

Acts 29

Network of Churches
by Les Dennis

This article will expose the tactics of the Acts 29 Network of Churches. The founder, Mark Driscoll, is known as the *cussing pastor*. He is known for his inappropriate use of language in the pulpit. He built the Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington using sexualized sermons as a drawing card. The church grew very quickly into a very large church. While not all of his followers take the use of inappropriate language as far as Driscoll does, many of them go much, much farther than most people who are likely to be reading are prepared to accept.

Acts 29

The founder of Acts 29 takes a very different view of what is proper to say in the pulpit than most churches with which we associate. Mark Driscoll, the founder of Acts 29, is no longer head of it, but being the founder, he had a major influence in determining its direction.

The difficulty of writing about Acts 29 and Mark Driscoll is that a quotation may be too explicit to put into this article. If he is not quoted, there is always the possibility of readers believing that it could not be as bad as I have suggested.

Driscoll's Own Statement about His Sermons

"Some of the sermons on sex were R-rated, and we gave warnings to parents and sometimes saw whole visiting youth groups walk out blushing halfway through the sermon. On other occasions, people walked out during the sermon and flipped me off on their way out, a trend that has continued." (Confessions, p.134)

A few quotations from Driscoll's sermon called "Sex, a Study of the Good Bits from Song of Solomon" would illustrate his explicit sexual statements made in the pulpit, but I will not use that language in this article. If you want the full story, do an Internet search on the sermon title.

Views on Alcohol

Without going into the discussion as to whether or not it is wrong to drink alcohol even in moderation, Driscoll's view that it is a sin *not* to drink alcohol is a bit extreme. The following quotation expresses his view very well: "My Bible study convicted me of my sin of abstinence from alcohol. So in repentance I drank a hard cider over lunch with our worship pastor." (Radical Reformation, p.146)

Acts 29 Church Planting

Acts 29 is involved in church planting and replanting. Their replanting involves going to a dysfunctional church and offering to make them a successful church if they will give total control over to the re-planter. They do not always make it clear that the current membership will be abolished and the Acts 29 re-planter will have the right to determine who if any of the current membership may be members of the new church. It amounts to a takeover of resources. Those resources are then used to start an extremely contemporary church, which is reformed in doctrine and tolerant of if not part of the charismatic movement. If you have doubts, go to the Acts 29 Network website and read their own declaration of their doctrines.

A Better Way to Become a Functional Church

If a dysfunctional church is to become functional, the correct way is for the church to give control of the church back to the Lord. When the Lord is in control, a church is functional. If it is dysfunctional, the Lord is not in control. If the Lord is not in control, someone else is in control. The only hope is for the controller to give the control back to the Lord, or for the membership to take control away from the person in control of the church and return that control to the Lord. This is usually called revival.

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