

Robert Schuller
1926 - 2015



Robert Schuller, pastor of the **Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California**, is one of the **leading proponents of the self-love gospel**. His **Sunday morning T.V. service, "Hour of Power,"** affiliated with the **Reformed Church of America**. His possibility thinking shows influence from **Norman Vincent Peale** has become the nation's most widely watched religious program.

In his new book, *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation*, Schuller writes that **"self-esteem ... or 'pride in being a human being,' is the single greatest need facing the human race today."**¹

According to Schuller, sin is to be defined as **"any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self-esteem."**²

The new birth, Schuller says, consists of being **"changed from a negative to a positive self-image – from inferiority to self-esteem, from fear to love, from doubt to trust."**³

According to Dr. Schuller, the **"greatest need facing the human race today"** is not being saved from its sin by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, **but "self-esteem."** So that it is clear we are not misrepresenting him, it is important to note that Time magazine quoted Schuller as saying:

I don't think anything has been done in the name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality and, hence, counterproductive to the evangelism enterprise than the often crude, uncouth, and unchristian strategy of attempting to make people aware

of their lost and sinful condition.4

Schuller believes people don't need to be told they're sinners; they simply need to discover hope. Schuller is currently working to build common ground with Muslims, with whom he says Christians share worship of the same God and equal reverence for Jesus.

Robert Schuller The Freemason Speaks ProPositive About Evolution:

- **'I have never had a problem with the messege of evolution'..**
- **'those on the radical right rejecting evolutin are extremists'..**
- **'I see evolution as a process, not a philosophy'..**
- **'Science is bringing back faith in God'.**

all four quotes above were made by Robert Schuller on his 'Hour Of Power' tv telecast on Sunday morning.

Books Schuller Has Written:

- The Be Happy Attitudes;
- Believe in the God Who Believes in You;
- The Greatest Possibility Thinker that Ever Lived;
- If It's Going to Be, It's Up to Me;
- Living Powerfully One Day at a Time;
- Move Ahead with Possibility Thinking;
- My Journey;
- Power Thoughts: If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It;
- Self-Love;
- Tough Times Never Last but Tough People Do;
- Tough-Minded Faith for Tender-Hearted People;
- Turning Hurts into Halos.

Robert H. Schuller is in the Middle East promoting Christian-Muslim understanding. Schuller, of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries and the Hour of Power television program, was on a three-week trip through Syria and Jordan.

...He addressed 15,000 Muslims at the Abou Nour Mosque in Damascas, Syria, becoming possibly the first religious preacher in that mosque, Crystal Cathedral Ministries said. Afterward he called for a new understanding between Christians and Muslims, saying, "We have all failed, Christians and Muslims, to treat each other with respect and dignity, but now that must change." Schuller will preach from the fields outside Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. After this event, he was interviewed by Larry King, and the following is what he said....

Here is portions from a transcript of the Larry King show, where he interviews Reverend Robert Schuller of Hour of Power Crystal Cathedral Fame... along with Gordon Hinckley, the president of the Mormon Cult.... Schuller thinks Hinckley is just wonderful in this interview and shows his open ecumenical agenda, he makes no excuses for it and openly promotes it.....

LARRY KING...Tell us, Reverend Schuller, what the situation is like where you are. Are you in Jerusalem? Are you in Bethlehem? Where are you?

REV. ROBERT SCHULLER, "HOUR OF POWER".... I'm about a mile from Bethlehem. Right behind me, you can see the lights of the city of Bethlehem. Where I'm sitting right now is probably where the shepherds were when the angels appeared and proclaimed the purpose of the whole faith, and that is to bring peace on Earth, good will to men. So I'm, for the first time, celebrating Christmas Eve under the sky on the shepherd's hills with a beautiful view of the entire city of Bethlehem. It was Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, and it is tonight.

LARRY KING...And why are you there?

