

The Lowest Common Denominator

by Dennis Lange

There are those in the world, who for the sake of being as inclusive as possible, argue that all religions point to God - Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Islam, etc. So, it doesn't really matter what religion you are part of, it's "ok."

Such people have reduced "being ok" to the lowest common denominator. And their lowest common denominator is just being religious. That way, they don't see the need of condemning anyone. Nor do they have to worry about their own choice of religion. They don't have to exert any effort to find out the truth. Everybody's is just as good as everybody else and they're bound to "be ok" also.

Many within "Christendom" have done the same thing in order to be as inclusive as possible. They argue that virtually all denominations are acceptable to God. One can be pleasing to God in any of them. They have reduced "being ok" to the lowest common denominator. And their lowest common denominator is believing in Jesus. That way, they don't have to condemn anyone else who has faith. They don't have to worry about their own choice of denomination. They don't have to exert any effort to find out the truth. Everybody is in equally good standing with God.

Because of reducing salvation to the lowest common denominator, those within Christendom who have that LCD are faced with numerous problems in maintaining their standard, that belief alone is sufficient.

1. The Bible shows some who merely believed who were not saved at all (John 12:42; John 8; James 2:19; Acts 2:37).
2. The Bible shows that repentance is necessary in order to be saved (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17, etc). Those who say the LCD is faith alone must cram repentance together with belief so that the two are merely two sides of the same coin.
3. The Bible shows that confession is before salvation (Rom.10:9,10) and thus their lowest common denominator isn't correct.
4. The Bible shows that baptism is before salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37; 22:16, etc).
5. The LCD people also have trouble with the biblical commands of walking appropriately before God and bearing fruit (I John 1:7; John 15) and these won't fit into their LCD.
6. Another problem is that these same people who teach that faith is the LCD contradictorily tell those who have believed to pray the sinner's prayer in order to believe, showing that the faith they had before they prayed wasn't enough after all.
7. These people must also define faith with all sorts of gymnastics to exclude people like Jehovah's Witnesses and others whom they cannot accept as within the constraints of their LCD.

We see that those who believe that all religions are just different paths to God and those who believe that all denominations are just different paths to God have some things in common. They both reduce, in their own way, acceptability to the lowest common denominator. They both are as inclusive as they can possibly be. And they both detest the idea of exclusivity, which is why they became so inclusive in the first place. God's way is not broad, but narrow (Matt.7:13,14).