

AREAS OF AFFIRMATION AND AREAS OF CONCERN WITH NEIL ANDERSON'S WRITINGS

The below lists are shared to assist the reader in summarily understanding and locating the main points of affirmation and points of concern within “An Analysis and Critique of Neil T. Anderson’s Approach to Spiritual Warfare in Evangelism and Discipleship” by Jonathan Carl (<http://digital.library.sbts.edu/handle/10392/4605>). This is not a comprehensive listing of points and page references within the dissertation, but is designed to be a helpful tool in summarizing the main take away points of Dr. Carl’s dissertation.

Areas of Affirmation

1. Orthodox understanding of the Gospel (275, 278-79)
2. Orthodox understanding of and emphasis on repentance (275-77)
3. Presentation of the enemies of the flesh, world, and Satan (207, 230)
4. Emphasis on prayer, obedience and personal responsibility (287-88, 301-5)
5. Ongoing, progressive nature of sanctification (283-85)
6. Identity in Christ and union with Christ (296-97)
7. Avoids demonic manifestations and dialoguing (312)
8. Helpful perspectives and presentation of demonic abilities and approach (310-14)
9. Significant and thorough use of Scripture (300-1)
10. While areas of significant concern continue to exist, Anderson’s approach to and understanding of the truth encounter approach to spiritual warfare is a helpful corrective to the power encounter approach (186-88, 222-23, 309-14, 322)
11. Significant progress and corrections have been made since 1997 (324)
12. Easy to read, practical, and largely consistent (325)

Areas of Concern

1. No focus on evangelism or missions because discipleship is self-improvement focused without evangelistic motivation (270-74)
2. Assumption that the reader is a Christian (286)
3. Little focus on Heaven or Hell (272-73)
4. An inadequate and misleading understanding of the seriousness, prevalence, and offense of sin and sin nature (239-46, 261, 290-95)
5. Needs increased emphasis on ongoing and volitional resistance to sin (239-46, 261, 290-95)
6. Authoritative (renunciation, rebuking, commanding, binding) language towards Satan and demons needs to be extremely limited and primarily conversion focused (227, 251-53, 317-19)
7. Although ancestral spirits emphasis has been reduced, it needs to be removed (225-26, 263-64, 313-14)
8. Carnal Christianity confuses both evangelism and discipleship approaches and understanding of sin and sin nature (280-83)
9. Confusion as to possession of believers and use of spatial and control language (246-47, 254, 315)
10. No contrasting of a non-believers identity versus a believer's identity. No addressing of a differing approach to spiritual warfare for non-believers (286)
11. Change of approach at Pentecost (256, 298-300)
12. Some speculation as to abilities and actions of demons (310, 319-20)
13. Discipleship model needs to be more easily reproducible (328-29)