

# The *Emergent* Church

## Keeping Company With The World

### The Emergent Church, Part of End-Times Prophecy

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## A General Description of Emergent Christianity

Emergent Christianity (or the “Emerging Church”) is:

- A late-20th/early-21st century Christian movement
- Focused on rethinking church structures, theology, and practice
- Often post-evangelical, post-modern, and conversational
- Interested in:
  - Social justice
  - Community
  - Narrative theology
  - Deconstruction of rigid doctrines
  - Re-imagining faith for a postmodern world

It purports to stay *within* the Christian story—Jesus, Scripture, community—but interprets them more fluidly.

## A General Description of New Thought

New Thought is a **metaphysical spiritual movement** that emerged in the late 1800s. It includes:

- Unity Church
- Religious Science / Centers for Spiritual Living
- Divine Science
- Mind-cure and metaphysical healing traditions
- Influences on modern self-help and positive thinking movements

**Its core ideas include:**

- Mind and consciousness shape reality
- God is an immanent, universal presence
- Healing and transformation come through mental/spiritual alignment
- Affirmations, visualization, and metaphysical prayer
- A non-literal, symbolic reading of Scripture

New Thought is not bound to Christian orthodoxy, even though it uses Christian language.

## Where The Emergent Church and New Thought Overlap

The two sociological arenas share these characteristics.

- Both critique rigid dogma
- Both emphasize experience over institutional authority
- Both value metaphor, story, and spiritual practice
- Both attract people disillusioned with traditional religion

The similarities are more **sociological** than **theological**.

Emergent Christianity still sees itself as Christian reform. New Thought sees itself as a universal metaphysical spirituality.

## What's Included in the New Thought Trend?

### 1. Churches and Movements

- Unity Church
- Religious Science / Centers for Spiritual Living
- Divine Science
- Seicho-No-Ie (Japan, influenced by New Thought)

### 2. Influential Teachers

- Phineas Quimby
- Emma Curtis Hopkins
- Charles and Myrtle Fillmore
- Ernest Holmes
- Ralph Waldo Trine

### 3. Modern Expressions

- Law of Attraction teachings
- “Mind-power” and metaphysical healing

- Much of the self-help movement
- Authors like Wayne Dyer, Louise Hay, and Deepak Chopra (though each blends multiple traditions)

#### 4. Core Themes

- God as universal consciousness
- Thought as creative power
- Healing through spiritual alignment
- Non-dual or panentheistic theology
- Scripture as symbolic rather than literal

#### An Illustration That May Help Understand New Thought And Emergent Christianity's Departure From Biblical Doctrine

If Christianity is a tree, Emergent Christianity is a **branch growing in a new direction**. New Thought is a **different tree** that grew nearby, borrowing some Christian imagery but rooted in metaphysics, transcendentalism, and mind-science.

***Rom 1:21 “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Rom 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools.. “***

Today is no different than Paul's account in addressing the Romans. These worldly systems of thought are the intellectual reasoning of clever men, and women. Individuals who were intellectual keen. In many cases they were schooled in the gospel only to turn aside to follow a new course contrived in their own vain imaginings. We can surmise that the traditional Gospel taught by the fathers of Christianity was somehow deemed inadequate for the times we live in.

Those *without the Spirit* (*1 Corinthians 2:14*) find it easy to reject the narrow-way traditions of Christianity. If the way and the gate is narrow this doctrine sound restrictive and unfair. Where is the tolerance and compassion when other religions are excluded? Who wants to exclude the beliefs and traditions held in a sea of cultural diversity?.

The minds of Emergent Christianity and *New Thought* philosophers sought a compassionate, enhanced and fair “spirituality” that could be

achieved through by assimilating religious practices. This notion bears the assumption that one god is equal to another. They reason that spirituality can be found in many religions out side of Christianity and would bear the fruit of a heartfelt blessing to humanity.

What Paul calls “Men without the Spirit” have a form of wisdom and a form of godliness. Yes, we can say that they *have a zeal for God but according to knowledge*. I doubt if any of the promoters of these new revelations would themselves as the enemy of good or ravening wolves.

Nevertheless they fit the credentials of those who we have been warned about by Paul, Peter and Jude the apostles.

I have had friends with whom I had many conversations who followed the teachings and broadcasts of these Emergent Christian gurus. They contended for their faith energetically and were “sold out” in putting their trust in this alternative, broad-way gospel. They considered Emergent Christianity as far more enlightened and wise than the teachings from the ancient days of the Apostles.

## **What Did God Say Was the Duty of Every Disciple?**

### **Prove all things.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21 “-*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*”

(The Bereans examined the message against the Scriptures.)

