

*There is a rule in the book-writing business which says that every book has to include at least some errors, some omissions, some oversights, and some instant datedness in order to be considered as a serious book. On that basis, **The Great Emergence** should qualify as very serious indeed. It is especially so in the areas of omission and datedness. Hopefully, at least some of those problems can be corrected by the comments that follow here.*

– Phyllis Tickle

The Great Emergence as a term names a vast shift in culture affecting every part of life including, but not limited to, religion.

Emergence Christianity is the principal religion component of The Great Emergence.

Emerging Christianity and **Emergent Christianity** are parts or presentations of Emergence Christianity, but neither term is an appropriate name for the larger, over-arching construct. Likewise, the two terms are not synonymous or inter-changeable., though emerging Christianity may be said to be the larger of the two since all emergent Christians would also refer to themselves as emerging.

The semi-millennial shifts and cycles under discussion in books like *The Great Emergence* appertain historically within those parts and cultures of the world that were inhabited by and/or colonized by **Latin Christianity**. The term **Latin Christianity** names those areas and groups of people who received and employed Christian scripture as written in the Latin tongue rather than in the Greek or Syriac one.

Emergence when used in conjunction with, and as a term descriptive of, any of the above shifts and changes does not intend to convey the connotation that any of them is “emerging” and thereby got its name. [The irony is that almost all of them *are* emerging, which confuses things, of course.] Rather, the term emergence was taken originally from the physical sciences and emergence theory, an area of science that studies and describes organisms that are self-organizing, non-hierarchal, net-worked, and relational. An ant hill differs from a bee hive, for example, because it operates under the principles of emergence, whereas the bee hive operates as a hierarchy.