

# Next Week Sermon

## The Christian and Love

1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21

PREACHER

**Dr. Peter Ng**

25 June, 2023

## Overcoming the World

1 John 5:1-21

PREACHER

**Lee Yee Dian**

2 July, 2023

## Understanding the Nature of Temptation

James 1:13-18

PREACHER

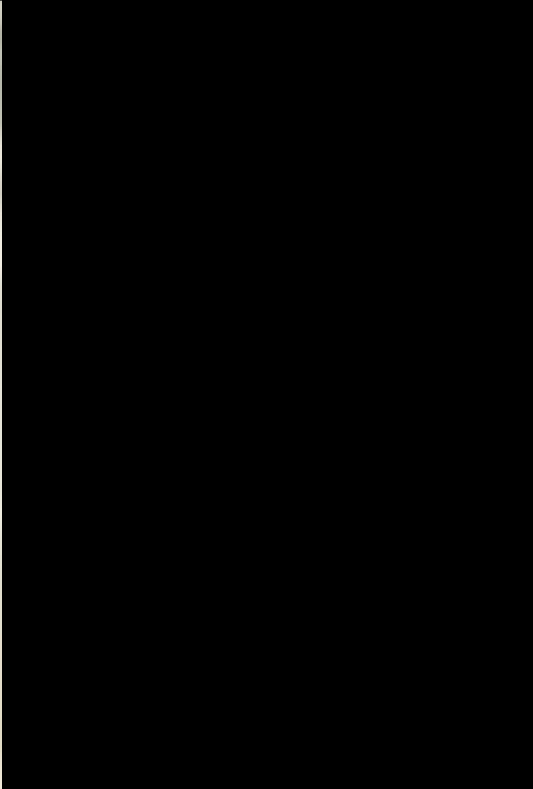
**Dr. Peter Ng**





<https://www.ign.com/articles/best-top-marvel-villains-mcu-bad-guys-characters>











AN **EMPIRE** TOPPLE BY  
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AGAIN. BUT ONE WHICH  
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HELMUT ZEMO

