

- Feelings are emphasized. Feelings become fact. Therefore, feelings have more authority than the Word of God has.

2021-10-03 PC, MC, SW.  
The Truth. #12. Steven Loots.

### 3. Essential Christian doctrines are open for re-interpretation.

Comments you might hear:

- The resurrection of Jesus doesn't have to be factual to speak truth.
- The church's historic position on sexuality is archaic and needs to be updated within a modern framework...
- The idea of a literal hell is offensive to non-Christians and needs to be re-interpreted...
- The teaching of "Mans Original Sin" is just a way to make people feel guilty.

### 4. Progressive Christianity take "Historic terms and re-define" them.

Comments you might hear:

- God wouldn't punish sinners—He is love....
- Sure, the Bible is authoritative—but we've misunderstood it for the first 2,000 years of church history...
- It's not our job to talk to anyone about sin—it's our job to just love people....

### 5. The heart of the Gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social justice.

Comments you might hear:

- Sin doesn't separate us from God—we are made in His image and He called us good.... People just need to realize that they are good.
- God didn't actually require a sacrifice for our sins—the first Christians picked up on the pagan practice of animal sacrifice and told the Jesus story in terms of sacrifice.
- They interpreted Jesus in terms of pagan culture.
- We don't really need to preach the gospel—we just need to show love by bringing justice to the oppressed and provision to the needy...
- We just need to bring awareness, awake-ness; wokeness.

**"Watch out for false prophets" who "come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves" (Matthew 7:15).**

## What is Progressive Christianity? 2 Their own definitions.

**Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14:5-7**

What "Progressive Christianity" is as stated on their website called **progressivechristianity.org**.

### Eight basic Tenants of Progressive Christianity.

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. *Believe that following the path of the **teacher** Jesus can lead to healing and wholeness, a mystical connection to "God," as well as an awareness and experience of not only the Sacred, but the Oneness and Unity of all life.*
2. *Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide **but one of many ways** to experience "God," the Sacredness, Oneness and Unity of life, and that we can draw from **diverse sources of wisdom**, including **Earth**, in our spiritual journey.*

The most basic level of what this "2<sup>nd</sup>" tenant of faith is saying is:

- It Denies Jesus blood atonement for our sins.
- It denies the substitutionary atonement that someone who was perfect before God had to die in our place because we are all sinners.
- It takes away the power and work of the cross and makes the cross unnecessary because if all roads lead to God – then why did Jesus have to die at all.
- It makes God weak and powerless.

Progressive Christians answer to the question “then why did Jesus have to die” is simply:

- Jesus angered the political elite and was murdered because of that, but He did not die for our sins.

3. *Seek and create community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to the following:*

- *Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics.*
- *Believers and agnostics.*
- *Those of all races, cultures, and nationalities.*  
(Christianity does not argue with this point because it is a true Christian statement.)
- *Those of all sexual orientations and all gender identities.*
- *Those of all classes and abilities.*
- *Those historically marginalized.*
- *All creatures and plant life.*

4. *Know that the way we behave towards **one another and Earth** is the fullest expression of what we believe, therefore we vow to **walk as Jesus might have walked** in this world with radical compassion, inclusion, and bravery to confront and positively change the injustices we experience as well as those we see others experiencing.*

5. *Find grace in the **search for understanding** and believe there is more value in questioning with an open mind and open heart, than in absolutes or dogma.*

6. *Work toward **peace** and **justice** among all people and all life on Earth;*

7. *Protect and restore the integrity of our Earth and all of Creation.*

8. *Commit to a path of **life-long learning**, compassion, and selfless love on this journey toward a personally authentic and meaningful faith.*

The good things that we find here are:

- A life of compassion.
- A call to love.
- Standing up for the underdog.
- Many of the things the church should be doing – but often is not.

A lot of what Progressive Christianity stands for, started with:

- Addressing some of the hypocrisy within the church.
- Addressing people in the church who are more political than Christian.
- Addressing people who quote the bible but do not apply it to their own lives.
- Addressing people who speak about love but come across harshly.

### How do you spot a progressive church? “Alisa Childers”

Progressive Christianity bases their theology on:

- 1) Personal conscience or experience.
- 2) Cultural norms.

- ❖ Progressive Christianity denies God’s answer to the #1 problem in the world - SIN.

(5 ways to identify Progressive Christianity.)

#### 1. **Progressive Christians have a lowered view of the Bible.**

Comments you might hear PC say:

- The Bible contains the word of God. They will not say “The Bible is the Word of God.”
- The Bible is a human book...
- I disagree with the Apostle Paul on this issue...

#### 2. **Feelings are emphasized over facts.**

Comments you might hear:

- That Bible verse does not resonate with me....
- I thought homosexuality was a sin until I met and befriended some gay people....
- I just can’t believe Jesus would send good people to hell....