

Ecumenical Jihad,

by Peter Kreeft (Ignatius:1996) • Reviewed by Dr. Robert A. Morey

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I rarely read a book that frightens or alarms me because I am not an emotional person by nature and tend to take things in stride. But Peter Kreeft has managed to stir me from my dogmatic slumbers more than any other writer in the last five years. The back of the book has endorsements by Chuck Colson and J.I. Packer. I reproduce their endorsements below so that you can make up your own mind what they said about Kreeft's book.

"Peter Kreeft is one of the premier apologists in America today, witty, incisive and powerful. On the front lines in today's culture war, Kreeft is one of our most valiant intellectual warriors."

Chuck Colson

"This racy little book opens up a far-reaching theme. With entertaining insight Kreeft looks into the attitudes, alliances, and strategies that today's state of affairs requires of believers. Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox alike need to ponder Peter Kreeft's vision of things—preferably, in discussion together. What if he is right?"

J.I. Packer

The first question that comes to mind is, "Who is Peter Kreeft?"

1. Academically, he is a professor of philosophy at Boston College, a Roman Catholic Jesuit institution. His discussion of pagan religions reveals that he is well-versed in pagan philosophy.

2. Personally, he is a dedicated Roman Catholic whose manifest agenda is to destroy Protestantism and to exalt the Pope and his church as the one true Church. This agenda

runs throughout all his articles, books and lectures.

3. Psychologically, the reason why he is such a zealous Protestant-basher is that he was raised as a Protestant. He even attended Calvin College before converting to popery! Just as many ex-Catholics have an axe to grind against Rome, Kreeft has an axe to grind against Geneva. On page 80, he plainly states that Luther was a "heretic." While Kreeft tells us that such pagans such as Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad, etc. are now in heaven, he nowhere tells us that Luther or any of the other Reformers made it. It is clear that he believes that the Reformers are now in hell.

4. Spiritually, Kreeft is an apostate who has turned away from the Gospel of free grace and now preaches a works-based salvation. As a modern Judaizer, he is a false brother according to the Apostle Paul and is under the anathema of God for preaching a false gospel ([Gal. 1:8-10](#)).

5. Given the above facts, it is truly amazing that Kreeft speaks at Evangelical colleges and universities and is touted as a "Christian" apologist. His books are even used as textbooks in some Evangelical institutions and various campus ministries!

InterVarsity Press, at one time an Evangelical publisher, printed one of his books. In the book, *Handbook on Christian Apologetics*, (IVP, 1994), Kreeft and co-author Tacelli, (also a Jesuit), argue that it is not necessary to believe in or even hear of Jesus Christ to go to heaven. Pagans like Socrates made it to heaven without repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ (pgs. 323-335).

It is sad to remember that at one time IVP published books giving the pure Gospel to lost students such as Roman Catholics. But, since IVP now publishes books that deny eternal conscious punishment, justify abortion, reduce God to a pagan finite deity, and call for a "new" attitude toward sodomy, that it would now publish an apostate Protestant turned papist, seems par for the course. Let us pray that the leaders of IVP will become Christians and return to the Gospel.

6. Given these facts, who in his right mind would invite a Romanist zealot who preaches a different gospel with another way of salvation to lecture Evangelical students? What professor would recommend books written by Kreeft to his students? Only a "wolf in sheep's clothing" or someone who is incredibly ignorant or naïve.

7. The issues raised above cannot be avoided. The following propositions emphasize the radical nature of these questions.

Proposition #1: At the Reformation, the Council of Trent made it clear that the Protestant Gospel of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone was NOT the gospel of Rome.

Protestants and Romanists have two contradictory gospels that present two different ways of salvation. If one is true, the other is false. The Protestant blood shed by the Catholics during the Inquisition and the Thirty Years War sealed the contradiction forever.

Proposition #2: The wars waged by the Pope against Protestant nations had as their goal to bring all Christians under obedience to him.

