



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

"TOUCHING THE UNCLEAN THING"

Why does Dr Joel Beeke's Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary share accreditation with Roman Catholic colleges??

An interesting fact regarding Dr Joel Beeke's Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary has just come to light, thanks to research done by the Editors of "Banash" **website**, Sharon Kirker and Marie O'Prey.

The Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary has received accreditation from 'The Association of Theological Schools'.

The Association website has this 'blurb' by way of introduction to just what it is.

Revealing

*"More than 270 graduate schools of theology in the United States and Canada form The Association of Theological Schools. Member schools conduct post-baccalaureate professional and academic degree programs to educate persons for the practice of ministry and for teaching and research in the theological disciplines. **These schools differ from one another in deep and significant ways, but through their membership in ATS, they demonstrate a commitment to shared values about what constitutes good theological education.** Collectively, ATS member schools enrol approximately 74,500 students and employ more than 7,200 faculty and administrators."* (<http://www.ats.edu/about/overview>)

It is interesting that in the above 'blurb' there is a link to "shared values" and that link leads us to the following information.

"ATS Shared Values

The Association seeks to implement its mission with attention to four key values:

Diversity

ATS values the different expressions of faith that are represented by member schools and seeks to respect the varying understandings of theology, polity, religious leadership, and social commitments. (This must include the respecting of the blasphemous falsehoods of popery and liberalism.)

Quality and Improvement

ATS schools value quality in the practice of ministry and in educational practices. Quality is always linked to improvement; even schools that have achieved a high degree of quality can improve. The Association encourages schools to advance in quality.

Collegiality

ATS values the contributions that schools make to one another. Regardless of differences in theological perspective, organizational complexity, or institutional size, ATS schools, as peer institutions, can learn from one another, cooperate on common tasks that benefit the broader community of theological schools, and hold themselves accountable to common practices and quality. (Thus ATS is not merely an academic association but a body that promotes fellowship and cooperation between the institutions that share its accreditation - Roman Catholic, Liberal or whatever!!!)

Leadership

ATS values leadership and considers it essential for schools to attain their missions. ATS is committed to developing the skills and capacities of administrators, faculties, and boards of member schools.

In addition to these core values, the Association values formal education for ministerial leadership and



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

advocates on behalf of its benefits for religious leaders, religious institutions, and the work of religion in broader publics; values justice in society and institutions and seeks to embody justice in its organizational life; values accountability for student learning; and both values and advocates for quality in the practice of ministry."

(Bold type, underlining and highlighted comments are mine - IF).

Dr Beeke's seminary shares "a commitment to shared values" and a furthering of the ungodly aims of ATS through its like-accreditation with such 'pillars of Gospel Truth' as:

- Aquinas Institute of Theology (<http://www.ats.edu/member-schools/aquinas-institute-theology>);
- Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius (<http://www.ats.edu/member-schools/byzantine-catholic-seminary-ss-cyril-and-methodius>);
- Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (<http://www.ats.edu/member-schools/holy-cross-greek-orthodox-school-theology>);
- Immaculate Conception Seminary Seton Hall University (<http://www.ats.edu/member-schools/immaculate-conception-seminary-seton-hall-university>);
- among many, many other popish, ecumenical and apostate seats of 'learning'!!

Spiritual formation

One of the common curricular 'ingredients' for any college or seminary accredited by ATS is that they include in their curriculum the teaching of a subject termed, "Spiritual Formation" which is highly extolled on the ATS website.

"Spiritual Formation" has emerged as a new theological 'fad' which has gripped the whole camp of Ecumenical and New Evangelical thinking. A perusal of the article "**Introduction: The Good Theological School**" will make clear the views of ATS on this 'fad'!

What is it?

Just what "Spiritual Formation" is may be seen in the information contained in the following online articles. (Click to read)

1. Research: Spiritual formation (Christian Research Network)
2. An Epidemic of Apostasy – How Christian Seminaries Must Incorporate "Spiritual Formation" to Become Accredited
3. Christian Colleges Falling Deeper into Apostasy As They Cave in to Supreme Court Ruling

PLEASE NOTE: I am not familiar with all the views of the owners of these websites so I cannot endorse all that may be found on them but the information they provide on the subject of "Spiritual Formation" is very revealing! - The Editor

The fact that Joel Beeke and his fellow faculty members in PRTS were willing to come in under the umbrella of ATS in order to receive the perceived academic recognition that its endorsement would bring, and join the ranks of Roman Catholic institutions, ecumenical, modernistic and liberal schools which make up ATS, surely indicates disdain for the Word of God and its command to remain separate from that which is unclean.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is but one of many, many portions in Holy Scripture which deal with this vital matter.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

I can recall, some half century ago, the late Dr Carl McIntyre stressing the meaning of the word "touch" in verse 17 of this passage. He said that the word was one which carried the meaning of 'the very slightest contact to the most enthusiastic embrace!'

Compromise

Dr Beeke's college links with the 'unclean' ATS surely comes under the meaning of this word.

Does this not show the great compromise Dr Beeke and the whole Faculty of PRTS are prepared to engage in, in order to gain the perceived recognition and plaudits of 'Academia'!!

A readiness to mingle with the popish, modernistic, liberal and ecumenical institutions which are to be found in the ranks of ATS, must surely force upon those who have been slow to see and recognise just what is at work within the PRTS and the whole Beeke movement, a realisation that there is something very wrong at the heart of this camp!

This is but further evidence of the perfidious character of the witness of Dr Beeke. His former involvement with New Calvinists such as John Piper, and his continuing to share platforms with those who hold views shared by John Piper; indeed, he sells and promotes books written by Piper; his previously advocating of the "Refo 500" ecumenical organisation; and the scandalous propagation of error in the notes of his "Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible" (such as Peter being the 'Rock' on which the Church is built) must surely provide enough evidence to alarm those who have chosen to associate themselves with him, despite many faithful and substantiated warnings issued about his activities over a lengthy period of time.

However, as I set this article before God's people there comes to my mind the comment of God to Micah: "Hear ye now what the LORD saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice. Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel," Micah 6:1-2. The 'Geneva Bible' has the following comment on these words: "He took the high mountains and hard rocks as witnesses against the obstinacy of his people." John Gill makes a similar comment. "The Lord hereby suggests that they (the mountains) would as soon hear as his people; thus upbraiding their stupidity, as he elsewhere does."

There has been a stubbornness shown by some regarding the controversy surrounding the actions and evasiveness of Joel Beeke. Despite the abundant evidence of the man's unreliability, some cling to him.

Perhaps pride is at work. It is often difficult to admit an error of judgment and acknowledge the rightness of those who have sought to admonish us! But even when the people will not hear the preacher must still cry out and contend for God's truth, even if it is only to the mountains and hills!

Ivan Foster.

2/12/2015.

Important note from Pilgrims Covenant Church: Following a negative reaction to the Reformation Heritage Bible footnote spoken of in the article above, it was at least modified in the next printing of that same Bible. However, there are also other troubling footnotes which remain.