

## EXCERPTS FROM: CREEPING LIBERALISM: THE TELL-TALE SIGNS

### *The Wittenberg Door*

At this very moment, there may be a liberal assault--of which you are completely unaware--on your church. Like a thief in the night, liberalism can creep up on a church in a disguised and subtle manner, slowly infiltrating its way into the heart of a body of believers. A rock concert for the church youth here, the use of real wine for a communion service there, and pretty soon your church will be holding seminars on "How the Combination of EST and the Jesus Life Flow can Help You Relate in Today's World."

"It wouldn't happen in my church," you say. "Ever since that fateful day in 1957 when our founder proceeded to start our church after symbolically shaking the straw off his feet in response to a heathen square dance at his former church, our body has consistently taken the straight and narrow path. We've mastered the fundamentals of Fundamentalism, and nothing could creep in to throw us off the track."

Don't be too sure, my friend.

If you care at all about the present and future of your current fellowship, try to give an honest answer to each of the following questions:

### **1. Is your worship service protocol affected by modern trends?**

Be sure to watch the amount of clapping during the worship time. It is just bad behavior for any evangelical church to clap at any time during a service – even if 82-year-old Constance Downer passes out after playing a scintillating 10 minute organ solo, or your pastor uses his Bible to successfully swat an obnoxious fly during the sermon. If clapping becomes allowed, then you'll have to allow shouting and dancing and all those things that David did in the Old Testament.

### **2. Is your pastor too contemporary?**

Try to detect any subtle, but distinctive, change in your pastor's outfits and appearance. The aforementioned worship service behavioral guide states that an evangelical pastors outfit and the parents should be no less than 20 and no greater than 30 years behind the times (if greater than 30, then the outfit may have full circled its way back to chic) .This means your pastor should be wearing polyester double-knits with turtlenecks, and have medium length shaggy hair and long sideburns. If your pastor is wearing a mohawk, don't hesitate to write to the Board of Elders.

Be especially wary if your pastor begins to consistently digress into social action sermons. The downward cause and effect spiral is never more quickly put into affect then when a pastor strays from a strict exegesis of a New American Standard bible passage. The sermon on our starving brothers and sisters in Africa leads to a

brotherhood and sisterhood of man the sermon which leads to a unity of man sermon which leads to Unitarianism. It never fails.

How did your church do? If you find that a little liberalism is starting to creep in, you can do one of three things:

1. Right the wrongs in your present church;
2. Find a new fellowship;
3. Start your own church.

My personal suggestion is option number three, because then you can plan your own worship service and pick untainted pastors and books. Then, all that's left is to find a suitable spot in Orange County and you'll be set.