

**1. A denial of the sufficiency of Scripture**

- is the Bible sufficient or do we need cultural studies to show us how to run a church?
- psychology, anthropology and sociology are primary influences in the church
- we must consult the Lord and His word

(2 Tim 3:15-17; Isa 8:19, 45:11)

**2. An ignorance of God**

- everything is ultimately about knowing God
- it is eternal life to know Him
- because most Christians don't know God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture, their god is one out of their own imagination

(1 Cor 15:34; Acts 17:30; Jer 9:23-24)

**3. A failure to address man's malady**

- sin is dealt with superficially
- emphasizing God's unconditional love rather than His holy requirements and judgment
- if we refuse to teach on the depravity of man it is impossible to bring glory to God
- diminishing a person's wickedness robs the sinner of the opportunity to truly love God and to boast in Him rather than in self

(Rom 3:10-12; Jer 6:14)

**4. An ignorance of the gospel of Jesus Christ**

- we have traded regeneration for decisionism
- the nature of God and the nature of fallen man have to be clearly understood
- How can a just God justify the wicked sinner?
- the presentation of the gospel must include the justice and the wrath of God
- being "born again" will always show evidence that can be examined

(Rom 5:8-9; Pro 17:15; Jn 3:7; 2 Co 13:5; 2 Pet 1:10)

**5. An unbiblical gospel invitation**

- "ask Jesus into your heart"
- "pray the sinner's prayer"
- "commit your life to Christ"
- people think they are going to heaven based on the sincerity of their decision
- belief in the myth of the "carnal believer"

(Mk 1:15; 2 Cor 13:5; Lk 6:44)

**6. An ignorance regarding the nature of the church**

- the church, the precious bride of Christ, is the pillar and support (ground) of the truth
- today she is frail, weak; not perfect
- there are goats among the sheep, unsaved among the saved; so-called brothers
- as a result believers are disdained and God is blasphemed in the world

(1 Tim 3:15; Rom 2:24)

**7. A lack of compassionate church discipline**

- the church is meant to confront the world's culture by obeying God
- when sin is practiced in the church it cannot be ignored but must be caringly dealt with

(Gal 6:1; Mt 18:15-17)

**8. A silence on separation (set apartness)**

- the church is called to walk in holiness
- God is the one who works growth in holiness and purity in all who are His own
- without holiness no one will see the Lord

(2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Heb 12:14)

**9. A replacement of the Bible regarding the family**

- biblically the family is the primary place of learning the ways and the fear of the Lord
- the father is to be the spiritual leader of the home, the impartor of the knowledge of God
- today the Scripture has been replaced by psychology, sociology and current wisdom of the "experts"

(Col 2:8; Gen 18:19; Deut 6:6-7)

**10. Pastors, and thus also the flock, malnourished in the word of God**

- a minister or pastor must be constantly nourished on the words of the faith and sound doctrine

(1 Tim 4:1-16)