

PAGAN CHRISTIANITY BY FRANK VIOLA ESSAY

Hey! For the first time ever, someone famous commented on my blog. One of the authors of the book, Frank Viola, clarified some things that I.

I don't doubt that the sacraments have become a shadow of what they once were. If we all we do is deconstruct, what will we build up? Finally, he objects that Constantine did not close pagan temples or destroy them. No need to discuss further the specifics applied to the pulpit and the pew and the choir' it's all "blame the environment. He has sold more books based on survey research related to matters of faith than any author in American history. Or maybe in fellowships at other times? Lists like these were normal features of rhetorical discourse and were not intended literally. Now the other: However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"[a]â€” 10but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. Viola says that reading his book will set you on a "terrifying journey," "where you will be forced to ask questions that probably have never entered your conscious thoughts. I remember where that guy interrupted the Sermon on the Mount and Paul's talk to the Areopagus, don't you? There is also more anachronistic "Jesus is my buddy" commentary: "We are transformed by regular encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ. They have three adopted daughters and live in southern California. In the end notes, Viola says the Winchester story was just a "humorous way to illustrate" how so many Christians go through the motions on Sunday morning without knowing why. If Viola thinks "spiritual revelation" is a path to knowing God, the Mormons have a few words for him. It would at least have to rent someplace or somehow get a place. How can the brothers and sisters learn from one another if they are prevented from speaking in the meetings? But the answer to the latter is to make the sermons more useful, not do away with sermons altogether; more on this in a moment. Exhortations, teaching, encouragements, poems, songs, and testimonies all followed one right after the other. Winchester says church "bores me to tears. This is true, but has no bearing on the institution of buildings, officials, and ceremonies in the church. The Lord's Supper was undoubtedly a real meal, not just juice and crackers; we'd do well to have small group settings with real sacraments. Spurgeon who never had serious training -- but these are exactly the sort of people who have also made serious mistakes incontextual exegesis that have turned Western Christianity into the mess it is today. For Viola to describe himself and others as "daring" just because, e. Tozer and C. True, I have said as much myself, but the answer is not to get rid of sermons but to improve their content. The fact that Viola CAN pose himself as a lone voice in the wilderness should tell him this, but it doesn't. That is for sure. Far too many pastors are either insufficiently educated, or take on too much work they should spread around, or both. The red herring is offered that the issue is that such ministers alone can "preach, teach, baptize, or administer the Lord's Supper" due to formal training. This is ironic also: "Seminarions and Bible college students alike are rarely if ever given a panoramic view of the free-flowing story of the early church with the New Testament books arranged in chronological order. While there are some who read church as we understand it into the New Testament, Viola does exactly the same thing from a radically different angle an approach that flows out of his personal story of frustration and discontent in the traditional church. Viola's portrayal of himself and his ideological cohorts as some sort of heroes is far overplayed. Viola makes much over how people have used "church" to describe a building rather than the people in it. The metaphor of the Body suggests that we all do what we do best. The truth of course lies somewhere in between, and the question remains, just how much of what appears in the New Testament is descriptive gives a snapshot of some of the things that were going on rather than prescriptive tells us how to do things for all time.