

THE SPROUTS AND TREES OF LIBERALISM

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The book, *Voices of Concern*, was published in 1966. It is composed of essays by seventeen writers. They criticize what they call “Church of Christism.” All of the writers did not hesitate to declare their educational sophistication, deep analytical thinking, future oriented perspective, anti-coercion approach to religion, thirst for knowledge, and freedom from dogma. Moreover, since such thinking does not instantaneously appear, this would imply that the views presented therein were not new. However, these writers point out that those guilty of “Church of Christism” are uneducated, legalistic, backward, outdated, bigoted, authoritarian, superior, and exclusive in their narrow-mindedness. Notice how they *purr* over themselves and *snarl* at their lesser brethren.

These writers are quick to inform us that they have grown beyond doctrine and argumentation. They have had some sort of religious experience. Thereby they confirmed their positions set out in “*Voices*” to be from God. This spiritual growth and development gave them what they could not find in “Church of Christism”—inner peace and oneness with God. By this “better felt than told” experience (whatever it is), the writers certified their beliefs to be Godly. Their personal “witness for Christ” was all they needed. “Sharing Christ,” not teaching and defending the gospel, was their goal and practice.

They tell us if one manifests this sweet spirit of peace and tranquility he is a brother in Christ. It is unloving, unkind, uncaring, harsh, rude, mean spirited, arrogant, and hateful to insist that all things be measured by the absolute objective standard of truth (the Bible). To do such is “Church of Christism.” To these “*Voices*,” this doctrinal mentality must be left far behind if one is to mature spiritually.

WHAT THOSE “VOICES” REALLY MEANT

Today the children of those “*Voices*” are many. They are the fruit of those sprouts now grown into trees. They openly fellowship denominations and the multitudes love to have it so. The “pious unimmersed” are acceptable to them. They despise the New Testament distinctives that make the Lord’s church different from the denominations. In his book, *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), **Adolph Hitler** set out exactly what he intended to do and did in Germany. As Hitler did in his book, the writers of *Voices of Concern* did for the church of Christ, but the church would not listen. Those “*Voices*” now control or have great influence in the schools of higher education (and certain preacher training schools) operated by members of the church of Christ. Most of the numerically larger churches are dominated in their thinking and practices by the sentiments expressed in *Voices of Concern*. Others

are tainted by their false doctrines. Swiftly they are ceasing to be the Lord's church. However, to this day some do not know such a book as *Voices of Concern* ever existed. In their willful ignorance, they are blind to what certain lying men in cunning craftiness intended to do, told us they would do, and did in and to the church of Christ in the last 50 years of the 20th Century. Is it nothing to all you that pass by?~