

Understanding the Problem of Plagiarism Conceptually

Terrel Manikam

Secular Sources (in Higher Education space)

Pillay, Martin & Nkomo (2022:250) share the following as an understanding of what plagiarism is within academic circles:

Plagiarism is considered to be the “**verbatim or near verbatim copying of a text**” (Boisvert & Irwin, 2006:23); “**the appropriation of other people’s material without giving proper credit**” (Allea, 2017:11); “**the inappropriate, unauthorised, unrecognized use of another person’s ideas as if they were new or shared knowledge, or inadequate or unclear references that misinform the reader**” (Gotterbarn, Miller & Impagliazzo, 2006:23); “**the unethical use of other people’s publications, by claiming the contents or parts thereof as one’s own, without paying tribute to or recognising the sources from which the information was obtained, either at all or properly**” (Ocholla & Ocholla, 2016:189).

- From these secular minds, we can easily deduce plagiarism to involve the following: falsehood, dishonesty, stealing, lying, cheating and deception.
- The goal of falsehood is to deceive. These twin concepts are married together.
- As you can also agree, these secularists have no basis for sorting out falsehood within their worldview.

Authenticity and Integrity requires a commitment to an absolute and objective standard of TRUTH in order to measure whether something is authentic or not, and is able to stand the test of integrity.

It also has to be contrasted with Falsehood and Deception – because it goes against objective truth.

Book of Revelation is a book about
contrasts – there are no gray
areas.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes,
that they may have the right to the tree
of life and may go through the gates into
the city.

Outside are the dogs, those who practice
magic arts, the sexually immoral, the
murderers, the idolaters and everyone
who loves and practices falsehood
(pseudos).”

Revelation 22:14-15



The Book of
REVELATION
... which God said ...
... all things ...
... and ...
... the ...
... shall ...
... all things ...
... Events ...

**Consists of at least 4
Genres
(or types of writings)**

1. Apocalyptic (1:1)

(Sovereignty of God – God's absoluteness & objectivity, written in a time of crisis, good vs evil, salvation and judgement, Transcendent Reality - World above/world below)

2. Prophetic (1:3)

**(Fore-telling &
Forth-telling)**

3. Letter (1:4)

(Writer, Recipients,
Salutation, Introduction,
Body, Conclusion)

The Narrative of REVELATION
presents

ANTI-IMAGES
&

CONTRASTS

4. Narrative

(Characters, Plot and
Development)

All genres converge in
narrative

To summarize:

The macro-narrative of Revelation presents the Trinity and the Bride representing all that is true, authentic and good

VS

The Anti-trinity (Pseudo) and Prostitute representing all that is false (pseudos), deceptive and evil.

The Trinity & the Bride

Revelation 4-5

- **The Open Door**
- **The Throne (God is Holy – superlative – basis for Christian ethics & morals), Creator & Sustainer)** (antidote for Secularism)
- **The Scroll (God's Redemption Story & His Judgements)** (antidote for Pluralism & Privatization)



Revelation 19 (cf. Rev 7)

- Bridegroom comes to fetch His Ready Bride
- “Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to wear (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people)”



The Bride is the
Wife of the Lamb
& also a City:

The New
Jerusalem

(Rev 21:9-10)



2. The Anti-trinity (Pseudo) and the Prostitute

*“The artificial is real”
Represent falsehood &
deception*

- The Dragon
- Sea Beast/Land Beast
- False Prophet



Revelation 12

- **The Dragon (ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray) pursues Christ (and the church) to kill him but is overcome.**
- **He is thrown down to the earth.**
- **Believers overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.**



Revelation 13

- **1st Beast - like a lion (13:2)**
- **2nd Beast - like a lamb (13:11)**
- **Forces all people to receive a mark (666 – his name or number of his name) on their right hands or on their foreheads for commercial (utilitarian) purposes.**



The Judgement of the Prostitute

- Seven Seals
- Seven Trumpets
- Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

(Progression & intensity)

Revelation 6-16



Revelation 17-18

- **The Prostitute is a Woman seated on the Beast.**
- **She is also a city: Babylon, The Great.**
- **She is destroyed by the Beast.**



Revelation 19-20

- **The Beast and False Prophet are judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire (19:20).**
- **Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire (20:10).**
- **Death & Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.**



Revelation 21-22



**Blessed are those who wash their robes,
that they may have the right to the tree
of life and may go through the gates into
the city.**

WHICH WOMAN ARE YOU?

**Outside are the dogs, those who practice
magic arts, the sexually immoral, the
murderers, the idolaters and everyone
who loves and practices falsehood.**



- Hence, John's summary list in the last chapter is striking: "Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and *everyone who loves and practices falsehood*" (Rev 22:15).
- Revelation 22:15 describes the fate of the ungodly, excluded from the city. They are called "dogs" – used metaphorically for unbelievers in parts of Scripture.
- Here, they are used to signify the dwelling of dogs as outside from the home of its owner.
- Their works will eternally separate them from the righteous, for the practice of magic arts, sexual immorality, murder, and idol worship declares them unrighteous.
- In Revelation, *works* are what God provides through grace for believers to adorn themselves as the Bride (Rev 19:8) and by which all humanity will be judged based on their choice (Rev 20:12-13; cf. Eph 2:8-10).
- In that list, the final group are those who *love and practice falsehood* (Greek, *pseudos*).

- **Beale's description of this group of people is revealing,**

“This counterfeit tone is stressed in 22:15, which adds that these people “love and practice lying.” Their characteristic lying about their ultimate commitment amounts to “love” for duplicity – not duplicity in general, but a desire to benefit from both the spiritual advantages of church membership and the economic security of participation in the ungodly world. To confess Christ and also show loyalty to the idolatrous world is equivalent to “lying.” These people say one thing, but do another ... Therefore, this is a reference not merely to false teachers and prophets, but to all whose lives have betrayed their Christian confession.”

- Beale's description rightly shows this group as counterfeit.
- They stand guilty of replacing truth with that which is false with the intent to deceive.
- Plagiarism, therefore, is not a new phenomenon.
- It has its origins and influence in the kingdom of Satan and will be judged as Revelation clearly shows.
- The people of God that belong to the Kingdom of God will stand for truth and will share in the inheritance prepared by God for His holy people.

- Students will see their story (narrative) lost in the meta-narrative.
- Students will live lives that reflect a life lived in light of the throne (surrender to truth) and the cross (die to self).
- Students will position themselves as the Bride of Christ - living in holiness and resisting the influence of the Prostitute to participate in the filth of her adulteries.
- We will reject all falseness and deception.