



# A Brief Look at the Major Doctrinal Differences between Apostolic/Pentecostals and Other Beliefs *Christian Beliefs Are Not That Different After All*

“I have written often about the doctrinal differences between Apostolic/Pentecostals and the other denominations, but I do not reach enough people to make a difference. Now, however, I have a confederate in my efforts: Virgil Cox Jr. of Kansas City, MO. Elder Cox is the retired pastor of Good Shepherd Assembly in that city. In this pamphlet I am pointing my readers to Elder Cox’s book, *A Polemic to the Apostolic from an Apostolic*.

Aaron J. Smith  
JacLyn Enterprises



## 2 A Brief Look at the Major Doctrinal Differences between Apostolic/Pentecostals and Other Beliefs

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I have written often about the doctrinal differences between the Apostolic/Pentecostals and the other denominations, but I have a limited readership. I do not reach enough people to make a difference. Now, however, that has changed. I have a confederate in this effort to show that Apostolic/Pentecostals and other sincere Christians are very close in their beliefs. This bold ally is Virgil Cox Jr. of Kansas City, MO. Elder Cox is the retired pastor of Good Shepherd Assembly in that city. As I am, he is the son of parents who were staunch Pentecostal believers for many years. It seems that God was working on Pastor Cox's heart about the basic beliefs that Pentecostals hold so dear, at approximately (give or take a few years) the same time He was speaking to me.

There are several important items in this setup:

- Elder Cox is well acquainted with a greater number of people than I am.
- He is more extroverted than I; and consequently better able to present his views to more than one or two people at a time.
- He is more of a scholar than I, and, more importantly –
- Elder Cox has essayed to write a compelling, interesting and, at times, disturbing book on these beliefs that he and I share about 1) baptism in Jesus' name (no, neither he nor I advocate doing away with that tried and true formula), 2) speaking in other tongues (again, neither he nor I advocate doing away with this gift of the Spirit), and 3) the makeup of the Godhead. The title of the book is *A Polemic to the Apostolic from an Apostolic*. (Cut and paste the following URL into your browser):  
<http://www.lulu.com/content/325921>

I must tell you: this work by Elder Cox does not consist of a bunch of ill-conceived theories that are unsubstantiated by Scripture. Elder Cox has done his homework. He is well-versed in the Bible; he

## 4 A Brief Look at the Major Doctrinal Differences between Apostolic/Pentecostals and Other Beliefs

is an inveterate student of Scripture, is knowledgeable in Greek and, at this writing, is studying Hebrew. Furthermore, Elder Cox lives according to the way he was brought up – He walks in holiness, which in this instance is not a denomination but a way of living that comes straight from the Scriptures he studies so avidly.

Elder Cox has done a superlative job in presenting the more abstruse facts that come by study and an adequate grasp of the Greek and Hebrew languages. My task, after Elder Cox has done the arduous spade work, is to help him plant the seeds of this fuller truth in the ground. Because I have a less scholarly background, I base my conclusions, which coincide in great measure with his, primarily on a study of the Word, prayer and gleaning much knowledge from learned, devout men who are conversant with Greek and Hebrew. These men, despite the Apostolic/Pentecostals' previous opinions of them, are Spirit-filled scholars. I can never fully agree with any one person, but neither do I greatly disagree with these scholars who I am convinced are Spirit-filled and Spirit-led born-again believers

### No Group Is Doctrinally Infallible

Now – after you have been convinced of the truth of this doctrine handed down from Christ and the Apostles, remember that we are not into forcing what we believe on anyone. Let's not get so caught up in our own supposed doctrinal infallibility – once again! – that we lose our effectiveness. If we want to convince the gainsayers, we must know our subject and be persuaders, not debaters. Debates seldom win converts to a cause. Gentleness and love can win the most stubborn of doubters, that is, if we have the truth on our side.

We wholeheartedly welcome all who will read and pray and walk with us in this particular truth. I cannot believe that any single person can do what needs to be done in our Pentecostal ranks. One, two or three individuals may lead the charge against doctrinal error, but it will require many sincere ministers and lay persons to complete the work. To those who are not convinced of what we espouse, you are still our brother or sister and we are all members of the Church, the

## 5 A Brief Look at the Major Doctrinal Differences between Apostolic/Pentecostals and Other Beliefs

body of Christ. We have not ceased to love and respect you simply because our views are slightly different from yours.

I hope I have said enough to whet your appetite and that you will purchase *A Polemic to the Apostolic from an Apostolic* by contacting the author at the following e-mail address: revvcjr@yahoo.com or by cutting and pasting the following URL into your browser: <http://www.lulu.com/content/325921>

For your information, ***I have no financial interest in the book.*** I am pushing it only for the sake of unity in the worldwide Church. It is my conviction that this book is a must-see for all Apostolic/-Pentecostal believers.





