

THE N.A.R.: MYTH OR LEGEND

By Stephen Powell

1. **Defining NAR**
2. **Redemptive Qualities of the NAR**
3. **Critical Problems with NAR**

1. **Defining the NAR**

- a. Myth or Movement?
 - i. Although the term was originally coined by C. Peter Wagner (NAR - New Apostolic Reformation) in the late 90's / early 2000's, and used for his growing network of apostles and prophets around the world at the time, it's since come to represent a significant part of the Charismatic Church that is yoked together spiritually through:
 1. Shared hierarchal spiritual leadership
 2. Shared doctrine & core teachings
 3. Shared culture & core values

2. **Redemptive Qualities of the NAR**

- a. Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy in many NAR churches
- b. Genuine service to God & mankind seen in many believers
- c. Deep Contemplative Prayer
- d. Strong Worship & Presence
- e. Hunger for God, Passion for Revival
- f. Restoration & Continuation of the Gifts
- g. True apostles & prophets
- h. A passion for souls, evangelism, and missions
- i. Strong faith, Many Miracles
- j. A desire to see the world transformed through the gospel & the power of God

3. **Critical Problems with the NAR**

- a. **Break from Sola Scriptura in many NAR believers** (Deut.4:2) (Jer.26:2) (Rev.22:18-19)
- b. **Idolatry** (Ezek.14:2-5)
 - i. Leaders that have become idols (2 Cor.12:5-7)
 - ii. Political leaders that have become idols (Rom.9:17)
 - iii. Mammon has become our idol (Matt.6:24)
- c. **Cursed** (Gal.1:6-9)
- d. **Ungodly Alliances & Alignments** (Josh.9:14-15)
- e. **Spiritual Whoredom**
 - i. Jezebel (Rev.2:20)
 - ii. Charismatic witchcraft (Gal.5:19-21)
 - iii. Unclean spirits (Rev.16:3;18:2-3)
 - iv. Mammon (Matt.6:24)

f. False NAR Apostles

- i. The False “Apostles Doctrine” (Acts 2:42)
- ii. The False Apostle’s False Foundation (Eph.2:20) (1 Pet.2:7) (Matt.16:18)

g. False NAR Prophets

- i. Ravenous Appetites of the Flesh & Propensity to Extort God’s People Sexually & Financially (Matt.7:15-20) (Gal.5:19-21)
- ii. Divination for Selfish Financial Gain (Num.22:6-7) (Acts 16:16)
- iii. False Prophets’ and the Lying Spirit (1 Kings 22:20-23) (2 Thes.2:9-12)

h. False Doctrine & Teaching

i. Prosperity gospel

- 1. Abuse of giving & generosity scriptures; paying for miracles, deliverance, & special services from special anointed vessels (1 Sam.9:7) (1 Kings 17:10-11)
- 2. Ignoring scriptures that talk about the dangers of greed & desiring money in an unhealthy way (Prov.23:4-5) (Prov.11:28) (1 Tim.6:6-10)
- 3. Labeling all persecution and suffering as demonic or an attack of the enemy. (1 Pet. 3:14) (Jn.15:20)
- 4. Shaming people who are not wealthy as having less faith, favor, or anointing from God (1 Thes.4:11) (Acts 18:1-4)

ii. Hyper grace

- 1. All sins are forgiven (past-present-future) even sins that haven’t been confessed and repented of yet.
- 2. Confessing sins is being “sin-conscious” instead of “heavenly minded”.
- 3. Jesus’ teachings can be ignored because He was teaching to a Jewish audience under law.
- 4. Pauline grace teachings are above Jesus’ teachings, and other scriptural teachings in the bible.
- 5. Lawless lascivious living, masqueraded as freedom and grace-filled living
- 6. “All judgment ended at the cross”
- 7. “God is good”, instead of “God is God”
- 8. Denying suffering, persecution, & hardship as part of God’s plan for your life.
- 9. Labeling everything negative as the enemy.
- 10. Unsanctified mercy which perverts justice and enables bad behavior.
- 11. God loves and accepts me as I am and doesn’t care if I change.

