

THE
SHACK
UNCOVERED

13 HERESIES EXPLAINED

Dr. Michael Youssef



HERESY	BOOK REFERENCES	SCRIPTURAL TRUTH
<p>1. God the Father was crucified with Jesus.</p>	<p>p. 96 <i>Papa:</i> “We were there <i>together</i>.” <i>Mack:</i> “At the cross? Now, wait, I thought you <i>left</i> him—you know—‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’” <i>Papa:</i> “You misunderstand the mystery there. Regardless of what he felt at that moment, I never left him.”</p>	<p>As Jesus was dying on the cross for our sins, He experienced the agony of separation from His Father. This is a divine paradox, as Jesus and the Father are one. Yet because God’s eyes are pure and cannot look upon sin, Jesus experienced what it was like to be forsaken as God “made him who had no sin to be sin for us.”</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Habakkuk 1:13; Matthew 27:46; Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:21</p>
<p>2. God is limited by His love and cannot practice justice.</p>	<p>p. 102 <i>Papa:</i> “The God who is—the I am who I am—cannot act apart from love!” p. 118-119 <i>Mack:</i> “You seem to be especially fond of a lot of people. Are there any who you are not especially fond of?” <i>Papa:</i> “Nope, I haven’t been able to find any.”</p>	<p>The Bible declares that God’s love and justice are two sides of the same coin—equal parts of the personality and character of God.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Isaiah 61:8; Hosea 2:19; Psalm 33:5</p>
<p>3. On the cross, God forgave all of humanity, whether they repent or not. Some choose a relationship with Him, but He forgives them all regardless.</p>	<p>p. 225 <i>Papa:</i> “Forgiveness does not establish relationship. In Jesus, I have forgiven all humans for their sins against me, but only some choose relationship. . . . When Jesus forgave those who nailed him to the cross they were no longer in his debt, nor mine. In my relationship with those men, I will never bring up what they did, or shame them, or embarrass them.”</p>	<p>God’s Word says that only those who repent and come to Christ will be saved. Those who reject Him will not.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Acts 3:19; John 12:48; Acts 4:12</p>

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<p>4. Hierarchical structures, whether they are in the church or in the government, are evil.</p>	<p>p. 122 <i>Mack:</i> “But every human institution that I can think of, from political to business, even down to marriage, is governed by this kind of [hierarchical] thinking; it is the web of our social fabric.” <i>Papa:</i> “Such a waste!” <i>Jesus:</i> “It’s one reason why experiencing true relationship is so difficult for you. Once you have a hierarchy you need rules to protect and administer it, and then you need law and the enforcement of the rules, and you end up with some kind of chain of command or a system of order that destroys relationships rather than promotes it.”</p> <p>p. 178-179 <i>Jesus:</i> “Mack, that’s because you’re only seeing the institution, a man-made system. . . . I don’t create institutions—never have, never will.” <i>Mack:</i> “What about the institution of marriage?” <i>Jesus:</i> “Marriage is not an institution. It’s a relationship. Like I said, I don’t create institutions; that’s an occupation for those who want to play God.”</p> <p>p. 203 <i>Sarayu:</i> “I have a great fondness for uncertainty. Rules cannot bring freedom; they only have the power to accuse.”</p>	<p>Our God is a God of order. Out of His wisdom and love, God gave us structural rules for the church, including guidelines for how gifts should be used and qualifications for leadership.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Job 25:2; 1 Corinthians 12, 14:33; 1 Timothy 3</p>
<p>5. God will never judge people for their sins.</p>	<p>p. 120 <i>Papa:</i> “I don’t need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment, devouring you from the inside. It’s not my purpose to punish it; it’s my joy to cure it.”</p>	<p>The Word of God repeatedly invites people to escape from the judgment of God by believing in Jesus Christ, His Son.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Romans 2:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-3</p>

