

The Unholy Trinity



da Vinci

Art



Today's Priest



Ford



Gates

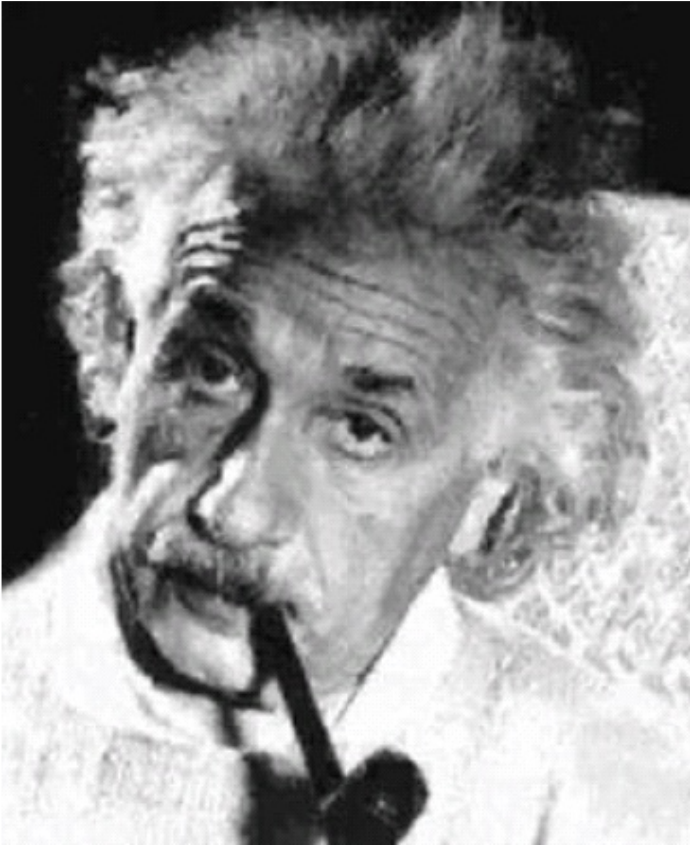
Technology

Science



Einstein

Amós 5:24



*"We should take care not to make the intellect our god:
it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality."*

Albert Einstein

The Unholy Trinity

by Art Dappen

The world exalts the unholy trinity of Art, Science, and Technology. But we should exalt the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is not composed of atoms. He is a Spirit.

Art, Science, and Technology is the god of today, but it cannot even make an insect. It cannot make an ocean. It cannot make a mountain, much less a planet. Our God has made the heaven and the earth and everything that is in them. In Him is life, and he gave life to all creatures. He put us on the earth to seek after God our Creator, and to learn his words. How foolish is the man who dedicates his whole life to learning Art, Science, and Technology, instead of learning what God says we need to know to be prepared for eternity.

Modern man is like a boy who spends all day at his desk making paper airplanes and doesn't study the words of his book. He leaves the desk with his paper airplanes, but no knowledge of what he was supposed to learn that day. Modern men make machines and paintings, but they are unprepared for eternity. They don't understand the true words that God speaks. They are too busy caring for their lands and businesses, and don't learn what God wants to teach them.

What does God want us to learn? Are the world's universities teaching what God wants us to learn? Are they teaching what Jesus was teaching? Jesus was not teaching Art classes. He did not show Peter how to make lovely paintings and statues. Jesus was not teaching Science classes. He did not teach the disciples chemistry or biology or engineering or architecture. Jesus was not teaching Technology. He did not show Paul how to make faster ships and powerful machines.

Jesus came down from heaven to bring the words of eternal life. Whoever hears Jesus' words and does them, will inherit eternal life. Do you understand how much greater the resurrection will be than owning a piece of this war torn, plague-infested world?

Human art, science, and technology cannot prepare us to inherit eternal life. Although Jesus utilized men's inventions, he didn't need them. He sailed in ships, but he didn't need ships to teach the words of eternal life. He used man-made tools, but such tools have nothing to do with eternal life. Note here the wisdom and foreknowledge of Jesus: knowing that Mary would be exalted as a mediator by idolaters, Jesus was careful not to give her any praise or glory. Likewise, knowing that men would exalt the works of their own hands, he never urged his followers to depend upon man-made tools or technology.

It is very easy for stone age tribesmen to learn to trust in the visible tools and technology of the missionary rather than in the invisible Lord Jesus. This has happened more than we realize, and many have not really come to faith in Jesus Christ. Rather they have come to believe in the advantages of modern medicine and technology. Later when scientists rejected the Bible, the multitudes followed them, believing the words of educated men rather than the words of the uneducated apostles. In this age most so-called Christians, have already put their faith and hope firmly upon the sand of human science rather than upon the rock of Christ's words.

Human tools and technology cannot even duplicate a single insect, much less aid us in the resurrection. An insect is a marvelous creature, far more artistic, scientific, and technological than any work that man will ever achieve, but it is nothing compared to the resurrection.