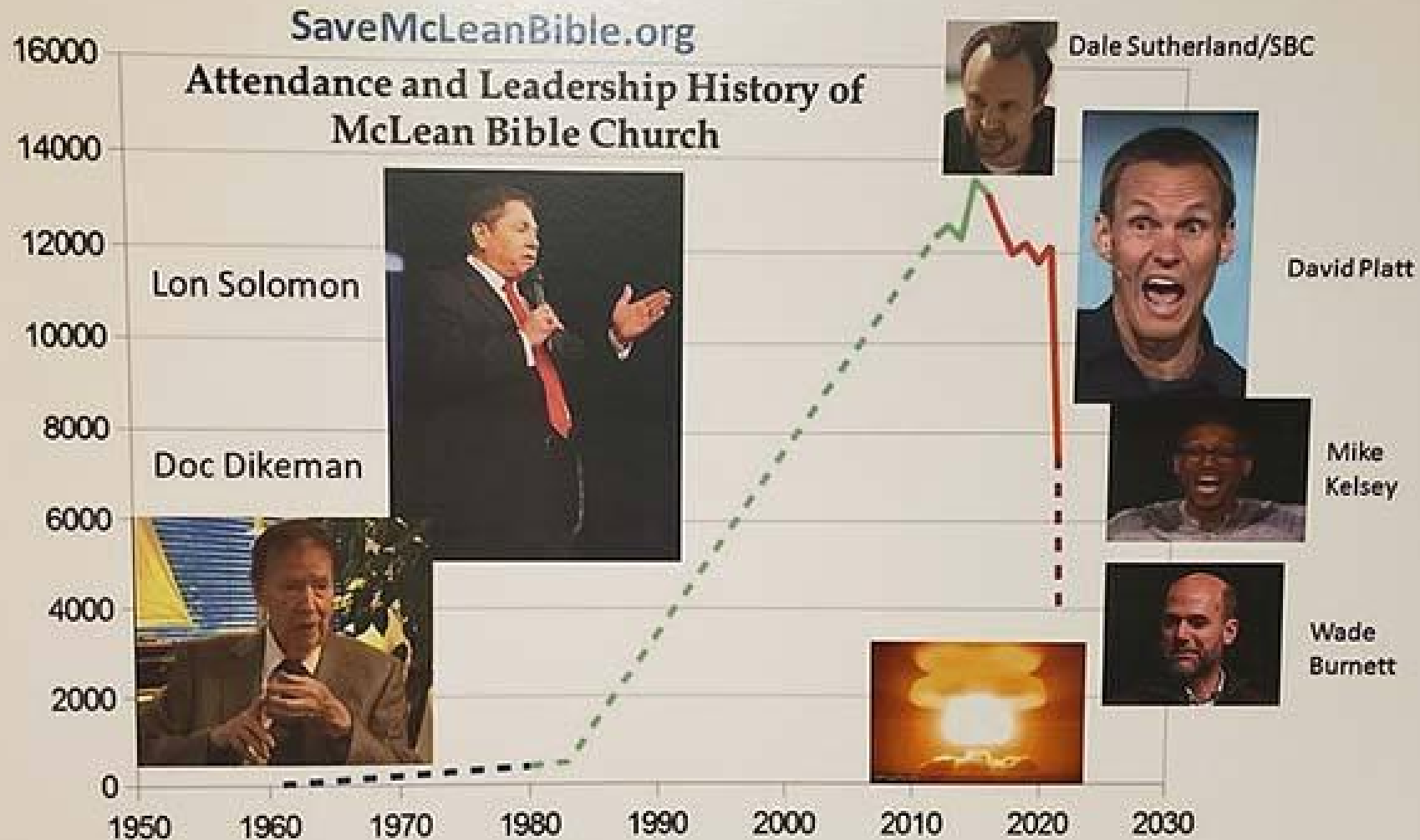








<https://www.liberty.edu/news/2022/09/28>

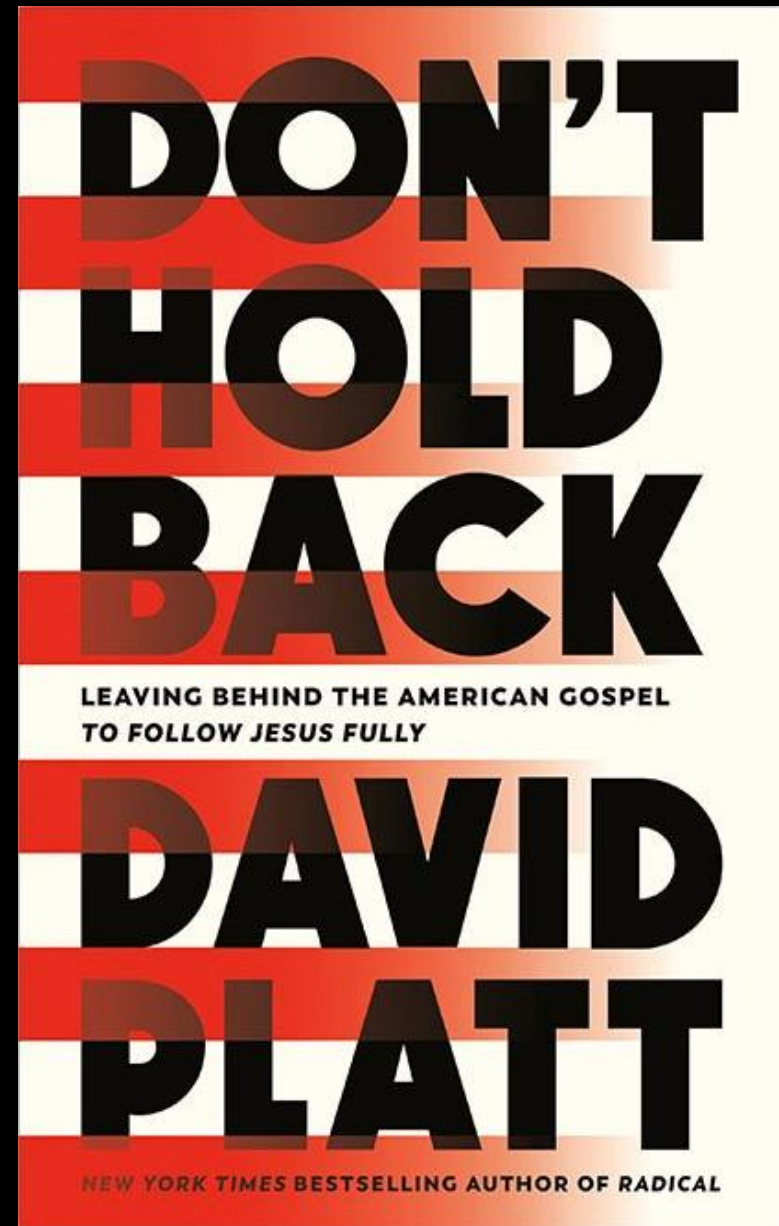
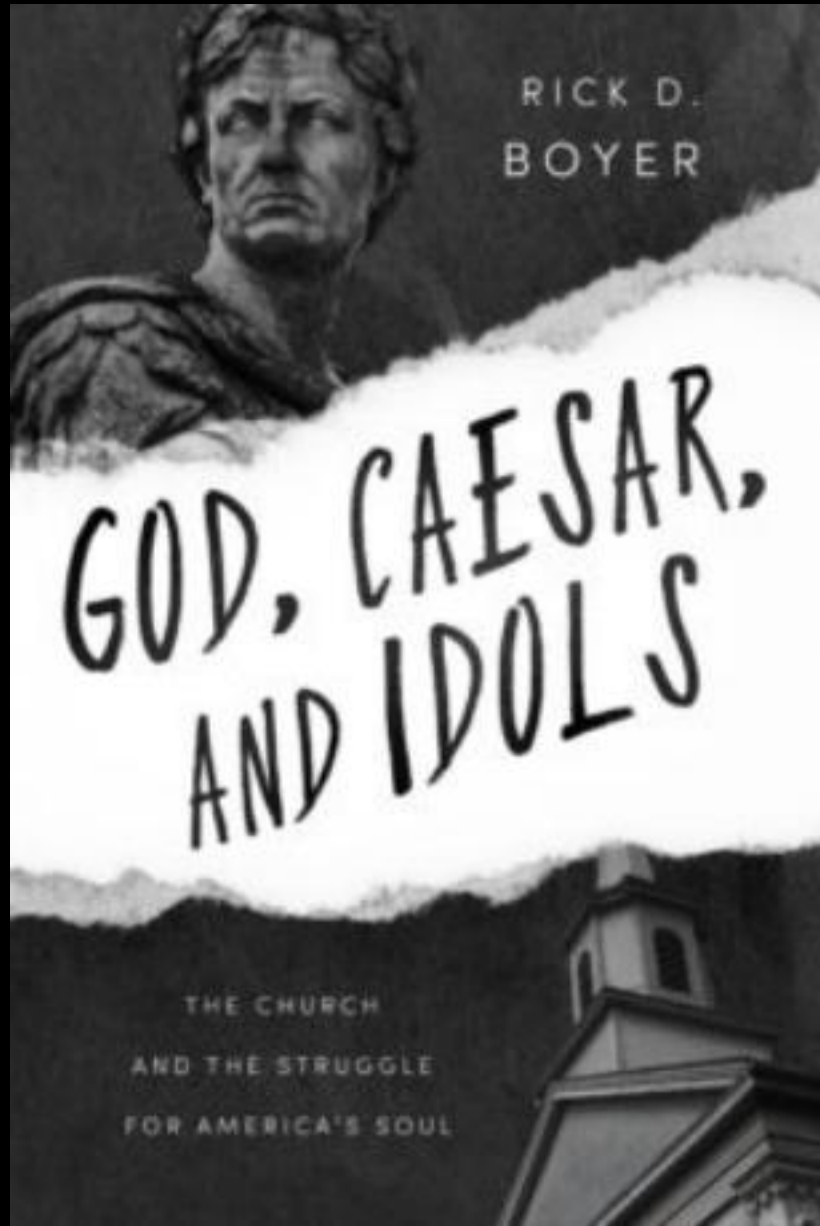


SOLID lines are from May 2011 to May 2021 according to the official June 30, 2021 MBC congregational meeting report. Dashed lines are estimated and/or interpolated. The September 26, 2021 estimate of 4000 in physical attendance was derived from unofficial counts performed by members in person at the 5 MBC campuses. Doc Dikeman was father of one of the 5 founding families of MBC in 1961.



In July 2021, McLean Bible Church (MBC) in Vienna, Va., which is pastored by David Platt, was sued by five of its members (current and former) for allegedly barring them on illegal grounds in June of 2021 from voting in an important congregational meeting to approve new church leaders.

Platt has been referred to as a “wolf in sheep’s clothing” in “Save McLean Bible Church’s” posts. Platt was called a liar and accused of gaslighting in a recent post, which said, “Megachurch pastor David Platt warns of disinformation, however is found to be the one LYING...With the drastic decline in weekly attendance at [McLean Bible Church](#), is it even considered a mega church anymore? The Hartford Institute for Religion Research defines a megachurch as a Protestant congregation that has an average weekly attendance of 2,000 or more members in its worship services.”