SCHULLER: I'm here because I'm very interested in praying for peace and doing what I can to bring peace on Earth, good will to men. I've had a wonderful past few days, spending hours and several meetings -- three in his home -- with the leading Muslim thinker and leader in the world, the grand mufti of the great mosque in Damascus invited me to come there. And that's what brought me here to the Holy Land. And I...

LARRY KING...Yes, the idea is to...

SCHULLER:... preached to the mosque...

KING: The idea of bringing religions together, right?

SCHULLER: Absolutely. I have seldom met with a man whom I felt an immediate kinship of spirit and an agreement of faith and philosophy quite like I have with the grand mufti of the faith. And then I spent a great deal of time with the chief rabbi here in Israel, and he wants to meet the grand mufti, and I think maybe I can get the two together. If we do...

LARRY KING: Does Bethlehem, Robert Schuller, give you encouragement toward that? Do you have that emotional feeling there tonight?

SCHULLER: Oh, absolutely. I mean, when the chief rabbi of Israel wants to meet with the top Christian and Muslim leaders in the world, this is marvelous. When the grand mufti would invite me from America, a Christian, to come and preach the sermon in his mosque on Holy Day at prayer, Friday, December 17, and he invited to sit and listen to my 40-minute sermon, that he would sit and often hold my hand while I was talking, and here was the Roman Catholic patriarch, the patriarch of the Orthodox Church and the patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church and the Protestant minister of the town -- this is a remarkable thing that's happening. And I don't want to talk too long, but the grand mufti said something that really impressed me. He said, religion is like the rain that falls, to refresh, to keep life beautiful, growing. But religion, like rain, falls. And then the extremists come, and they pollute the pure water until the water itself is almost unsafe for people to drink. And I'm very excited. We're in an era today when we're determined to clean up the pollution of the air, and we're determined to clean up the pollution of the water, and we're determined to clean up the pollution of the oceans. and I predict we're going to focus in the next millennium as religious leaders to clean up the pollution in religion.

SCHULLER: Oh, absolutely. I want to thank very much President Hinckley for pointing out that the Christianity has been the greatest success possible. After 2,000 years, right behind me only a few feet simple shepherds stood and they heard something, a message, they said, from angels. They didn't expect it. And they were -- they dropped everything. They made haste. They went to Bethlehem. You are looking over my shoulder at the very birthplace where Jesus was born. They came, they found him, they left and praised God, and they launched a movement. And 2,000 years later out of that movement came the values that produced hospitals, universities, science, art, humanities, music, all of culture was -- is better today because of it. And what we need to do is return to the faith, the values of this Christ who was born 2,000 years ago.

SCHULLER: Well, I think because we're reaching an age where world religions are moving from regulations and restrictions into focusing more on building relationships. And that's a -- I think a phenomenal positive movement. I think that religions are going to become more humble. What has been tragically lacking is that we have lost humility in our pursuit of truth, and we get our answers and we think our answers are all right, and some of our answers are wrong, and that's true for all of us. So we have to learn to pursue truth with humility. And I think that's happening. Another thing we have to learn is that tolerance is not enough. Tolerance is inadequate. Tolerance says, well, I'll tolerate you, even though I probably don't agree with you. And we have to rise to a higher level in relationships than tolerance for goodness sakes. We have to come to love and respect these persons as humans, our brothers and sisters, even though we have differences of faith.

LARRY KING: Thank you Reverend Schuller and thank you President Gordon B. Hinckley for the courtesy of this wonderful city and your wonderful faith, and this incredible building.

Robert Schuller Rubbing Elbows With Gorbachov & Russians....

Mikhail Gorbachev talked with religious broadcaster Robert Schuller in a broadcast aired on Schuller's Hour of Power Oct. 22. The nearly 30 minute conversation was taped Oct. 15 before 4,500 people at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.

...The former Soviet leader called for peace and an end to world poverty. He said there was no winner in the Cold War since trillions of dollars were spent on weapons while most of the world's people were mired in poverty. Gorbachev has become a hero in the West for dismantling the Soviet system and bringing down the Berlin Wall.

