

There are four types of Christian expression predominant in the United States today. We shall call them:

1. The Seeker Sensitive Expression
2. The Legalistic Conservative Expression
3. The Liberal Denominations Gone Astray Expression
4. The Healthy Disciple Expression

The first two have a popular belief that has reduced their effectiveness to practically nothing. This popular belief is a travesty. A “Travesty” is defined as:

1. a literary or artistic burlesque of a serious work or subject, characterized by grotesque or ludicrous incongruity of style, treatment, or subject matter.
2. a literary or artistic composition so inferior in quality as to be merely a grotesque imitation of its model.
3. any grotesque or debased likeness or imitation.

[<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/travesty> 9/13/2011]

It is difficult to believe that human beings can take a subject of the importance and majesty such as the second coming of Christ and in all seriousness turn it into a joke and a travesty.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

These two verses are fantastic in their simplicity and magnificence. And yet John Nelson Darby, 1800 – 1882, C.I. Scofield, 1843 – 1921, and Hal Lindsay, b. 1929, have duped millions of Christians into believing things about the second coming of Christ and the “secret rapture” to the extent that the church’s influence has all but vanished in American culture.

The title of the third type is self explanatory.

The fourth type is what the church should be and often is under many different names. These congregations are usually smaller. 64% of American Protestant Christians go to churches with less than 200 members. Why is this?

“Despite the substantial attention focused on Protestant mega-churches, such congregations draw about 9% of adults who frequent a Protestant church. In contrast, 41% of adults attending a Protestant church associate with a congregation of 100 or fewer adults. An additional 23% can be found at churches of 101 to 200 adults, 18% associate with bodies of 201 to 499 adults, and 9% can be found in churches of 500 to 999 adults.”

[<http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/12-faithspirituality/289-how-faith-varies-by-church-size?q=church+size> 9/13/2011]