If a tiny INSECT, which often seems despicable to us, is greater than all of man's works, why do men want their children to go to school to learn all of man's works? Don't they realize that human works and discoveries are even more despicable than an insect? The insect will die, and all man's works will likewise disappear.

The children need to know the words of God that will endure forever. Why not teach them to understand the things that God wants men to understand? Such things are greater than Art, Science, and Technology. Such things will enable a person to

inherit eternal life. A man could possess all the world's Art, Science, and Technology-- and then die, only to hear God say, "I never knew you." That will happen to many who ignored God's wisdom and admired man's wisdom.

God did not ordain schools or education. All that was man's idea in order to exalt his Art, Science, and Technology. Man has become vain in his own conceit and has chosen to give more



honor to those who study human wisdom than to those who study God's wisdom.

God did not ordain schools, but he created the family, and told the fathers to teach their children. What did he say to teach the children? Art? No. Science? No. Technology? No. God said for the fathers to teach his Word to the children. To teach it at home and to teach it away from home. To teach it in the evening and in the morning.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the words of God will not pass away. By proper teaching the children will learn to fear God and to dedicate their lives to eternal things. They will not lose their way, nor seek vain riches, nor fight needless wars. They will not carve idols nor worship their own works.

Rejecting Jesus' Teachings

Are you among the great majority who reject Jesus' words, and seek to prepare for life by learning the wisdom of the unholy trinity of Art, Science, and Technology? Such people think education is more important than the Bible.

Jesus' teachings were rejected by the leaders of this world, who were not men of faith, but men of vanity and hypocrisy. Abraham had been motivated by faith, but these men were

motivated by pride and hypocrisy. They looked like they were men of faith because they were clothed with priestly robes, but were really men of covetousness. They were actors. The word “hypocrite” in Greek is the word for actor. They said long prayers to cover up their unrighteousness. Jesus said to beware of such hypocrisy and to “leave them alone.”

Religious organizations spend much effort on appearances (music, activities, and buildings) and little effort on obeying Jesus’ command to separate themselves from covetousness and the “mammon of unrighteousness”. Jesus warned the rich, but today the churches praise the rich and encourage success in the world economy.

Jesus said there is a shortage of laborers to reap the Lord’s harvest, and yet the Boeing Company has so many laborers making jet aircraft that they are often laying off hundreds. Why is there a surplus of laborers for the god of Art, Science, and Technology, but there is a lack of laborers for the fields of the Lord? Because the educational system has taught us to love money rather than to love righteousness.

In order to be useful for the holy God, a person must renounce the unholy trinity, the god of the educational system. No one can serve two masters. The prodigal son could not feed pigs in the far country and return to his father at the same time. It had to be one or the other. Saul of Tarsus could not stay in his position as the high priest’s servant and serve Jesus at the same time. Likewise, our children cannot seek what this world calls “education” and prepare for the Lord’s harvest field at the same time. Choose this day between Art, Science, and Technology on the one hand, or the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit on the other.

Fun and games don’t get young people to turn to God. The father of the prodigal son did not plan fun activities to lure him back home. *After* the son returned (in Luke 15), his father made a feast to celebrate. He did not make a feast beforehand in hopes that his son would like aroma of roast beef more than the

perfume of the far country. The son was attracted by the normal lifestyle of his father's house where even the workers had sufficient food. He wasn't attracted by fun and games.

Now the churches have one fun activity after another, all of them based on entertainment, in an effort to appeal to the young people. Such vanity does not properly represent the cross of Christ. The apostles and the prophets did not try to attract sinners with parties. Boredom, not entertainment, brings sinners to repentance. Like the prodigal son, sinners are converted in the filth of a pig-pen. They repent when they are lost at sea. They repent when they are dying of AIDS. They repent when they realize their doom. This is the theme of Psalm 107. The thief repented when he was hanging on a cross beside Jesus. The gospel of Jesus offers truth and hope to suffering sinners like these.

The very suffering which the prodigal son had brought upon himself drove him home. Empty stomachs bring sinners to repentance, and then repentance brings them to Christ. Sickness brings sinners to repentance, and then repentance brings them to Christ. But if they find no place of repentance, they will never find Christ either. Making a better world for sinners will not help them cry in desperation, "I have sinned against God, and I am no longer worthy." Jesus did not prophesy of a better world; he foretold wars, famine, earthquakes, and persecution. He foretold false Christs that would do great signs and wonders to cause the people to believe in them. That is being fulfilled now as all men look to Art, Science, and Technology rather than to Christ. Their life is more comfortable now, but judgment is coming. Jesus told of a rich man who died and went to a place of torment, where he was told, "remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." (Luke 16:25.) The good things of this life will all disappear, and then what? Judgment is coming, and the god of Art, Science, and Technology won't help anyone then.