# Avoiding civil war in the church

Ephesians 4: 1-16 (part 4 of the Church as Family series)







<sup>4</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



*4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

- Be completely humble and gentle
- Be patient
- Bearing with each other in love

1. Christian unity is not the absence of conflict. It is the ability to be united despite conflict.

Be completely humble and gentle



Be patient



Bearing with each other in love



# 1. Christian unity is not the absence of conflict. It is the ability to be united despite conflict.

- Christian humility is to think lowly of ourselves and highly of Christ



- Humility is the prerequisite of genuine patience, as God was patient with us



- We then can bear with each other in love as we see our sins first before we see the sins in others

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is *one* body and *one* Spirit, just as you were called to *one* hope when you were called; 5 *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism; 6 *one* God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

6 This mystery is that through the gospel the *Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body*, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.  
Ephesians 2:6



## 2. Unity does not mean uniformity.

Q: What happens if a young adult visits FBC?

A: They will say “Wah. So many uncles and aunties.”

*One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Oneness with young adults

Oneness with families with young children

Oneness with single parents

Oneness with widows

Oneness with those struggling with identity issues

Oneness with those with special needs

Oneness with those struggling with mental health concerns

Oneness with minority ethnic groups

Etc, etc.....



<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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<sup>17</sup> The chariots of God are tens of thousands  
and thousands of thousands;  
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.

<sup>18</sup> When you ascended on high,  
you took many captives;  
you received gifts from  
people,  
even from the rebellious—  
that you, LORD God, might dwell there.

Psalm 68:17-18

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# *Whose responsibility is it to build up the church?*

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<sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

- Christian unity is not the absence of conflict. It is the ability to be united despite conflict.
- Unity does not mean uniformity.
- Building up the church is the responsibility of all believers. The role of church leaders is to equip believers for this.



“I have been in FBC for 10 years. In all of this time no one came up to ask me how I am”

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

<sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.  
Ephesians 5:5-7

<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the **kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:1-2

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Ephesians 5:5-7



<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Ephesians 2:1-2

<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the **rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms**  
Ephesians 3:10

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.  
Ephesians 3:14

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**  
Ephesians 6:10-12

- Christian unity is not the absence of conflict. It is the ability to be united despite conflict.
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- Church disunity is spiritual warfare which requires wisdom and discernment



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*29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.  
Acts 20:29-30*





CHRISTENA CLEVELAND

# Disunity



*in* Christ

*Uncovering the Hidden  
Forces that Keep Us Apart*



<https://www.christianpost.com/news/why-is-it-so-hard-for-christians-to-get-along.html>

- We tend to classify people we disagree with by putting them into “boxes”
- We want to believe we belong to the “right” group.
- We will subconsciously side with people in our “ingroup” in any dispute.
- *We have no deep desire to really engage with believers who disagree strongly with us.*

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> **Instead, speaking the truth in love,** we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

