musical/social component justified to be added to the fundamental New Testament precedent. If God did not establish it, it has no legitimate place in church organization. In fact, it could be an act of disobedience to institute extraneous features in worship services.

Selective music is, of course, justified by the various scriptural references to it, as part of worship that honors God, and blesses believers in the singing and instrumental performance of the right kind of music. But, the use of loud, emotionally stirring contemporary rock music, etc., has no scriptural warrant in

example or principle--and is, rather by its nature, the stuff of cultism.

The attempted strategy of using extra-biblical, psychological means to try to make religion, or worship service more appealing to a subset of society, could well be counterproductive, and undermine spiritual growth and development of churches, personally and corporately.

It can be an extension of fundamental doctrinal tampering. That is, if Christians or churches deviate from sound doctrine, or appropriate practices, it must, as Spurgeon said, lead to further degeneration in their lives. The implication being, that we are what we believe, or knowing the truth, begets faithfulness, and not knowing the truth, begets unfaithfulness, as with engaging in radical, self-willed innovations.

Biblical doctrine is spiritual truth, which is unintelligible as such to natural, unregenerate man. 1 Cor. 2:14. For a non-Christian (which is what most New Calvinists would be), to say he believes in Calvinistic principles, is to say that such knowledge is philosophy to him, not spiritually discerned theology.

There is, sadly, a prevalent "gospel" belief, comparable to cultism, throughout the universal church, among Christians, even though they have been re-created with new spiritual natures, that is not scripturally true, but a concept of man, thinking and acting in his old, unspiritual nature.

Which, then, is no better, or any more credible belief than the proliferating false religious system of "New" Calvinism, which is itself a misnomer. Intellectually produced religions (especially which differ materially from scriptural precepts and principles), are in essence forms of idolatry, or beliefs in "another" God--that is, God or his word, as conceived in the unspiritual mind of man!

In another way of emphasizing what true Christianity is, is to say that only the Calvinist, literal gospel believer, is on solid ground with God! All others, even though they too may be actual believers, are nonetheless deviants from gospel truth, and to that extent, or more, unfaithful to God!

There is, indeed, an applicable example in the bible which inveighs against the

very similar practice that the "New" Calvinists include in their religious services. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, having received the two tablets of stone, which God had written the law upon, he heard a noise coming from the camp of the Israelites, which was a noise of them that sang.

And Moses saw the golden calf (idol), and the dancing, and justifiably became angry at their idolatry, symbolically breaking the tablets, then disposing of the golden calf, and carrying out God's order to slay some three thousand of the idolatrous Israelites!

Likewise, the addition of noisy music that the New Calvinists incorporate into their religious services, under the guise of worship, or in some misguided sense as edifying to the people, is incompatible with any biblical guideline--and independently, even defiantly, engaged in for the participants corrupt indulgence! For which self-willed actions, judgment will be executed by God, accordingly.

In a few words, there is no need, or excuse to establish any new version of Calvinism, especially by those who are predominantly unbelievers (spiritually unregenerated), and for which there is no biblical precedent or supporting principle to combine the profession of Calvinist, literal salvation doctrine, with raucous, emotional music, or self-indulgent dancing, or any other expressions of what may be hedonism, thinly cloaked as acts of worship of the true God.

It has no legitimate place in the church, or in Christians' lives, and only serves to further corrupt Christianity, by promoting worldliness, when there should be separation from it!

Christians should stay away from the whole specious scheme, because God isn't in it! Instead, as someone has coined the phrase, "the Devil is in the details". Anything not provably of God, is at least suspect as being's Satan's domain. And, among many other warnings, the bible says, "neither give place to the Devil". In other words, avoid the temptation, like it may be toxic, or viral!