...Gorbachev reminisced about his modest beginnings. He talked about his mother's prayers and said that "practically all" of the people in his family were Christians. Gorbachev called the revival of the Russian Orthodox Church since the fall of communism "one of the most important gains of perestroika."

..."We have to respect our people, and many of them are believers," he said. "There can be no freedom without spiritual freedom, without human beings being able to choose."

...Schuller pressed Gorbachev to acknowledge that he is not an atheist, but Gorbachev would not do so. "I have lived a long and complicated life," he said. Later he said, "There will be a time when we will really talk about this with you." The former Russian leader "calls himself an atheist, but 11 years ago, as one of the most powerful men in the world, God used this atheist in a mighty way," Schuller said.

CURRENT NEWS SUMMARY by the Editors of ReligionToday October 24, 2000

Televangelist (Robert Schuller) Accused of Assaulting Flight Attendant

by Darrell Todd Maurina - Monday 7 July 1997

This article was found at: www.churchnet.org.uk/news/files2/news014.htm

Did a dispute over wrinkled robes and cheese mixed into fruit lead the pastor of the Reformed Church in America's largest congregation to physically assault a flight attendant while flying to speak at the June 30 funeral of Betty Shabazz, widow of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X?

That's the allegation made against Dr. Robert H. Schuller, senior pastor of the 9435-member Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. According to Schuller's attorney, the allegation led to all the passengers in the first-class cabin being detained by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Schuller himself was detained for five hours at New York City's JFK Airport to speak to FBI investigators.

Schuller, who founded the Crystal Cathedral in 1955 as a home mission project of the 312,000-member Reformed Church in America, is also one of America's most-watched televangelists. Schuller's "Hour of Power" syndicated TV program currently counts approximately 20 million viewers in over 180 countries; his "Institute for Successful Church Leadership" regularly attracts pastors of other large churches as well as pastors from smaller congregations who wish to help

their congregations grow.

At a press conference, Schuller denied the allegations against him and said he had never been in a fight or slapped anyone.

"I'm very proud of who I am. I am innocent," said Schuller. "I have not broken a single one of the Ten Commandments. I have not broken any of the teachings of Jesus Christ, and so I'm proud of my faith and my message."

Details of the allegation have not yet been officially released pending a decision by federal prosecutors on charging Schuller, but according to Schuller's attorney, the flight attendant is on medical leave from United Airlines and claiming physical pain consistent with whiplash. United Airlines spokesmen did not return repeated calls for comment, but other published reports quoted United Airlines stating that Schuller injured the flight attendant after unspecified physical contact.

Schuller's attorney said information "leaked" to him indicated the allegations are "anywhere from Dr. Schuller pushed him, to Dr. Schuller put him in a headlock."

At the press conference, Schuller's attorney Terry Giles said the incident began when Schuller asked to hang up his ministerial vestments "so the robe would not get wrinkled" on the way to the Shabazz funeral.

"They're very difficult to get the wrinkles out of, simple ironing just won't do the trick," said Giles. "Given the importance of the event he wanted to make sure that, of course, he looked his best."

The flight attendant initially said Federal Aviation Administration rules barred hanging garment bags in the airplane. After a supervisor was called on the plane, Schuller won the dispute by comparing his clerical garb to a coat and receiving permission from the flight attendant's supervisor to hang it up with other passengers' coats in the back of the first class section as long as it was out of the carrying case.

That wasn't the end of the matter, however. "After the dinner had been served the young man brought around cheese and fruit," said Giles, who said Schuller is on a low-fat diet.

Schuller "asked if he could arrange to just get some fruit because quite honestly if he put the cheese... he loves cheese but he just shouldn't eat it," said Giles. "He just asked, as I've done many times and maybe some of you have, 'Boy don't put that cheese in front of me because I'm not sure I'll have the willpower to resist it, I'll probably eat it.'"

