

Alex's Letter

Reproduced verbatim, as received

Dear Nick Franks,

I came across your videos and website, and am a little confused after listening to several videos and reading content. I would be grateful if you could please clarify and address some questions and concerns I have. Please allow me to be direct and up-front.

I understand you believe in continuationism and otherwise appear to be in line with what would be deemed a kind of conservative evangelical doctrine. Yet you are dissatisfied with modern expressions of conservative evangelicalism.

You appear to teach that the closing of churches from covid-19 was part of a judgment of God, but as a merciful judgment in some way.

You issued a rebuke to the Banner of Truth because you felt they did not sufficiently address your concerns about the aforementioned judgment and did not emphasise repentance in the way you desire and called for.

You believe and teach that churches and Christian ministries have misunderstood and weaponised Hebrews 10:25 to keep Christians attending church on the Lord's day. You believe this verse is about believers being gathered together at the second coming rather than believers physically gathering together in fellowship.

Following on from this last point, and to be transparent, this is my chief concern, you appear to be giving credence and encouragement to calling Christians out of attending their local churches, as part of some kind of exile. This appears to me like a call to extreme separatism as I have obtained an insinuation from video content that continuing to gather in local churches is akin to tolerating idolatry in some way.

If this is indeed the case, I am very much concerned with your teaching, because it would effectively be a calling out of believers into a wilderness where they are commanded to feed themselves, especially if they are alone, which is not the mode of new testament Christianity. Again, if what I have gathered as stated from the above is accurate, this is a dangerous extreme form of separatism that could have severe adverse consequences in the lives of believers. For example, I am unsure what you expect a lone believer should do aside from use the internet to find fellowship. It also gives an excuse to those who seek to justify their "lone wolf" style of Christianity, as seen in video comments, where they reject physical

fellowship of all kinds because they are dissatisfied with the local church.

I sincerely hope my assessment above is not accurate. But if it is not, then it remains for me to say at the least what I am getting from your content is lacking in clarity. I have noticed most videos appear to be light in substantial doctrine and more based on subjective or experiential appeals and personal anecdotes.

It remains for me to say that I do in fact sympathise with a lot of your burdens myself, and as such I wanted to reach out to express these questions and concerns here.

By word of caution from history, I would like us to consider whether these words might apply in some way —

"We are no Brownists, to think a church can be perfect in this life and must be deserted for faults, but it is sin to be coagents with the errors of a church. Howbeit we lie in one bed with our mother kirk and touch her whole skin, yet it is a sinful society to lay our skin to her boils and scabs."

— Samuel Rutherford

With Christian regards,
Alex