

## Ashdodisms At Lipscomb University

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people” (Neh. 13:23,24).

Language is the main component human communications. God made us that way. If you want to change something, whether politically, socially or religiously, begin by changing the vocabulary. Change agents (spiritual terrorists) within the body of Christ are trying to change the vocabulary of the Church of Christ to make it more like Satan's realm – the so called religious world.

I received a message the other day from Lipscomb University's "Institute For Christian Living" advertising their upcoming "Nurture 2016." The theme this year is "Experience God and Flourish." What I read did not make me "flourish." What I read I did not recognize as a Christian and a student of the Bible. But as an observer of the Emerging Church Movement (ECM) and my familiarity with their vocabulary, it made perfect sense. The ECM is an ecumenical attempt to bring together elements of Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox mysticism, pop-psychology, Eastern Religions and New Ageism to make the practitioner "closer to God" and bring "spiritual renewal" to the church. This is another lie from Satan (cf. 2 Thes. 2:10-12). The Bible Departments of LU and ACU are filled with disciples of the Emerging Church Movement.

Notice the following sentence from the announcement: "This year, we have **spiritual directors, life coaches**, and those facilitating **formational prayer**, with whom you can meet for a private session."

"Spiritual Directors"

"Spiritual director" refers to someone who will counsel participants in this workshop "into life-forming experiences with the Holy Spirit" (Quote from the bio

of the featured speaker and director of ICS, Kris Miller.) No, this is not old fashioned, rolling in the aisle Pentecostalism, but it is just a heretical. It is **not** an “experience with the Holy Spirit” but a spasm of misguided emotion. Yes, we all may be counseled by a mature Christian, using the Bible. But when they imply that one needs something else IN ADDITION to the Bible to “experience God” they deny the all sufficiency of the word of God and denigrate the true work of the Holy Spirit. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16,17 – emphasis mine.)

#### “Life Coaches”

“Life coaching” is psycho-babel phrase foreign to the New Testament. It is “the process of helping people identify and achieve personal goals” (Wikipedia). Sounds harmless but the goal of ECM is to change individuals into something akin to chanting, meditating monks or nuns. Why not study the scriptures together and make God’s goals your goals? “I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word” (Psa. 119:101).

#### “Formational Prayer”

I found this definition of formational prayer by “Professor” Terry Wardle of the Ashland (Ohio) Theological Seminary (A ECM nursery): “a ministry of the Holy Spirit, moving through a Christian caregiver, bringing the Healing Presence of Jesus Christ into the place of pain and brokenness within a wounded person.” Huh? Again they drag the Holy Spirit away from His rightful place working through the word of God (cf. John 6:63; Eph.6:17; 2 Pet. 1:20,21). They equate some emotional release with the Holy Spirit. They are attempting to use prayer (Most likely chanting/meditation.) to make it easier to trust one’s feelings rather than to obey God. Notice that the Holy Spirit is not mentioned as working through the word of God but through the “caregiver” (I am beginning to hate that word.) I also imagine there is at least one lit candle in those “private sessions” and probably

incense burning to bring “spirituality” to the occasion. This is the ECM “vain worship” (Mat. 15:9)

There is “nothing new under Sun” (Ecc.1:9) in the ashdodisms at LU. Satan has been at work there for quite a while. I know that brethren David Lipscomb, James A. Harding, E.A. Elam, H. Leo Boles and other Godly men and women who sacrificed so much for their beloved school would be “spinning in their graves” if they knew what was going on at LU. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (2 Tim.4:1).

<http://www.lipscomb.edu/news/event/detail/5913> as of February 6, 2016.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coaching#Life\\_coaching](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coaching#Life_coaching) as of February 6, 2016.

[http://www.retreat2him.com/formatational\\_prayer](http://www.retreat2him.com/formatational_prayer) as February 6, 2016