If eternal life and damnation did not exist, then by all means, men should seek to make life here as comfortable as possible. But Christ rose from the dead, and the gospel says that all the dead will rise, some to glory and others to eternal punishment. The god of Art, Science, and Technology blinds people to this central truth of the gospel. Why would Jesus die on a cruel cross and tell his followers to take their respective crosses if he wanted our goal to be a comfortable life here? Amazing miracles don't convert people from the gods of this world to the God of heaven. Nebuchadnezzar was certainly impressed by the miracle of the three men who survived the fiery furnace, but that miracle did not convert him. He continued as proud as ever until he was smitten with insanity for seven years. Then he was humbled and proclaimed the glory of the true God. Likewise the Philippian jailer was converted after a terrible earthquake and a suicide attempt. Paul was converted by being knocked to the ground and blinded. Not all people need such a painful experience to abandon their false gods, but many do.

A miracle might attract a person, but it does not convert him. To be impressed by a miracle is very different from repentance. The thousands of people who saw Jesus' miracles would follow him for a while, but then go back. Such is the man who is impressed by a miracle or a sign. He is not converted, only impressed. A miracle will not cast down his pride. A miracle will not cause him to cast away his false gods or his good luck charms. A miracle will not change his love of money. After seeing the sick healed, a covetous man will be covetous still. Jesus plainly said, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." (Luke 16:31.) Repentance is above all a change of gods. Giving up vices is good, but it is not sufficient. Giving up sins such as stealing lying, and adultery is necessary, but it is still insufficient. Preachers must demand the kind of repentance that Moses and the prophets demanded: that the people give up their idols. The prophet wrote,

“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.” Ezekiel 14: 2-6

Peter demanded repentance on the Day of Pentecost. Paul said, “ye should turn from these vanities (idols) unto the living God...” (Acts 14:15.) The preaching of the Word of God, like a sword, convicts the hearts of sinners.

One of the main reasons that sinners never repent, is that they can be baptized and assured of their good standing before God without repentance. The modern churches tell a sinner that he is “saved” if he will simply raise his hand in a meeting or say a brief prayer. No repentance is demanded by modern preachers, because they say salvation is a “free gift”. I agree it is a free gift, but if the prodigal son had not repented, and had stayed in the far country, he would not have received the free gift of forgiveness. Note that the sinner must divest himself of his previous gods and his confidence in them, or he cannot receive the free gift.

Note also that few people today have repented of their faith in the unholy trinity of Art, Science, and Technology. They have more confidence in that “god” and in the human experts who are its priests, than they have in the promises of God.

There has never been a time when people have been so wealthy and comfortable. They believe that their well-being is due to Art, Science, and Technology, as seen by the fact that

they send their children to be educated by the materialistic doctors of Art, Science, and Technology. When we recently presented the idea of students copying the Bible, one young lady, who attends church regularly, said, “What good would it do me to copy the Bible?” But if she were enrolled at Harvard University, studying under the premier atheists in America, she would never ask, “What good would it do me to graduate from Harvard?” Like this young lady, so-called Christians can see no value in the Word of the eternal God Jesus Christ, but they can see lots of value in the god of Art, Science, and Technology.

Remove all gods except one

The Philistines captured the ark of the covenant and carried it to the city of Ashdod and placed it in the temple of Dagon. (1 Samuel 5.) I want you to see that “adding” the God of Israel to their temple, did not make them Jews. In the same way many people “accept Jesus” and put him in the temple of their heart together with whatever their gods might be named.

People today accept Jesus together with their faith in Art, Science, and Technology. This is not true conversion, but rather addition. These people are not converted to Christ, but have added Christ to their pantheon of gods, including the faith in possessions and money.

When the god Dagon fell over the next morning, which of the gods was removed by the Philistines? They removed the ark of the Lord! Likewise, in the trials of life, partially converted people chose to remove Christ rather than removing their riches. The first “god” to go is usually Jesus, and the last to go is usually the unholy trinity of Art, Science, and Technology.

What will it take for people to repent of their faith in the god of Art, Science, and Technology and be truly saved?

“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.”

Isaiah 30: 1-3

Art Dappen (1946-2006) was a leader in the homeschool movement in Mexico. He served for over 30 years as a missionary with his wife of 35 years, Linn. Art's ministry included the creation and free distribution of a Spanish reading program for homeschoolers. About two years before his home-going, he and Linn added seven Mexican orphans to their family, making them the parents of seventeen. Two married daughters in the U.S. have blessed them with 13 grandchildren (so far). Linn and the rest of the family continue to live and minister in Mexico.

Art received his high school education at an elite boarding school in Connecticut, and continued on to university. One day, as a new Christian in a graduate-level chemistry class, he came to a realization. As he studied the equations on the blackboard, the thought came to him: "Jesus Christ did not dedicate his life to what is written on that blackboard." He left school and purposed to serve the Lord.

A daughter said, "He always felt it was a privilege to throw it all away."

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