

THE CROSS OF CHRIST MINISTRIES



THE CROSS

[The following article has been condensed and paraphrased from, The Cross of Christ Series, False Doctrine by Jimmy Swaggart].

The origin of the Government of 12 (G12) lies with one man, Caesar Castellanos of Bogota Columbia. After observing that his church was not growing to his satisfaction, he claims that through much prayer he received a vision directly from God. He traveled and visited Yonggi Cho prior to receiving the “vision” and implemented the cell group structure in his church with minimal success based on observation of Cho’s church structure.

To Castellanos “vision” is nothing more than visualization. He instructs his followers that they must dedicate time to “visualizing” what God has for them and their churches. G-12 then becomes the method or avenue by which they can attain these visualized goals.

Castellano’s persistent use of visualization clearly indicates an emphasis on the occult. Castellanos and others in the G12 structure strongly embrace Yonggi Cho’s concept of the fourth dimension. Cho believes that our thoughts can tap into the fourth dimension and create a reality around us in the third dimension in which we live. Cho believes that “The fourth dimension is the Holy Spirit” and that men, though “exploring their spiritual sphere of the fourth dimension through the development of concentrated visions and dreams in their imaginations , can brood over and incubate the third dimension, influencing it and changing it” Cho firmly believes that these revelations were given to him by the Holy Spirit. Paul Yonggi Cho, The Fourth Dimension.

TOTAL CONTROL

G12 is a discipleship program is about control and is presented as the best and perhaps the only way to win the world to Christ. Castellanos believes that this concept had its beginnings with Jesus and is the pattern for church growth today. He teaches that Jesus worked closely with twelve men and mentored them to take His place here on earth. Later, Paul trained a number of young men who became great leaders in the New Testament Church. He calls this mentoring technique “The Principle of Twelve.”

However there is a problem with this. Paul did not choose twelve young men, as it is claimed and Jesus **did not** train men to take His place on earth after He was gone! In fact this hierarchical doctrine, also used by the Catholic Church is an abomination. The Holy Spirit took the place of Jesus here on earth not twelve men, an apostle or a Pope. Jesus said, “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (Jn. 14:25-26).

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Castellanos and others using the G12 Model claim that the number 12 is known to be the number of God's Government in the Bible. While this is correct, let us quickly state that it is *not* God's government as outlined in His word.

THE PYRAMID SCHEME

The motivation of the G-12 shows a desire to rule disciplined nations as a religious government, and is not at all about individual relationships with Christ. G-12 can be surmised as a modern-day business model based on the pyramid scheme. It is the fabric of amalgamating worldly business techniques with modern Church growth techniques through concepts designed by business moguls to increase productivity in the business world. Now it has been brought into the church in order to garner "free labor" through volunteerism.

THE SEEDBED OF G-12

Actually this method did not really begin with Mr. Castellanos. It had its beginnings, at least in modern time, though Napoleon Hill, the author of several bestselling books such as *Think and Grow Rich*, and *The Law of Success*. Hill mentioned Jesus and His Disciples in a mentoring partnership he called "the mastermind." Hill was deeply influenced by the mind science religions and philosophers of the Nineteenth Century and believed that "Faith is the head chemist of the mind." He believed that faith is blended with the vibration of thought; the subconscious mind instantly picks up the vibration, translates it into the spiritual equivalent, and transmits it to Infinite Intelligence, as in the case of prayer. In fact this correlates to the force Yonggi Cho called the fourth dimension- the Holy Spirit. Hill has done nothing more than repackage an old lie and add a little "christianese" to lure pastors and Christians into his web of controlled modified works, in order to achieve the spreading of his vision.

The mechanics of the G-12 model can be summed up in a four step process:

Win-Consolidate-Disciple-Send. Castellanos defines WIN as a "Process through which we proclaim the Gospel to every person in a way that leads to repentance" He believes that "many souls are lost because we do not know how to present the Gospel" He also believes that "to be filled with the vision makes us reproducers of life which is God's will for all members of the Church." There are a multitude of errors in these few statements. God does not have a "process" for Believers to follow when witnessing. We are to be led by the Spirit understanding that every person is different. Only the Holy Spirit knows that individual (Jn. 6:44; 12:32; 1 Cor. 1:21). Whether he believes it or not Castellanos is replacing Jesus Christ as the Author of Life with believers as the source of life. Believers cannot reproduce life.

"Consolidation" is said by Castellanos to be "the care and attention that we should give to every new Believer in order to reproduce in him the character of Christ with the aim that he fulfills the purpose of God for his life which is to bear fruit that endures. By a system of charts, questionnaires and diagrams, the sanctification process begins which is in fact not a sanctification process at all. The Holy Spirit alone can sanctify the believer and He does not need to use psychological methods or mind control.

