



EPISODE TITLE: "Love It Or List It"

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 6

Featured Guest: Dr. Eric Elnes

Dr. Eric Elnes is a biblical scholar with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is also a leading articulator of Convergence Christianity and Senior Minister of Countryside Community Church (UCC) in Omaha, NE. Eric has written several books on faith, theology, culture, and experiential worship. Eric also helped lead a walk from Phoenix to Washington, DC, to promote awareness of progressive/emerging Christian faith and practice and meet with Christians to hear their hopes and dreams for the future of faith in America. His journey, which is the subject of a feature-length film, is recounted in his book, *Asphalt Jesus: Finding a New Christian Faith on the Highways of America* (Jossey-Bass, 2007).

Questions:

1. In the Jeremiah text God says, "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." What does that mean for Jeremiah? What might it mean for us?

2. What might be supported in our own lives, in our churches and in our communities through our faith in the foundation of God as the architect and the pillars of wisdom, humility, patience and trust?

3. If Christianity was a house what would you renovate?

Thorny Theological Question:

If Christianity was a house, what would you renovate?

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Pneuma Divina Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

⁶'Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' ⁷But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸'Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.'

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰'See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

⁷ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²'Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. ³Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. ⁴'Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

⁵'For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, ⁶if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, ⁷then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever.

⁸'Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹'Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are safe!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹'Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord.