

General Session #2

Brian McLaren

Phyllis Tickle

Robert Webber

Jack Caputo

Bmc: the emergent movement needs to get beyond saving the church. We need to work together. We need to talk about poor, environment, race, ...

A lot of words are going around, postmodern, generational, evangelical etc.... How do we get along with these people?

Robert Webber: Went to a brand new contemporary service. Had a conversation with a 19 year old. She asked if he saw any 19 year olds. He did not. She does not like that kind of worship. She said she likes worship and candles.

What do you not like about your tradition? I am sick and tired of innovation.

What can we learn from the other traditions (non-evangelical) ?

- Roots,
- connection, We should not be anti-historical
- authenticity. there is a longing to be real

What do evangelicals not like about these other traditions? Fear factor.

Phyllis Tickle:

What is the mainline tradition need to leave behind as we enter postmodern context? Is this notion that intellectualism is the measure of a belief or credible conduct. They have to drop denom. Loyalties. There is a certain resistance to making the line between a cultural Christian and believing Christian. There is a problem with a lack of individual discipline. There is too much spiritual shyness.

What does the mainline tradition need to gain or learn from the other two evangelical/roman?

From EV biblical literacy. To enjoy spiritual communion of the family unit. That discipleship costs something. Except in terms of social justice. There is a cohesion by theology. A greater sophistication between righteousness and compassion.
From RC: A theology of religions. Church history as context. Ascetics. A sense of time as sacred.

What about the two others that make it hard to learn from them? I feel scorned. A deep fear of theocracy in ev. If you are in charge and I am going to be safe? Certain fragility.

Jack Caputo:

How do we move the RC into the postmodern age? Catholics should have started over again a long time ago, And reread the NT. Needs to drop the sexism let priests get married and ordain the other half of church. It needs to acquire a stronger voice. A stronger critique of social injustice. Nobody listens to the church when it speaks the truth because it is ridiculous.

What can they still learn from others? The whole point of the reformation. Decentralization and power from below. They need to start reading the Bible.

What puts them off about the non RC traditions? Why hasn't the reformation produced a reformation? Why have evangelicals been fired or forced out? Authoritarian violence is bad in EV. EV does not like dissent. Wealth is some sort of sign that you are blessed by God.

Brian McLaren: Jack that the catholic church has been so stupid.... Bob: Where have EV been stupid? EV is simplistic. We are trying to make the Gospel so simple we have ruined it, we have made it too simple.

Brian McLaren: We tend to compare our best with their worst. Phyllis Tickle: who are the best voices in the EV tradition. Two of them are on the stage. I like IVP and Brasos and Nav. Tony Jones. They have jumped the abyss or chasm between Christians. Joan Chitester <sp?>

Brian McLaren: In the mainline and liberal protestant world who would be good? Phyllis Tickle : Marsha Ford, Kate Kelly, Lori Winter. Diana Butler Pass.

Brian McLaren: There were a number of comments on gender. When people in the liberal tradition here God as HE they win. In anglo-catholics they use inclusive language. However it is a mistake. The tension is no longer there, there seems to be return as God the father.

Jack Caputo: Both Father and Mother are metaphors.

Robert Webber: I support gender inclusive language. But I draw the line when it comes to the trinity. There are many new writings out there. There is a fundamental relationship with Father Son and HS that is not there when you change the words.

Jack Caputo: Why not say mother, daughter HS.

Robert Webber: I would rather refer to tradition in that area.

Jack Caputo: first person is still first person.

Robert Webber: The western understanding is more hierarchical than the eastern. There is more relational understanding of the trinity. Stan Grenz.

Brian McLaren: Poverty and Global ecological crisis, battles between North and south and east and west. How do you see cooperation between the traditions of the church helping these out.

Robert Webber: What would happen if we gave all the money we use for building and give it to the poor?

Jack Caputo there is where it is nice to have a pope. He has a bully pulpit. He can denounce poverty and injustice and war.

Phyllis Tickle : There is presently a study in which ways the Anglican church can assist other effort using its own wealth. Jack Jenkins is right on in this work.

Brian McLaren: Sometimes we think that the only way we can come together is to depreciate our own tradition. But we should realize that each of us has a treasure. What is the treasure of your own tradition?

Jack Caputo : A rich intellectual tradition, it is focused on the achievement of Aquinas. The education system. Faith has to be coordinated with a way to articulate your faith.

Robert Webber: They are passionate about their faith. They are marked by an incredible passion.

Phyllis Tickle : Anglicanism we have never lost the mystery. WE wrap it in the middle way. Right belief vs right action. Orthonomy. It means to follow the law that ames the melody out of the song. It is mysterious place where the rules apply.