

CONCERNS ABOUT THE INSIDER MOVEMENT AND THOSE INVOLVED WITH IT

by Don McCurry

Listed below are the issues of concern regarding the Insider Movement that may have a harmful effect on those organizations and individuals involved in it or promoting it. Please note that not everyone in the IM does all the things listed below. This is a composite of impressions.

1. The misinterpretation of Scripture to justify staying a Muslim:

1 Cor. 7: 17, 20, 24; I Cor. 9:19-23; Acts 15:1-29; Acts 17:22-33; John 4: 1-42; and 2 Kings 5: 18, 19. Sound hermeneutics does not justify appropriating any of these Scripture for the purpose of urging Muslim who profess faith in Christ to stay in Islam.

2. A failure to discern the true nature of Islam, that is, the “powers” working through Muhammad, the teaching of the Quran and the formation of Shariah Law. The spirit(s) working in Muhammad, the Quran and Shariah Law is/are (a) spirit(s) that deny/denies the very heart of the Gospel message.

3. Creating a “churchless” form of Islamochristism that is plainly syncretistic. By keeping Muslims in Islam, you are denying them their true identification and open fellowship with believers in the worldwide body of Christ called “The Church.”

4. Being part of a movement where some are guilty of changing the Word of God in those cases of translations where other names are substituted for “Father” and “Son.” All may not be guilty of this, but you are now associated with those who have denied God the right to contextualize Himself in the one universal context common to all humanity, that is, the family. He is our heavenly Father and wants us to know that. And as true believers in his Son Jesus Christ, we are adopted into his family as sons and daughters. Furthermore, Jesus even deigns to calls us “his brothers and his sisters and his mother,” used in the context of being his family. Islam has created a segment of humanity that is spiritually orphaned. Muslim have been denied that knowledge that God is the Father of us all and that he wants all of us to come out of the world and into his family as his sons and daughters through his One and Only Son Jesus Christ.

5. Freezing the discipleship process at a sub-par level. There are at least two points to this charge. The first is that there is a denial of opportunity for new believers in Christ from a Muslim background to fellowship freely with others in the body of Christ and thus benefit from that fellowship. The second is that there is an absence of teaching on coming out of the world and being willing to bear the consequence for doing so, meaning taking up your cross, and being willing to suffer persecution for the Lord. On balance, disciples in the Insider Movement will never mature through fellowship with other

believers outside of this movement, nor will they mature through suffering for the name of Christ or the name “Christian.”

As an aside, some proponents of the Insider Movement actually slander the established churches and those who choose to call themselves “Christian.”

6. Falsely claiming the “Insider Movement” is not a strategy to help the Muslim avoid persecution. It certainly is designed to avoid persecution by keeping people in Islam, and by teaching them to continue to call themselves “Muslims.” By saying the movement is not designed to avoid persecution is terribly misleading and in the end is a form of hypocrisy.

7. Serious biblically grounded Christian leaders such as Dr. Timothy Tennent, the President of Asbury Theological Seminary and Dr. Dominic Aquila, the President of New Geneva Theological Seminary (and I am sure we could find thousands of others), have rightly observed that the proponents of the Insider Movement are teaching a form of syncretism. In other words, the proponents of this movement are trying to mix two antithetically opposed spirits, the Spirit of God working through the Word of God and the Church and the spirit(s) working in and through the Quran and Shariah Law.

8. Lastly, Islam is a very old wineskin -- almost fourteen centuries old. Many scholars have maintained that Islam is heavily influenced by Judaism – the Judaism wineskin Jesus attacked. Jesus said new wine should not be put in old wineskins. The proponents of the Insider Movement have failed to even conceive of Islam as an old wineskin. And by this failure, they are trying to do the very thing that Jesus told us not to do.