iii. Universalism

- 1. “God does not wait for my choice and then ‘save me.’ God has acted decisively and universally for all humankind. Now our daily choice is to either grow and participate in that reality or continue to live in the blindness of our own independence. Are you suggesting

that everyone is saved? That you believe in universal salvation? That is exactly what I'm saying!" W.M. Paul Young, Lies We Believe About God, Chapter 13.

iv. Abused Culture of Honor

1. Honoring those who are not worthy of honor (Romans 13:7)
2. Using honor as a tool to climb ladders and succeed in a system of elitism (selective honoring of leaders in positions of power for personal gain).
3. Using "culture of honor" to short circuit accountability (you can't correct me because you're dishonoring me).
4. Using culture of honor to leverage unsanctified mercy

v. Hyper Dominionism

1. Going beyond the biblical mandate for the church in the church age to prioritize the preaching of the gospel and the Word of God.
2. Delusional teaching of "literal kingship", "literal taking over cities", "literal taking over nations". This leads to pastors and leaders being derelict of their duties in the church as they become obsessed with power.
3. The Third temptation of Jesus (bypassing the cross and tribulation to exercise power over the nations; authority and power on an international scale that operates under the power of the god of this world).

vi. Seven Mountain Mandate

1. Going beyond the original mandate (which was to be salt and be light in the world, to make a difference for Christ and advance the kingdom).
2. 7M becomes "another gospel" which replaces the preaching of the gospel many times it's taught and presented.

vii. Preterism (companion eschatology to hyper-grace)

1. All judgment ended at 70 a.d. (perverts Christology; divides the Jesus of the gospels from the Jesus of the Old Testament and the book of Revelation, which leads to Marcionism).
2. All / Most biblical prophecy was fulfilled by 70 ad (strips the prophetic power of scripture to prophecy into our present day and future)
3. Losing the urgency of Christ's second coming

i. False Prophecy with little to no accountability

j. False immoral restoration ministry & protocol

i. The Sin of Eli

1. Unable to hold spiritual sons accountable for their sins (1 Sam.3:13)
2. Spiritual fathers are spiritually blind, making them inept at recognizing and dealing with the sin and demonic activity around us (1 Sam.3:1).

k. Rampant Immorality & Sin

- i. The natural outworking of false doctrine and teaching coming from the leaven of hyper grace.
- ii. Sexual sin, drunkenness, debauchery, all forms of abuse, lewdness, worldly living, greed, coarse jesting & speech, etc...

l. Business ethics driving Ministry Edicate

- i. Problem with 7M, apostles in the marketplace... Without lines being drawn between ministry & business, motives that drive the bottom line tend to take over and deprioritize all other gospel / Christ-centric motivations.

m. A Predator's Paradise

- i. Repetitive clergy sexual abuse with unlimited restoration to ministry & continued access to a large vulnerable victim pool.
- ii. The elevation of gifted charismatic narcissistic ministers who are addicted to the spotlight and the adulation of the masses, who exemplify little to no true lasting fruit of the spirit.
- iii. Unsanctified mercy for perpetrators.
- iv. Misapplied scriptural honor.
- v. Gullible easily deceived leaders who protect the wolves and enable their predatory behavior for decades.

n. Deception & Delusion which Leads to Spiritual Madness

- i. Many are completely detached from reality, unable to incorporate a healthy level of realism in their spiritual walk.
- ii. 2 Thes.2:10 - they do not love the truth, therefore God has given them strong delusion that they should believe the lie.

o. Mass Confusion, Little Conviction

- i. "We don't divide over doctrine, we gather around the presence".
 - 1. The exaltation of feelings & experiences above the truth of God's word. This creates massive doctrinal confusion and deposes God-given conviction which comes from allegiance to the truth.
- ii. No one is allowed to take strong stands of conviction scripturally, because it's labeled religious and closed-minded.
- iii. No one is allowed to take strong stands of moral conviction because it's labeled judgmental and unloving.

p. Ditching Denominationalism for Ministry Empires

- i. Top Heavy corrupt centralized power with little to no accountability
- ii. Spiritually set up like Roman Catholicism: Apostles and prophets are called "the gate keepers" in cities and regions, and all the monsters in the movement have to go through the "gate keepers" when doing anything, because this is "kingdom". Very similar to how all priests in the Catholic Church have to go through cardinals & bishops.
- iii. Void of Ecclesiastical Courts & Judges