



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Cliff Richards - Sincere or Synthetic?



The answer is possibly the first but also most certainly the second. Cliff Richards, recently voted the best known Christian, is modern, charismatic neo-evangelicalism incarnate! He may well be sincere in his views but they are wrong, and therefore synthetic in the light of the Bible, and that is the important issue. His is a Christianity without due regard for God's Word, without a true concept of repentance for sin, without conformity to the holy will of God, without any evidence of a sense of the fear of the Lord. All of these elements are essential to true Christianity.

It may well be said, indeed, I am sure it will be said, that I am being judgmental. But of course I am. That is what is required of any believer when they are commanded to discern between the false and the true! A look at Matthew 7:15-20; 24:5-6, 23-26; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:6-18; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 4:1; Jude 3-4 will give some idea of just how judgmental a Christian is required to be in order to follow that which is right and reject that which is wrong.

Were God's people to discern rightly between the false and the true, evil and the good, there would be fewer Christian bookshops selling the books and records of the likes of Cliff Richards and fewer foolish Christians buying them. Cliff Richards' latest contribution to "pop" music was his "Millennium Prayer," a setting of the words of the Lord's Prayer to the tune of Auld Lang Syne. It was the best selling record in the few weeks leading up to the end of 1999. Sadly, in an age when the doctrines of the gospel are hidden to many, even to those who profess to be believers, Cliff Richards is considered to be a Christian, despite the very public unchristian lifestyle he leads.

The purpose of Christ's death on the cross was that He *might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father* (Galatians 1:4). The evidence of true regeneration is a thorough and lasting change in the direction, character and environment of the life. There must be a conforming to the standards of God's Word. This is vividly illustrated by the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41-44). Upon receiving life from Christ, Lazarus immediately leaves the place of the dead and seeks the company of the living, desiring to be rid of the very clothes that are associated with the tomb. This illustrates the change of which Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians 5:17. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Cliff Richards lives in complete opposition to this truth. He has spent his whole adult life in the wicked and sleazy world of show business. At what stage in his career he was supposedly converted, I do not know but I do know that it made not the slightest difference to the direction and character of his life. What he was singing and doing 30 years ago, he is still doing and singing!

If ever there was an opportunity for Cliff Richards to manifest the grace of God which he professes to have experienced, it was when he sang the Lord's Prayer. But in truth, his "performance" of this rendition of the words of Christ clearly shows that he is a poor, de-



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cluded, graceless sinner. To make a "pop" song out of the Lord's Prayer to start with shows an utter lack of the fear and reverence that is due to the Word of God. To sing these hallowed words, while surrounded by half-naked women wantonly gyrating around a stage, is a blasphemous defiance of God, approaching that of the profanity of Belshazzar in Daniel 5:1-4. Sadly, as the darkness of the latter-day apostasy deepens, the "Christianity" of the Cliff Richards of this world is becoming ever more popular. Many who are true believers clearly seek to emulate his success and adopt his crooning, show-bizzy style, even to the extent of surrounding themselves with fawning female singers, attired more suitably for a dance hall than a place of worship. They thus hope to increase their popularity and sales by pandering to the fleshly demands of a godless, rebellious generation. Which should a Christian seek after -- increased popularity and applause leading to increased sales and income or to hear from the lips of Christ the words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant?"

The answer is surely obvious.