

THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM VS. BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

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Introduction: the Influence of Liberalism

Individually

My own experience & that of some I know
Bible course at Duke University raised a lot of questions that I couldn't answer. I was helped by coming into contact with the writings of CS Lewis. Others have eventually abandoned Christianity when they couldn't find answers.

Collectively

Effects in Europe, U.S., Korea (?)
Liberalism has gutted the mainline churches of the US and Europe.

The Bible

Its Authority / Inerrancy

Evangelicals note Biblical claims and accept Biblical authority & inerrancy.
Liberals note problem passages and reject inerrancy & often Biblical authority.
Similar situation re/ sinlessness of Christ, goodness of God
Each of these three is a revealed doctrine supported by evidence that Bible is God's revelation.

Its Authorship

Evangelicals don't object in principle to sources, multiple authorship, but believe Biblical claims about its own authorship.
But liberals reject external evidence of authorship for speculation.
See C.S. Lewis' essay "On Criticism" in collection *On Stories* (1982).

Its Miracles

Liberal arguments against miracle:
Hume, Harnack, Bultmann
What would a miracle look like?
Creation, fulfilled prophecy

The Person & Work of Jesus Christ

His Deity & Humanity

Taught throughout Bible: OT/NT, Gospels/Epistles
Liberal substitutions

His Sinlessness

By Biblical standards, not by world's

His Death as Payment for Sin

Also taught throughout Bible (Isa 53:4-6; 2 Cor 5:21;

1 Pet 3:18)

Necessary if God is to be just & declare sinners righteous (Rom 3:26)

His Resurrection

Not recovery from a coma, fraud by Jesus or disciples, or hallucinations

Appeared on numerous occasions, for extended periods of time, to multiple witnesses, of whom hundreds still alive years later

His Return

Liberal rejection takes form of scoffing in 2 Pet 3:3-4

We need to remember and remind others of evidence that Christianity true, as it will be too late when Christ returns or they die

Conclusions: What Can We Do? (Jude 20-25)

Keep ourselves

Have mercy on others

Trust God

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