Test every spirit. 1 John 4:1 “-*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

### **Flee from unbiblical, apostate, leadership.**

**1 Timothy 6:11..** *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

### **Contend for the Faith that was presented by Christ's first apostles.**

*Jude vs.3: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

## **Sign Posts That Point To A Departure From The Faith**

1. Departure from the idea of Scriptural Inerrancy
2. The belief in tolerance and de-emphasis on the doctrine of “Judgment”
3. Universalism; we of any religion are all are God’s children and all will be saved
4. A broad road rather than a narrow road to salvation, *we are all worthy of a heavenly reward.*

**Emergent Christianity brings a “New Age” infusion into Christian thought;**

**Leaders include:**

Henry Nouwen, Eckhart Tolle, Brian McLaren, Tony Jones, Oprah Winfrey, Pope Francis (Big tent Christianity), the pope states that we all worship the same God and can fellowship with one another, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant) Chrislam, Rick Warren. (Seeker friendly church);

To some degree or another they all depart from scripture seeking spirituality from various sources.

## **DETAILS OF THE EMERGENT CHURCH MOVEMENT**

Emergent Christianity seeks to take “spiritual” elements from various religious practices and introduce these as a viable pathway to experience God. It is essentially a mystical approach to Christianity that is liken to the Gnostic Heresy of the apostolic era. Christ is associated with a state of evolved humanity achieved by spiritual disciplines. Christ likeness is achieved with the practice of sometimes secret disciplines used to achieve “Christ Consciousness.” Gnosticism embraces the notion that Godliness is resident in the innermost part of every person and can be made to come forth through proper discipline.

**Here is another short description of Emergent Christianity from an online source called “Got Questions?”**

*The emerging, or emergent, church movement takes its name from the idea that as culture changes, a new church should emerge in response. In this case, it is a response by various church leaders to the current era of post-modernism. Although post-modernism began in the 1950s, the church didn't really seek to conform to its tenets until the 1990s. Post-modernism can be thought of as a dissolution of "cold, hard fact" in favor of "warm, fuzzy subjectivity." The emerging / emergent church movement can be thought of the same way.*

*The emerging / emergent church movement falls into line with basic post-modernist thinking—it is about experience over reason, subjectivity over objectivity, spirituality over religion, images over words, outward over inward, feelings over truth. These are reactions to modernism and are thought to be necessary in order to actively engage contemporary culture. This movement is still fairly new, though, so there is not yet a standard method of "doing" church amongst the groups choosing to take a post-modern mindset. In fact, the emerging church rejects any standard methodology for doing anything. Therefore, there is a huge range of how far groups take a post-modernist approach to Christianity. Some groups go only a little way in order to impact their community for Christ, and remain biblically sound. Most groups, however, embrace post-modernist thinking, which eventually leads to a very liberal, loose translation of the Bible. This, in turn, lends to liberal doctrine and theology.*

*For example, because experience is valued more highly than reason, truth becomes relative. Relativism opens up all kinds of problems, as it destroys the standard that the Bible contains absolute truth, negating the*

*belief that biblical truth can be absolute. If the Bible is not our source for absolute truth, and personal experience is allowed to define and interpret what truth actually is, a saving faith in Jesus Christ is rendered meaningless.*

*Another area where the emerging / emergent church movement has become anti-biblical is its focus on ecumenism. Unity among people coming from different religious backgrounds and diversity in the expression of corporate worship are strong focuses of the emergent church movement. Being ecumenical means that compromise is taking place, and this results in a watering down of Scripture in favor of not offending an apostate. This is in direct opposition to passages such as [Revelation 2:14-17](#), Jesus' letter to the church of Pergamum, in which the Church is warned against tolerating those who teach false doctrine.*

*False doctrine seems to abound within the emerging / emergent church movement, though, as stated previously, not within every group espousing emerging / emergent church beliefs. Because of this, care must be taken when deciding whether or not to become involved with an emergent church group. We all need to take heed of [Matthew 7:15-20](#), "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."*

*While seeking new ways to witness to a changing culture is admirable, utilizing ways which compromise the Truth of the Gospel in any way is*

*nothing more than promoting false doctrine and leading others away from Christ instead of to Him.*

**1. Dominion Theology and Kingdom Now theology;** The 7 Mountains theology to regain by "the church." The seven mountains include the mountains of global society; **Media, Government, Education, Economy, Religion, Entertainment and Family.** The church should conquer these areas of influence, this the key to taking the world for the kingdom of God.

**2. The N. A. R. (New Apostolic Reformation is associated with Apostolic-Prophet movement: Super apostles and prophetic leadership;** This is the super-spiritual arm of the Charismatic, Pentecostal church. It is characterized by its teachings on signs and wonders, "greater works", glorious manifested powers of the spirit.

The NAR is a growing movement in which there is an emphasis on signs of God's presence and manifested glory. Dreams and visions involve visits to heaven, visits with Jesus and the Father, interviews and directives from angels. Leading exponents often go beyond fundamental, traditional biblical doctrines or **add to** scripture that go beyond the teachings of the first apostles. Note also that worship tends to point to "me messages."

**3. The Antichrist church will demonstrate supernatural, lying signs and wonders to fool if it were possible, even the elect!** **Mark 13:22** “-**Mar 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.**

**2 Thess.2:9** “-*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.11 And for*

*this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”*

*C Pinkney, February 2026*