

A Summary of the Heretical Teaching Known As “Modeletics™.”

In his book *Modeling God*, John Lenhart proposes a framework and a belief system he calls “Modeletics™.” This teaching is heretical to its core. Here is an overview of his false teaching along with some quotes from his book and website.

1. He teaches that God is a non-omniscient, non-sovereign deity.

“We see proof throughout the Bible that God can’t unilaterally initiate His will.”¹

“God doesn’t know how much each of us needs until we’ve made choices.... God doesn’t know which people are going to need the value until after they have expressed their will to focus on the spiritual over the physical. Therefore, God could not justly identify that exact amount ahead of time.”²

“Sovereignty” is a man-made tradition that makes the Word of God of NONE EFFECT.”³

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

2. He teaches that Jesus is not fully God in his fundamental essence and nature. Rather, he becomes God as he chooses to act righteously.

“The only way for God to bridge this gap between His nature and our nature was for there to exist a being that had free will and chose to be righteous and just in everything he did. *This would make this person fully God* because he is always completely righteous and always completely just....

This is *how* Jesus is able to be fully man and fully God. (Notice, Jesus’ father being God and his mother being a human *would only make him half man and half God.*)”⁴
(Emphasis mine.)

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

3. He teaches that sin is relative to the individual and not the breaking of God’s objective and revealed standard.

“Therefore, sin is anything we do that does not look Long Term. Sin is an action, attitude, or thought that is wrong *because it is done apart from understanding and experience*. That is, *anything done apart from what the individual knows is right due to their understanding or experience.*”⁵ (emphasis mine)

“This [sin] is *not a list of objective actions*, like the law. *It is dependent on the individual. If it is wrong for the individual, then it is sin for the individual alone.*”⁶
(emphasis mine)

As a result of this idea the sin is relative to the individual, Lenhart writes...

“It is not our responsibility to point out what is sin in other people... Sin causes guilt. If it is sin for the individual, the individual will feel guilt.”⁷

¹ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 44.

² J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 87-88.

³ J.G. Lenhart. www.modeletics.blogspot.com November 23, 2007.

⁴ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 26-27.

⁵ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 89.

⁶ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 89.

⁷ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 91.

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

4. He teaches that salvation by grace must be earned, it is not the unmerited favor of God manifested in Christ's death on the cross which paid our debt of sin.

“When you ask most people their definition of grace, their answer is ‘unmerited favor.’”⁸

He then goes on to debunk this notion, mocking it as a “golden key” definition which must be rejected.

“When a person does wrong, they have to pay... This ‘golden key’ definition says the person pays (and continues to pay) with the unmerited value they received from God. Now that their debt is paid and they are righteous, they can go to heaven. This actually raises a lot of questions....

“...Obviously, this ‘golden key’ definition of grace makes no sense...”⁹

“Unmerited favor is not a cause of righteousness and therefore has no power to save us.”¹⁰

And why is grace not “unmerited favor?” Listen to Lenhart’s deduction from his previously deduced conceptualization of God’s justice.

“Justice says we are still going to have to pay for this value we get from God. God may give us value to pay for sins here, but *we still need to reimburse God.*”¹¹ (emphasis mine)

“The ‘golden key’ definition of grace puts the responsibility on God. The New Testament definition of grace *puts the responsibility on the individual.*”¹² (emphasis mine)

“We have control over grace and removing guilt.”¹³

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

5. He denies there is a point at which one receives Christ and enters into a saving relationship with God.

“The ‘golden key’ definitions looked at salvation as a one-time event...However, we know you aren’t saved yet.”¹⁴

“Essentially salvation is a process that depends on progress, not a quantitative threshold.”¹⁵

“If I were working for the enemy, I would tell people I was a Christian and all they had to do was say they believed in Jesus... I’d tell them the ‘golden key’ concept – they were saved by unmerited favor no matter what they felt or how illogical it appeared.... First of all, this would cause the ‘convert’ not to receive salvation.”¹⁶

“Salvation is not a one time event.”¹⁷

⁸ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 65.

⁹ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 65-66.

¹⁰ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 69.

¹¹ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 66.

¹² J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 74.

¹³ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 123.

¹⁴ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 87.

¹⁵ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 95.

¹⁶ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 101.

¹⁷ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 103.

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

6. He teaches that one does not need to have personal faith in a real and living Jesus. According to Lenhart, there are multiple ways of being saved, all of which depend on human behavior and intent.

“If we were to put a name to the process [of salvation], it would be Jesus, because He made it possible for us to receive the value. There is ‘none other name’ that can be correctly placed in this process. However, *a person doesn’t have to know the name of Jesus in order to receive the value [of salvation]*. The quoted verse that opens this chapter does not say it is the only method. It says it is a sure way of making it to heaven.”¹⁸ (emphasis mine)

“Everyone can benefit from these causes *regardless of religious affiliation*. It would be unholy for someone to intentionally make progress and be barred [at death] from continuing on the journey because they didn’t recognize the brand name [Jesus] on the process. In fact, the ‘golden key’ belief in the name only leads to the biggest problem in the salvation process.”¹⁹ (emphasis mine)

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

7. He teaches works salvation, as in working the formula and process Lenhart lays out. This formula significantly sidelines the cross.

“We know that progress is a result that depends on the individual’s decision to pursue growth in grace and faith. *This decision* is an expression of the will of the individual and *causes the individual to be saved* when he dies.

Going back to our party analogy, when a person dies, it is up to God whether he gets to continue the journey or not. If people want to get to the party, they are going to choose to make progress towards the party instead of looking for short-term thrills by driving on roads that take them away from the party.

If the person should die while they are trying to make progress towards the party, the individual is saved... It would be unholy for God to do something against the will of the individual.

If people die while they are intentionally driving away from the party, then they are not saved, even if they said they wanted to go to the party while they were driving away from it. Even if they spend their entire life driving toward the party, if they are choosing to drive away when they die, God will not allow them to continue the journey....

As long as you are moving forward when you die, no matter how slowly, it would be unholy for God to bar you from continuation of the journey.”²⁰ (emphasis mine)

(Interestingly, in a 230 page book about a theology of salvation, I found just a couple of paragraphs connecting the cross to salvation.)

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

¹⁸ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 99

¹⁹ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 99.

²⁰ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 95-96.

8. He teaches that prayer doesn't work if you don't have enough "value" built up in your spiritual bank account.

"If you don't have value, God would have to first take a value away from you before giving it back in answer to prayer."²¹

"Prayer initiates an exchange of value with God."²²

"We are told to pray. Yet, prayer doesn't really work unless you have value."²³

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

9. He teaches it is witchcraft to pray for someone to be saved.

"It is witchcraft to pray that someone believes something or does something when he or she is against it. This includes praying for people to get 'saved' or healed."²⁴

For a more complete analysis and refutation of this aspect of Modeletics™, click [here](#).

10. He teaches that the key to finding spiritual vitality is discovering your "spiritual ARE." (Ask yourself where that is in the Bible.)

"Your ultimate goal is to find and operate in your ARE. This is your calling."²⁵

"Even today, the ultimate profitability attained by each person occurs through his or her ARE."²⁶

"The ARE is the unique purpose for which you were created."²⁷

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Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again: If anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person.

Galatians 1:8-9 NLT

²¹ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 171.

²² J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 171

²³ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 172.

²⁴ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 165.

²⁵ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 194.

²⁶ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 196.

²⁷ J.G. Lenhart, *Modeling God*, Deep River Books, 2007 p. 197.