# *History of FBC*



**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
SUBANG JAYA**

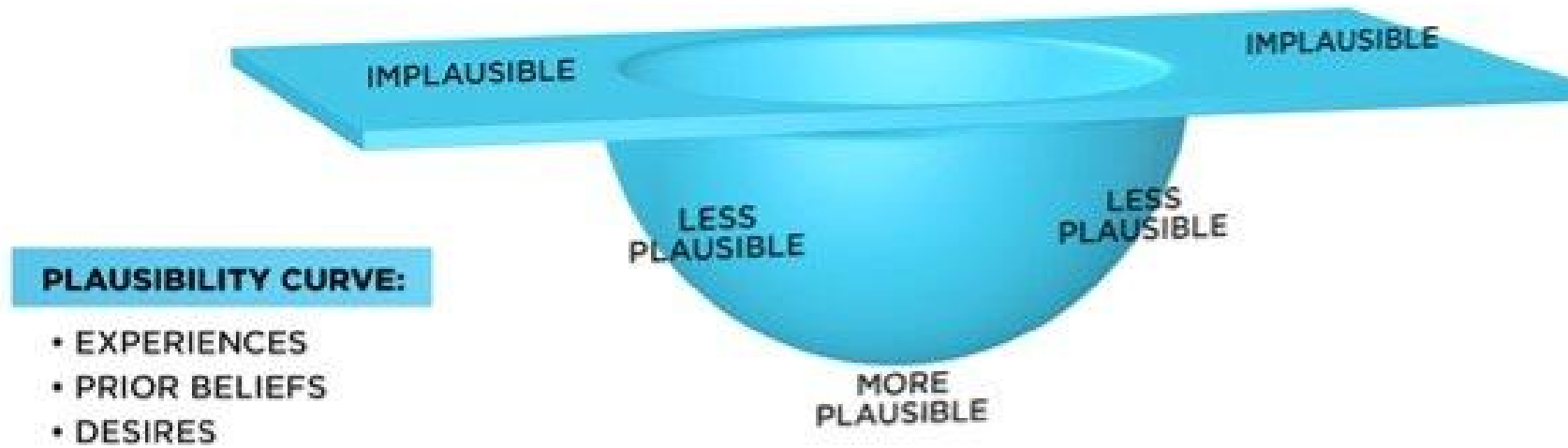


FBC was established in June 1957 as the first English-speaking Baptist Church in Petaling Jaya. It grew out of worship services and Sunday School classes started by Ms Jessie Green, and Harold and Ann Clark (SBC missionaries) at the Baptist Clinic building in Jalan Dispensary, Petaling Jaya Old Town.

The late 1980s was a difficult time for the church. A significant group of members left FBC over charismatic issues. FBC requested for assistance from FMB, and Missionary pastor David Watson was assigned to FBC (1988-1989) in the interim. In March 1990 Pastor Tan Soo Inn from GeorgeTown Baptist Church Penang joined FBC.

Pastor Tan proposed the Mega Church concept which was embraced by the congregation. FBC was to be one big church with two centres of worship, FBC Pantai Centre and FBC Subang Centre. A new era of evangelism began. The Old Klang Road team ministered to squatters, Mother's Club was formed, and the Filipino Ministry was started by Titus and Beth Laxa. In 1993 the FBC Missions Board was set up. RIOT was started in 1996 as a youth initiative and the New Hope Ministry began in October 1997. In 1998, FBC was involved in the Morning Glory Rehabilitation Centre and the Agape Community Centre in Bukit Pelanduk to help those who suffered from the outbreak of the Nipah virus. Three mission trips were organised to Tawau, Sabah, Nepal and China. The first Youth Service began in FBC Pantai in September 1998.



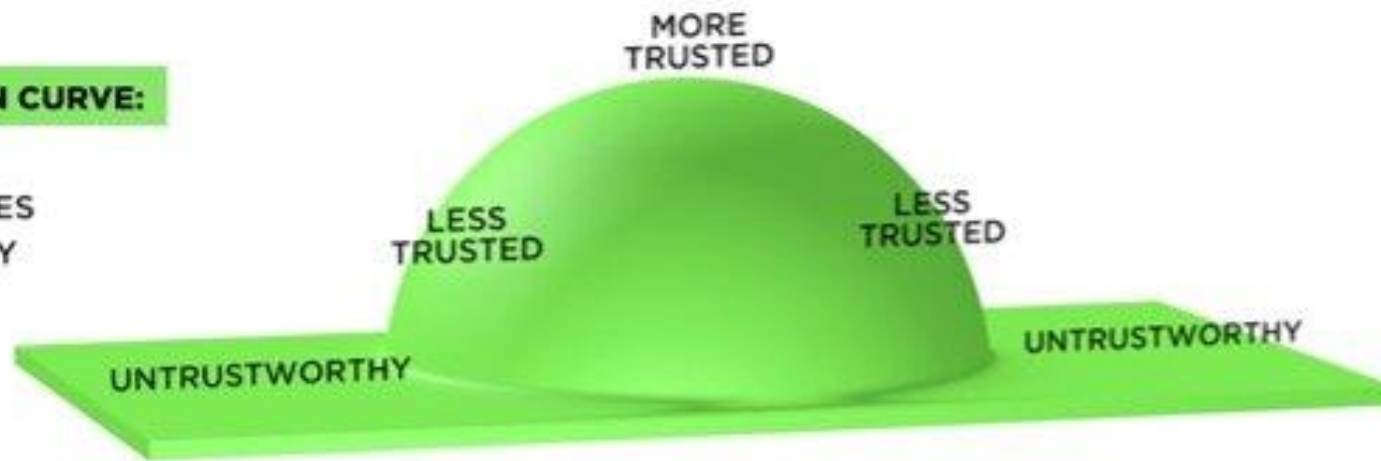


Timothy Dalrymple, "The Splintering of the Evangelical Soul," *Christianity Today*, April 16, 2021