When the flight attendant refused, Schuller went to the airplane galley and got grapes from another flight attendant. The flight attendant who originally refused to serve fruit without cheese to Schuller then came up behind Schuller, who turned around to speak with him.

"He doesn't remember exactly what happened because he didn't think he'd have to take notes of it, but he addressed this young man the way he has addressed thousands of others," said Giles. "The young man, all of a sudden jumps back and says, 'If you touch me again, I will call the police!'"

Following the landing in New York City and the questioning by FBI investigators, Schuller attended the Shabazz funeral and returned to Los Angeles.

"Dr. Schuller's the first to admit he's a touchy-feelie person," said Giles, who emphasized that a physical assault would be entirely out of character for his client.

"To imagine that Dr. Schuller would, in this set of circumstances, attack a flight attendant and do what he has not done in fifty years of public service, and that is commit a violent act, why he would do it in this setting is unexplainable," said Giles. "It is a totally unbelievable version that this male flight attendant tells."

Schuller described himself as "shell-shocked" by the allegations.

"I'm so used to approaching people with intensity and with physical gestures and always if they're gestures it's open palms," said Schuller. "I had no impression that if I touched him in an intense effort to build communication to let's talk, listen... that that could in any sense be considered a violation."

Schuller's attorney declined to permit Schuller to answer media inquiries about why Schuller thought the flight attendant was making the allegations.

"The truth is that where Dr. Schuller sees halos I see horns. The truth is that Dr. Schuller sees no bad in anyone," said Giles. "It is not in Dr. Schuller's make up to think of people as being greedy or lying, but I make my living in a very different way than Dr. Schuller and I see that happen all the time."

Giles said he didn't yet have an indication on whether the federal prosecutor would press charges but expected an answer within the next few days. "I think it may very well be that given the set of circumstances and the allocation that has been made, they may very well take the position that it is better to let a jury or court decide whether or not the allocations are true as opposed to them just stepping in and dismissing the case or not filing it," said Giles. "On the other hand, they may very well decide that given the nature of who Dr. Schuller [is] the case should not go forward."

According to FBI spokesman Jim Margolin, as of July 3 no decision had been made on filing charges and the New York City FBI office could not comment on ongoing investigations.

"This office is engaged in a preliminary inquiry to sort out the facts and circumstances concerning the events of Saturday," said Margolin, who confirmed that no criminal charges had yet been filed as a result of the investigation. While uncommon, Margolin said state authorities could press charges under certain circumstances if the federal prosecutor chose not to do so.

Whatever Schuller's guilt or innocence of violating federal law, some theologians took exception to Schuller's claim of being innocent of violations of the Ten Commandments.

Schuller has drawn fire for years within his Reformed Church in America and other Calvinist denominations for his "self esteem" theology.

"The thing that comes to mind is the Heidelberg Catechism which says 'But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly? No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience,'" said Dr. John Bolt, who has been a pointed critic of Schuller's theology. "It's difficult to say more than that."

The Heidelberg Catechism is one of the three doctrinal standards shared by Schuller's Reformed Church in America and Bolt's sister denomination, the Christian Reformed Church.

Bolt, a professor of systematic theology at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, also objected to Schuller's attorney's claim that Schuller's ministerial profession led him to think good things of people. "What a wonderful world for a preacher to live in," said Bolt. "It is striking that a minister of the gospel whose task it is to bring the good news of forgiveness to sinners seems to live in a world where there are no sinners and where he sees only good people."

Although Schuller is usually considered within evangelical Christianity, Bolt said his comments indicated that he belonged elsewhere theologically. "It's fairly conventional liberal Protestant moralism," said Bolt. "The posture taken there is a characteristically liberal one, and it is this: there is very little sense of an objective moral order which all of us fall short of, particularly in the light of the teachings of Jesus about the purity of hearts."

"The notion is good intentions make good people and therefore God becomes the one who makes

sure that at the end the well-intentioned have their way or triumph," said Bolt.

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