Proposition #3: When it became clear that violence could not accomplish reunification with Rome, the Jesuit order was created to undermine the Reformation by philosophic sophistry. They were sent forth to build

universities and colleges throughout Protestant nations. These Jesuit schools (like Notre Dame) would promote reunification with Rome through natural theology and natural apologetics that are antithetical to the protestant doctrine of sola scriptura.

Proposition #4: Vatican I established natural theology as the official position of Roman Catholicism. There is a painting in the Cathedral of Pizza that depicts this dogma. St. Aquinas is standing with rays of light entering his mind from his left and from his right. On the right side, beams of light from the Bible shoot into his mind. But on his left, beams of light shoot into his mind from Plato and Aristotle. Thus Roman Catholic theology is a mixture of pagan thought and ideas from the Bible. As we shall see, Kreeft not only admits this, but boasts of it.

Proposition #5: Naive Evangelicals have converted over to Roman Catholic natural theology and philosophy. Some of them have become professors in Evangelical colleges and universities. They have even been invited to teach at such Jesuit schools as Notre Dame. Note: The Jesuits have NEVER hired a historic Reformation scholar to teach at their schools. Nor would they let a Protestant theologian evangelize their students.

Proposition #6: Using the pagan philosophy of Aristotle via Thomas Aquinas as a Trojan Horse, Jesuit-influenced Protestant professors introduced "natural" theology in Evangelical circles as a substitute for the Sola Scriptura of the Reformation.

Instead of going to the Bible for apologetics, theology, and philosophy, these professors follow the standard Catholic methodology of relying on their own reason, experience, and feelings. Such Jesuit doctrines as "Middle Knowledge" have become a fad in some evangelical circles because natural theology

has always been hostile to the sovereign grace of God as well as to Sola Scriptura.

Proposition #7: Some of these Jesuit-influenced professors have lately become quite bold in their support of the ecumenical movement. They openly teach that Roman Catholicism is a true church. Catholics such as Kreeft are embraced as "brothers" and any Protestant who objects is condemned as "mean" or "unloving."

Hank Hannegraff and CRI are a good example of this. While they have embraced Jesuit priests as "Brothers," they attack Dave Hunt and all faithful Protestants. In his book on the *Resurrection*, Hannegraff even refers to Kreeft as his authority! My two-hour debate with CRI on whether Roman Catholicism is a true or false church can be obtained by calling 1-800-41-TRUTH. It is called the "Ecumenical Debate."

Proposition #8: The heresy of UNIVERSALISM has now gained popularity in many Evangelical circles. Universalism teaches that there is not just one way of salvation. People can be saved without ever hearing or believing the gospel found in the Bible.

The Bible states that the ONLY WAY to heaven is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. You must repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. But now some say that the Roman Catholic gospel of works will save you just as much as the Protestant gospel of grace. It does not matter that they are contradictory ways of salvation and thus different gospels. They are just different ways of salvation.

Proposition #9: The "Evangelical and Catholic Accord" was the first visible attempt to begin the process of reunification with Rome. The Reformation was abandoned and the gospel of the free grace of God was denied. This Accord

was also endorsed and promoted by Chuck Colson and J. I. Packer.

Proposition #10: Evangelical leaders such as John Ankerberg, James Kennedy, John MacArthur, and others saw the danger of the Accord and denounced it as heretical. It was a Trojan Horse that had, as its hidden agenda, the yolk of Rome.

Proposition #11: Kreeft and other Roman Catholics should be viewed as non-Christians who need to be saved. They should be refused the opportunity of infecting our students with popish heresies. Since Catholics do not allow us to evangelize their students, why should we allow them to evangelize ours? Kreeft and those like him need to be saved from the wrath to come. We should pray for their salvation.

Proposition #12: The ultimate agenda of Rome is not limited to making Protestants bow before the Pope, but to unite all religions into a one-world religion with the Pope as its head. Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Protestants, Orthodox, the cults, the occult, native religions and witches have all been invited to meet with the Pope in joint prayer meetings at the Vatican. These prayer meetings have already taken place and included representatives from all religions. The Pope went so far as to kiss the Qur'an!