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<p>6. There is not a hierarchical structure in the Godhead, just a circle of unity.</p>	<p>p. 122 <i>Sarayu:</i> “Mackenzie, we have no concept of final authority among us, only unity. We are in a circle of relationship, not a chain of command or ‘great chain of being’ as your ancestors termed it. What you’re seeing here is relationship without any overlay of power. We don’t need power over the other because we are always looking out for the best. Hierarchy would make no sense among us. Actually, this is your problem, not ours.”</p>	<p>The Bible says that Jesus submitted to the will of the Father. This doesn’t mean that one Person is higher than the other—just unique in their roles. Jesus said, “I came to do the will of Him who sent me. I am here to obey my Father.” Jesus also said, “I will send you the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> John 4:34, 6:44, 14:26, 15:26</p>
<p>7. God submits to human wishes and choices.</p>	<p>p. 145 <i>Jesus:</i> “Submission is not about authority and it is not obedience; it is all about relationships of love and respect. In fact, we are submitted to you in the same way. . . . Because we want you to join us in our circle of relationship.”</p> <p>p. 93-94 (The Father revealing Himself in a form acceptable to Mack—a woman—rather than Mack accepting who God truly is) <i>Papa:</i> “Hasn’t it always been a problem for you to embrace me as your father? And after what you’ve been through, you couldn’t very well handle a father right now, could you?”</p>	<p>Far from God submitting to us, Jesus said, “Narrow is the way that leads to eternal life.” We are to submit to Him in all things and come to Him on His terms—for His glory and because of what He has accomplished for us.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Matthew 7:13-15; Isaiah 45:9; 1 Peter 5:6</p>
<p>8. Justice will never take place because of love.</p>	<p>p. 164 <i>Wisdom:</i> “He chose the way of the cross where mercy triumphs over justice because of love.”</p> <p>p. 169 <i>Wisdom:</i> “Mackenzie, judgment is not about destruction, but about setting things right.”</p>	<p>The Bible teaches that when God’s offer of love, salvation, and forgiveness is rejected, justice must take place. Otherwise, Jesus died on the cross for nothing.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Matthew 10:32-33, 12:20; Romans 3:25-26</p>

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<p>9. There is no such thing as eternal judgment or torment in hell.</p>	<p>p. 248 <i>Narrator (Willie):</i> “And one day, when all is revealed, every one of us will bow our knee and confess in the power of Sarayu that Jesus is Lord of all Creation, to the glory of Papa.” See also pp. 161-164</p>	<p>Jesus’ own description of hell is vivid and cannot be denied. While “universal reconciliation” teaches that salvation can occur after death, the Bible says, “Whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Luke 12:4-5, 16:22-26; John 3:18, 8:24; Matthew 25:41</p>
<p>10. Jesus is walking with all people in their different journeys to God, and it doesn’t matter which way you get to Him.</p>	<p>p. 182 <i>Jesus:</i> “Those who love me come from every system that exists. They were Buddhists or Mormons, Baptists or Muslims, Democrats, Republicans and many who don’t vote or are not part of any Sunday morning or religious institutions. . . . I have no desire to make them Christian. . . .”</p>	<p>Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Only those who come to God on the basis of Christ’s redemptive work will be saved.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 10:9; John 10:9</p>
<p>11. Jesus is constantly being transformed along with us.</p>	<p>p. 182 <i>Jesus:</i> “I have no desire to make them Christian, but I do want to join in their transformation into sons and daughters of my Papa, into brothers and sisters, into my Beloved.”</p>	<p>Jesus, who dwells in the splendor of heaven, sits at the right hand of God, reigning and ruling the universe. The Bible says He is unchanging—the same yesterday and today and forever.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17</p>

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<p>12. There is no need for faith or reconciliation with God because everyone will make it to heaven.</p>	<p>p. 192 <i>Papa:</i> “Honey, you asked me what Jesus accomplished on the cross, so now listen to me carefully: through his death and resurrection, I am now fully reconciled to the world.” <i>Mack:</i> “The whole world? You mean those who believe in you, right?” <i>Papa:</i> “The whole world, Mack. All I am telling you is that reconciliation is a two-way street, and I have done my part, totally, completely, finally. It is not the nature of love to force a relationship but it is the nature of love to open the way.”</p> <p>p. 222 <i>Papa:</i> “And then one day you will pray for [the killer’s] wholeness and give him over to me so that my love will burn from his life every vestige of corruption.”</p>	<p>Jesus Himself said, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> John 3:15-16, 3:36, 5:24, 6:40</p>
<p>13. The Bible is not true because it reduces God to paper.</p>	<p>p. 65-66 <i>Narrator (Mack’s internal thinking):</i> “God’s voice had been reduced to paper, and even that paper had to be moderated and deciphered by the proper authorities and intellects. . . . Nobody wanted God in a box, just in a book. Especially an expensive one bound in leather with gilt edges, or was that guilt edges?”</p> <p>p. 198 (Relegating Scripture to one of many possible revelations of God) <i>Sarayu:</i> “You might see me in a piece of art, or music, or silence, or through people, or in Creation, or in your joy and sorrow. My ability to communicate is limitless. And you will hear and see me in the Bible in fresh ways. Just don’t look for rules and principles; look for relationship—a way of coming to be with us.”</p>	<p>The Bible is God-breathed. Although written by men from different time periods and backgrounds, the Holy Spirit infused their work with God’s words—and the message is the same from Genesis to Revelation. We mustn’t regard the Bible lightly or casually because it is the very Word of God and the ultimate authority on Truth.</p> <p><i>Ref:</i> 2 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 22:19</p>

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