



# THE BOSTON MOVEMENT

SYNTHETIC RELIGION



# THE BOSTON MOVEMENT

- Once known as the Crossroads Movement
- Also now known as the International Churches of Christ
- Still often referred to as the Boston Movement
- Founded by Kip McKean in the late '70s

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- Perhaps not as prevalent in name as it once was, but the influence is still seen.
- They believe many of the same things we do - and many things we are accused of they are also accused of. (But that's another study)
- In some ways, these similarities make the danger all the more subtle and easier to slip in.

# THE BOSTON MOVEMENT

Main features:

- “Discipling”
  - Each new convert is assigned a “discipler” whom they are to follow and defer to in all matters - where they can live, where they can work, who they can date or marry, even what color shirt they can wear.
- This creates a pyramid of disciples and churches with Kip McKean at the top.

# THE BOSTON MOVEMENT

Main features:

- “Confessionals”
  - Members must tell everything to higher-ranking members. This involves hours-long emotional group confessions.
- They cite James 5:16 to justify this.
- Does this practice agree with Matthew 18:15-17?

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- The hierarchy - who is Lord?
  - Christ or man?
  - Scripturally, only elders are given (limited) authority, not "disciplers" given absolute control.
  - No authorization for "Pillar Churches"

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- Confessionals - for God or man?
  - Rather than promote repentance and righteousness, they are designed to stir the emotions.
  - If someone wants to leave the Boston Movement, the information divulged in confession sessions is used to emotionally blackmail them.



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- Constant praise and flattery is given and can be withdrawn as a form of control over any aspect of life. They are emotionally blackballed.
- This is not love, it is emotional manipulation!  
(Jude 16) It preys on the human need to feel like a part of something.
- Compare to scriptural withdrawal that continues to demonstrate love as a means to spur repentance and Godly sorrow.

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- Many leave movements influenced by this after a few years.
- It is a spiritual and emotional meat-grinder.
  - They leave with bitterness and anger.
  - Because of emotional manipulation by those that claim to be Christians, many will not seek God again after this.

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- Values quantity over quality. No true growth is fostered, just continual churning out of disciples.
- Based on emotion rather than knowledge of the Truth. (2 Timothy 3:6-7)
  - Emotion certainly has a place, but it is not a means nor a primary end.
  - Truth will not come from emotion, but emotion from truth.

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- How to guard against groups like this:
  - Be firmly grounded in truth.
  - Seek to follow Jesus.
    - ▶ Our loyalties should not be to any man, tradition, creed, or group. Not even the "Church of Christ" as it is thought of by many!
    - ▶ Acts 11:23-24

