

# Rick Warren, Roman Catholic Mystics and Pope Francis

## Commentary by Roger Oakland

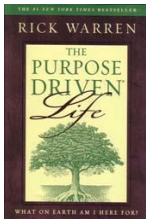
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April 22, 2014

*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Rick Warren's recent interview on Catholic TV (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVCY8pW-ACs>) makes it clear (to those who have eyes and ears to see and hear) that he is no longer wearing sheep's clothing as he embraces the false gospel of Catholicism. I pray this article from Roger Oakland will help the true believer discern the days in which we live. The global religion of the coming antichrist is being formed to coincide with the continuing push toward global government. The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are nearing fulfillment and our Lord's return is drawing near. Maranatha!*

What did he say? This is exactly the direction we predicted he would go! It will be crucial that skeptics hear and see this interview. These were my thoughts when I first watched the EWTN interview with Rick Warren and Raymond Arroyo provided by YouTube. April 11, 2014. The comments by Rick Warren in response to Arroyo's questions from an interview that took place at Warren's church in southern California were stunning. There is no room for doubt: Warren's march towards ecumenical unity with Rome is becoming clearer and bolder as time passes.



The interview opened with the following question from Arroyo: “The Purpose Drive Life is the bestselling book in the world - 36 million plus copies. It's been translated more than any book except the Bible. What is the key to that success? Why were so many people touched by that book and continue to be?” [1]

Warren's response to this question provides insight to two very important questions – the inspiration behind the book and the reason why it was written. His own words confirm that Roman Catholic mystics and their writings have been a strong influence on him personally and his ministry. This affinity associates him with the emerging church as well as numerous other statements he has made in the past. Warren responded:

“You know, Ray, There is not a single new thought in Purpose Driven Life that hadn't been said for 2,000 years. I've just said it in a fresh way. I said it in a simple way. When I was writing Purpose Drive Life it took me 7 months, 12 hours a day. I'd get up at 4:30 in the morning. I'd go to a little study. Start at 5 a.m. I was fasting til noon and I would light some candles and I would start writing and rewrite, rewrite, rewrite. One of the things I did before I wrote the book was, um, I'd ask the question—How do you write a book that lasts 500 years? For instance, um,



St. John of the Cross

Theresa of Avila

*Imitation of Christ* by Thomas Kempis, *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. Ok? The Dessert Fathers, St. John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila. All of these great, classic devotional works. Any one of them—I just realized that in order to be timeless you have to be eternal.” [2]

The authors and the books mentioned by Warren are more than revealing. They clearly show where his theology is founded. To suggest these books are eternal and to place them in the same category as the Bible is blasphemous. Thomas Kempis, Brother Lawrence, St. John of the Cross, Theresa of Avilla are all Roman Catholic mystics. The Bible is the inspired word of God. As Paul stated: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” [3]

While the Bible is timeless and eternal, the books written by Roman Catholic mystics are the works of humans who are fallible and easily misled by the fallen spiritual dimension. They can promote doctrines of demons and lead Bible-believers away from the faith.

The Purpose Driven Life may be popular but there are many reasons to be skeptical it is inspired. Just because someone fasts daily until noon, confines oneself into a cubicle or writes under the light of candles does not make a book timeless and eternal. Warren's answer to Arroyo's question is questionable at best.

Changing the topic, Raymond Arroyo then asks the following question: "What is your secret to reaching people every day, every week, not only in your writing but when they speak to you? What is it? What is this communication gift, if you will, if you could decode, because a lot of preachers would like to know." [4]

Warren's response is immediate. While Warren mentions Pope Francis several times in the complete interview with the EWTN host, he does not waste any time at this point to take the opportunity to praise the pope. He answers the question by directing attention to the pope and stating: "Yeah, right. Well, the main thing is love always reaches people. Authenticity, humility. Pope Francis is the perfect example of this. He is a—He is doing everything right. You see, people will listen to what we say if they like what they see. And as our new pope he was very, very symbolic in, you know, his first mass with people with AIDS, uh, his kissing of the deformed man, his loving the children. This authenticity, this humility, the caring for the poor, this is what the whole world expects us Christians to do. And when we—when they go, oh, that's what a Christian does—In fact there was a headline here in Orange County—and I love the headline. It said, if you love Pope Francis, you'll love Jesus. That was the headline! I showed it to a group of priests I was speaking to a while back."

While loving others is a quality all Christians should embrace and promote, using Pope Francis as the perfect example, seems somewhat opportunistic. The fact that he calls Pope Francis "our new pope" indicates that he has accepted the pope as the head of the Catholic Church and the church that he himself leads. If that is not the case, why would have he used the word "our".



Pope Francis and the Eucharistic Jesus

Further in the previous statement, he made mention of a headline that appeared in an Orange County newspaper that stated "If You Love Pope Francis, You'll love Jesus". Warren states that he showed it to a group of priests he was speaking to "a while back."

*Note from Pastor Kevin: I love the Pope because Jesus commands that I do. But in the above picture, the Pope is adoring (idolizing) a wafer of bread in an ornate gold setting. Why – because during the preceding Catholic Mass, he has just turned the wafer of bread into the literal body of Jesus (according to Catholic false teaching called transubstantiation). So the Pope is focusing on the wafer as if he is looking at a literal piece of Jesus' body, and asking the devoted to do the same.*

*Refuting this Catholic false doctrine was one of the cries of the reformation. The Pope is not a biblical Christian, but an idolater (worshiping a piece of bread while claiming the powers of witchcraft). Those who love the Pope should tell him that he needs to repent in order to be truly saved from the judgment to come. Pastor Warren on the other hand says in his interview that the Pope is "a perfect example" [of a Christian]. Something is very wrong with Warren's understanding of the biblical gospel.*

*Back to Roger Oakland:*

So here's my question: What part of the reformation that separated the "separated brethren" from Rome does Rick Warren not understand? Has he now publically declared that the Purpose Driven way is an ecumenical way on the road to Rome?

Further commentaries to be posted on this EWTN interview will provide the evidence this may well be the case. Maybe it's time to be on the alert. As Jesus said with regard to End Times signs that He would be soon returning: Take Heed! [5]

[Video Interview with Rick Warren Part 1 - Rick Warren's Ecumenical Path to Rome Continues](#)  
[Transcript of Part 1 - Rick Warren's Ecumenical Path to Rome Continues](#)

[Entire Interview with Rick Warren](#)  
[Transcript of entire interview with Rick Warren](#)

[1] See Transcript, [2] *ibid*, [3] 2 Timothy 3:16, [4] See Transcript, [5] Matthew 24:4

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