

Doctrine of Higher Life

Areas of Concern Regarding the Higher Life Movement

1. In studying the teachings of the higher life movement the following areas of concern have been articulated by its critics.
2. To what degree these concerns may be right or wrong can be debated, but an awareness of the criticism is helpful for *“iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17)*.
3. As a system of belief, the high life movement leads to Gnosticism. Historically Gnosticism refers to an early heresy in the Church which had to be confronted, not only for the content of its belief, but for the arrogance it produced. A secret pretentious knowledge was laid claim to. Some have seen in the high life movement a tendency towards spiritual arrogance.
4. The teachings of the high life movement invites a view of sanctification that is unrealistic, for it implies perfectionism. The *Bible* clearly teaches, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8)*.
5. The teachings of the higher life movement redefines sin and lessens its horror.
6. The teachings of the higher life movement produces an over idealized eschatology. The Christian life is a life of warfare until God’s gives Christians rest from their labors when they cross over Jordan to their eternal home.
7. The teachings of the higher life movement divides the church into spiritual classes – those who have obtained the higher life and those who have not. A spiritual hierarchy is established and encouraged.