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G-12 promotes the pre-encounter process, which lasts for four weeks, with one hour per week of instruction in preparation for the encounter. Only people who have supposedly made a commitment to Christ can attend. This is meant to build momentum and expectation for the encounter weekend. The people who attend these encounters are not permitted any contact with the outside world and use of telephones or cell phones is forbidden. The person is to stay within their group, and they are to attend all functions within the three days of the encounter. Every person, at one time or another is required to attend one of these encounters. In other words, attendance at an encounter session is mandatory.

CONTROL IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

Every aspect of the G-12 model controls the life of the individual for the benefit of the vision. The god of G-12 is the vision or the process of multiplication. It is wrapped up in Christian terms but it redefines the meanings, the same as do the “Purpose Driven Church” and “Purpose Driven Life.” The G-12 adherents sign covenants. In their cell groups, they answer to a leader who learns everything about their lives and at times W-2’s and tax returns are demanded by group leaders to ensure that tithes and offerings are adequately paid. In some cases individuals have to seek permission as to who they can marry and jobs may have to be sacrificed if they interfere with the constantly conducted meetings.

THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Many of the encounter retreats use a questionnaire by Doris Wagner, the wife of C. Peter Wagner. The questionnaire asks very personal and intimate questions about past sins and experiences, including sexual relations. Family history and prior religious exposures are asked in preparation for deliverance at the encounter. Family curses and demon possession are handled at the encounter- or so they claim. People are asked to write down their sins, even sins that have long been forgotten by the Lord of Salvation. In some cases, they are asked to read them aloud and then to throw them in the fire or to trample upon them, which is meant to signify that their sins are gone.

What does the Bible say about such foolishness? First of all, these encounters are totally unscriptural. People who are truly born again are not possessed by demon spirits. While they definitely may be oppressed by demon spirits they may not be possessed. The answer to spiritual oppression is to look to Christ and what He has done for us on the cross. Bringing up sins that have been forgiven and washed clean long ago by the blood of Jesus is a direct insult to the Christ and what He accomplished on the cross.

Despite of their “visualization of the cross” followers of the G-12 model are “enemies of the cross.” The object of their faith is not the cross of Christ but rather their church and the G-12 rules and regulations. G-12 is simply another gospel. Some false doctrines are worse than others, and G-12 is one of the worst. It is a brainwashing technique that denies the leadership of the Holy Spirit and follows many of the same methods practiced by the communists years ago. The individual who gets

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involved with G-12 will not come out the same way that they went in. They will suffer regression rather than progression and may in fact lose their soul.

THE DOING OF RELIGION IS THE GREATEST NARCOTIC OF ALL

In one way or another, the entire world practices the “doing of religion” and G-12 is one of the biggest “doers” of them all. The doing of religion is the very opposite of faith, at least as the Bible teaches faith. While faith is very definitely involved in G-12, it’s not faith in Christ and the cross but rather in religious works. By these “works” men attempt to sanctify other men, or attempt to sanctify themselves. The Holy Spirit alone can sanctify us and He does so strictly by our faith in Christ and the cross and by no other means. (Romans 8:1-2, 11).

The function of the Holy Spirit in the Church is replaced in the G-12 vision by believers. Leaders are developed in a school that emphasizes the G-12 vision and the true calling of the Lord. Leaders are developed to have “influence” over their groups. Those within the group must submit to their leaders in an unscriptural manner. The group is where the individual is formed and molded for service for expanding the vision. The vision is the method for how disciples, through the multiplication process, are acquired, sanctified, and prepared to work the G-12 vision.

As Jeremiah said so long ago, they become “home born slaves” (Jer,2:13-14). If people are actually won to Christ, they are locked up in G-12 cells and do not know the true freedom of serving God through grace. They are caged with rules and fears of being cursed if they should disobey leadership. Great effort is used to have members write down all their spiritual activity. Bible reading and prayer time become chores. Members are accountable to their leaders by documenting a journal of all their activities. God help us to see that G-12 is no different than any other cult that seeks to control the mind of its initiates and use them as robotic tools to keep the life of the false organization alive. As all cults do they operate in law and not in grace!

Law requires a mediator. In the G-12 model each cell group leader becomes a facilitator (mediator) to their up-line (vertical authority) on behalf of their group. In large G-12 churches, it is unheard of for new adherents to speak to the head pastor let alone ask him a question. Like all cults the emphasis for the leadership is control. G-12 has its apostles who cover large regions of the world. They have borrowed from various modern church growth strategies, mind science, the occult, and psychology. G-12 has been able to succeed because it is propelled by seducing spirits. The unbridled flesh of believers who do not correctly understand the cross are prey for the G-12 model. Likewise, new converts who have always lived according to the law without grace are fertile pickings for this deception. Jesus said to take heed that no man deceive us. The Apostle Paul said that we should “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col.2:8).

Jimmy Swaggart