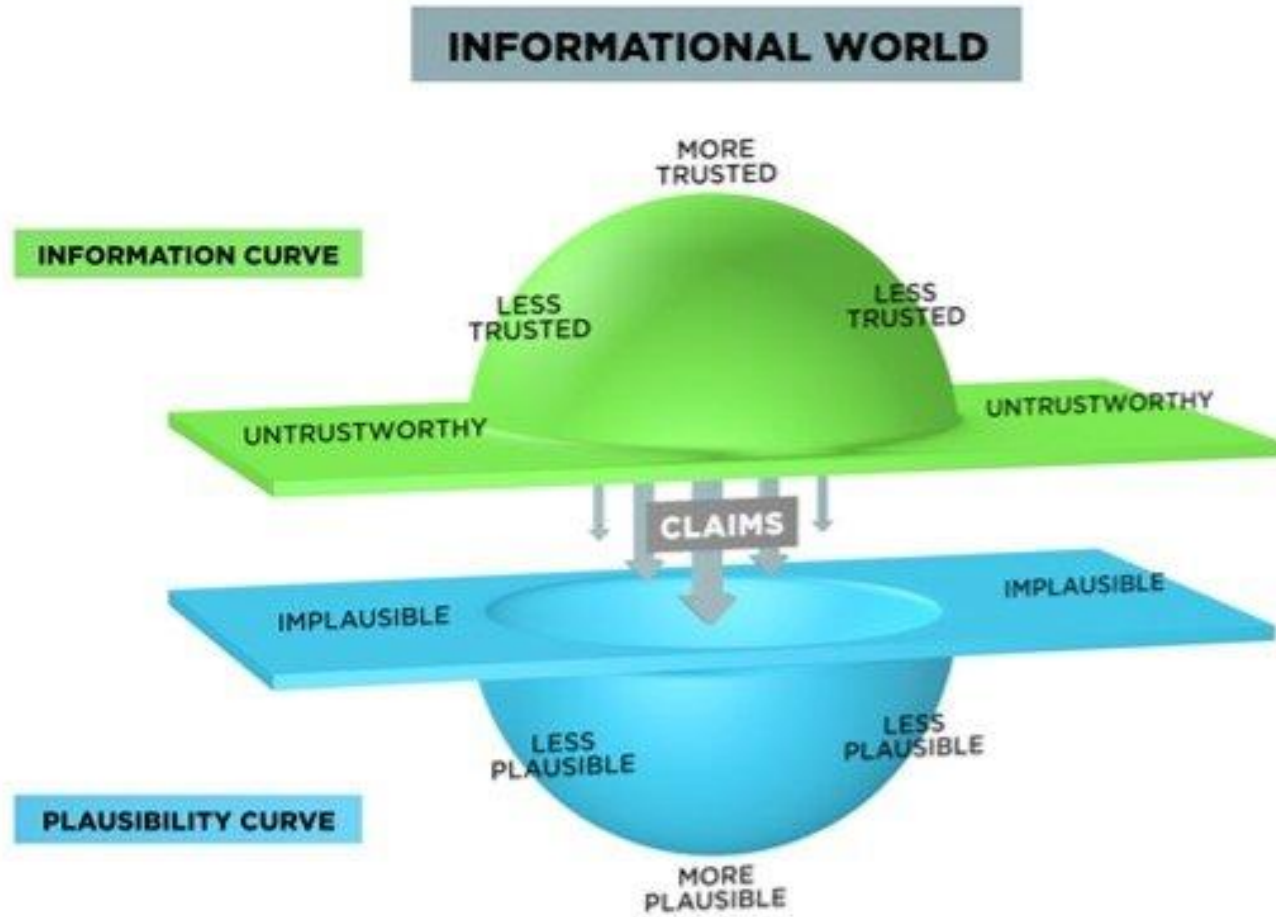


**INFORMATION CURVE:**

- MEDIA
- AUTHORITIES
- COMMUNITY



Timothy Dalrymple, "The Splintering of the Evangelical Soul," *Christianity Today*, April 16, 2021



Timothy Dalrymple, "The Splintering of the Evangelical Soul," *Christianity Today*, April 16, 2021

So, what can be done? We must “move the information curves toward a common center.” Then, “the plausibility curve will follow.”

Timothy Dalrymple, “The Splintering of the Evangelical Soul,” *Christianity Today*, April 16, 2021

- 1) Focus the centrality of church life on the Gospel, not on other matters.
- 2) Ensure leadership is always humble and gentle, patient and able to bear others in love
- 3) Empower all to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ
- 4) Create safe spaces where the truth can be spoken in love



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<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21