

**Question:** I'm confused by a book that is very popular among my circle of Christian friends. It's titled *The Shack*, and although it is endorsed by some leading evangelicals, I was freaked out by it and couldn't actually finish it. I don't understand how anyone thinks he can put God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in a fictional situation and then have them speak the words out of his own imagination. Isn't this dead wrong?

**Response:** Yes. It's also blasphemy. Here is a definition of that word from *Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language*: "[It] is an injury offered to God, by denying that which is due and belonging to Him, or attributing to Him that which is not [true to] His nature." *The Shack's* author, William P. Young, conjures up God the Father as a hip-talking, now-and-then crude black woman referred to as "Papa," Jesus as a sometimes inept good ol' boy enamored with His humanity and creation, and the Holy Spirit as a wisp of a woman from Asia, who gardens and collects tears. Shouldn't that be enough to turn off or offend those who profess to truly know the God of the Bible? Evidently not. Christians have pushed sales of *The Shack* to beyond one million copies at this writing.

Idolatry is another major abomination of the book. Young manufactures out of his own imagination an image of God and the Holy Spirit. That is condemned ([Exodus 20:4](#)) by God for understandable reasons. Any attempt by finite, fallen man even to hint at a material image of Deity would result in an absolutely false representation, let alone an offensive caricature of Almighty God. Furthermore, these two Persons of the Trinity are Spirits, who never appear in physical form, certainly not as females (nor in drag, which the Scriptures condemn!), nor are they ever *referred* to as female.

*The Shack* is clearly the work of a false prophet. The sense in which we're using the word "prophet" here is not that of declaring forthcoming events but rather speaking forth the words of God ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)). The dialogue Young has created for his fictional God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is heretical and a defamation against the character of the Persons of the Godhead. For example, Papa declares to the central figure, "Well, Mackenzie, don't just stand there gawkin' with your mouth open like your pants are full." Jesus, who can't seem to restrain his giggles and chuckles, after receiving a kiss from Papa and loving "her" earthiness, declares, "She's a riot." "Mack's" interaction with *his* "trinity" is part-time funfest, part-time

inner healing methodologies and catharses, and part-time God explaining Himself (which He left out of the Bible!), and all of it intermingled with hugs, kisses, and other displays that reveal them to be *so much like us*.

The audacity of anyone putting his own words in the mouth of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit (under the guise of fiction or not) is beneath contempt. Incredibly, that hasn't deterred conservative evangelical leader Gale Erwin, charismatic leader James Ryle, Emerging Church writer Jim Palmer, and evangelical celebrity Michael W. Smith from endorsing *The Shack*, and many Christians can't seem to get enough of its "make me feel better about myself and God" talk.

Cultists have written volumes claiming to speak for God; now we have it in the church! Ravi Zacharias wrote three supposedly apologetic books not too long ago featuring Jesus in conversation with Buddha, Oscar Wilde, and Confucius. Eugene Peterson, whose *The Message Bible* majored in substituting his own words for God's, is the featured endorser of *The Shack* ("This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* did for his. It's that good!"). No, "this book" is one more instrument of Satan's grand scheme to undermine the Word of God for this generation, the basis of which began in the Garden of Eden with his seductive words to Eve: "Yea, hath God said...?"

Space prevents me from further exposing the rampant heresies, psychobabble, and the pervasive denigration of God, His Word, and His church throughout *The Shack*. But then, if what has been presented above isn't reason enough to reject the book, or an appeal to be a Berean, it's unlikely that a few more pages of input will be either convincing or convicting, especially for the many who claim their lives have been forever changed by this work of antibiblical fiction.

### **News Alert**

***U.S. Religious Landscape Survey Report II, 6/23/2008 [Excerpts]:*** The U.S. Religious Landscape Survey Report by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life details the religious makeup...beliefs and practices [and] social and political attitudes of the American public. This survey of more than 35,000 American adults is one of the largest and most comprehensive studies of its kind.

Data on their beliefs and practices reveal that although more than half of Americans say religion is very important in their lives, most hold a non-dogmatic view of their faith, with majorities believing that there is more than one way to interpret the teachings of their own faith and that many religions-not just their own-can lead to eternal life.

Examples include:

- 53% of evangelicals believe there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of my religion
- 57% of evangelicals believe that many religions can lead to eternal life
- 83% of mainline Protestants and 79% of Catholics believe that many religions can lead to eternal life
- 82% of Jews believe that many religions can lead to eternal life.

*[TBC: What is obviously disturbing about this survey is that more than half of those who profess to be Bible-believing Christians reject what the Bible teaches about God's truth and His way of salvation. This growing trend, along with other data from the survey showing that all other religions overwhelmingly believe that there are many ways to obtain salvation, supports the prophecies that indicate that there will be an ecumenical religion in the end times that will accept all beliefs. That of course is the religion that will bring together "all who dwell upon the earth" to worship the Antichrist ([Revelation 13:8](#)).]*

[The Berean Call](#)

[Posted by FindingTheChurch.com](#)