Proposition #13: Kreeft is an eloquent spokesman for this new form of universalism. His vision includes all religions worshipping Mary and the Eucharist. That this is his agenda is clear from what he wrote in *Ecumenical Jihad*.

Proposition #14: The time has come for Bible believing Christians to stand up and be counted against universalism. Did our Protestant forefathers die in vain? Was their blood shed in vain? The Bible you hold in your

hand came from the Reformation, not from Rome. Religious freedom did not come from Rome but from the Reformation. It is at your own peril if you forget these historical realities.

Kreeft's Vision:

"God's people" is composed of all human beings who attempt to live a good life. Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, New Agers, witches, native religions, cultists, the occultists, and even sincere atheists and agnostics are all part of the "City of God" and they all have the same Commander (God)- even if they do not acknowledge this while on earth. Once they reach heaven, they will all join with Catholics in worshipping Mary and the Eucharist.

Kreeft relates on pgs. 85f an occult experience in which he left his body and went to heaven. Who should he find in heaven but Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad and other pagan religious leaders. He relates how these spirit guides led him to see that they all followed God in their own way. Now in heaven, they see the full light of the Eucharist and worship Mary.

The following citations will demonstrate the accuracy of our analysis of what Kreeft believes.

"my heroes Jesus and Socrates" p. 9

"many of our former enemies (for example, Muslims) are now our friends" p.9

"The first millennium was the millennium of Christian unity...The second millennium was the millennium of Christian disunity...the third millennium will be the millennium of the resurrection of unity, reunification." p.26

"Allah is not another God...we worship the same God" p.30

"Islam, our ancient foe, is beginning to become our friend." p.37

"Why is Islam expanding so spectacularly?..because God keeps His promises and blesses those who obey His Laws and fear Him and punishes those who do not." p.38

"the emergency is so great that prudence dictates a moratorium on our polemics against each other and our attempts to convert each other" p.38

"Protestant, Orthodox, Catholic, Jewish-practice Islam: total and absolute submission and surrender to God's will" p. 39

"Islam is growing faster than Christianity in America because Muslims want to be saints more than Christians do." p. 60

"The same God! The very same God we worship in Christ is the God of the Jews-and the Muslims-worship." p. 160

"we can and should investigate and learn from the wisdom in other religions" p.79

"medieval Scholastic philosophers, especially Saint Thomas, studied and used the pagan philosophers."

"The result of this open-minded yet critical attitude was the rich synthesis, or marriage, of faith and reason that we know as Christian philosophy." p.80

"Many Christian writers who thoughtlessly rejected all non-Christian writers as dangerous to the faith eventually became heretics themselves and left the Church (for example...Luther)" p. 80

"Brother Socrates" p.118

"Catholicism agrees with paganism more than with Protestantism in being robustly sacramental. Catholicism is more like African religion than Scandinavian religion...Catholics believe pagans are right and Protestants are wrong" p.150

"Perhaps in heaven the most ardent worshippers of the Eucharistic Christ will be the "outsiders," like pious Muslims." p.164

"The power that will reunite the Church and win the world is Eucharistic adoration." p.164

"the distinctly Catholic devotion of the Eucharist (and to Mary) may prove to be the key to victory in ecumenicism and in the "culture war." p. 172

Conclusion

Kreeft and those like him are deluded as well as heretical. They are not Christians in the biblical sense. We do not really have much in common with them. By their idolatrous doctrine of the Eucharist bread, they deny the incarnate humanity of Jesus. Thus we do not even worship the same Christ!

If Kreeft comes to speak at your school, make a fuss and let people know that he is antichrist. If his books are used as textbooks, go to the Board of your school and reveal that heresy is being taught at your school. All you have to do to see the antichrist's one world

religion take over your church or school is to sit back and do nothing.



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