

Are You a Cultural Christian Part 2

Let's turn to 2 Corinthians 13 verse 5, which is our foundational text for our series on Cultural versus Biblical Christianity. In second Corinthians, the Word of God reads as follows: "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

Let's pray.

Father, we thank you for your manifest presence in our lives. We thank you for the reality that you are there. That you are available and accessible to us even when our hearts are weary, our minds are frustrated and puzzled, our will is inactive and exhausted, our bodies are weak and tired. You are still that very present help in time of our trouble. So, Father, we cast our cares upon you because you care for us. We love you because you first loved us. And we pray, oh God, and we stand upon your loving, gracious and merciful heart to so manifest your purposes and wills in our lives— that even when it's difficult, we may sense the reality of the divine. That you are guiding and guarding and comforting our hearts as we trust in you. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight. O Lord, my strength and our Redeemer. Speak to your people for they are listening. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Last week we opened up this topic on cultural versus biblical Christianity. Doctor Russell Moore stated, "As American culture changes, the scandal of Christianity is increasingly right up front. Exactly where it was in the 1st century at the point of controversy and conflict and crisis." The shaking of American culture will get us back to the question Jesus asks his disciples in Caesarea Philippi. He says, "who do you say that I am?" And as the Bible Belt recedes— you know, supposedly, Christians in the southern states, it's called the "Bible Belt". It's broken. That belt buckle is down on the ground. As it recedes, those left standing up for Jesus will be those who, like Simon and Peter of old, know how to answer that question. "Who do you say that I am?" Once Christianity is no longer seen as part and parcel of patriotism,

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Americanism, American exceptionalism. Once we're stripped from that identity, the church must offer more than "What Would Jesus Do". That's moralism. And "I Vote values". That's populism, to which we have grown accustomed. It needs to break. So that true Christianity and true Christians can express their allegiance too. And their allegiance is not to the flag, but to Christ. We honor the flag. We honor what it represents. But we don't pledge allegiance. We pledge allegiance to the Lamb. Jesus said this in Matthew 16 verse 16-18 (we're still in Caesarea Philippi, this is just introduction.) Simon Peter replied. He's replying to the question: "who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! [Son of John] For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father, who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, that on this rock..." What's the Rock? "You are the Christ, son of the living God." On that rock, that bedrock of truth, "...I will build my church." Notice he didn't say I will build religious systems and denominations and churches and congregations and megachurches and smaller churches. He said, "I will build my church." Right? "and the gates of hell will not prevail against." So let's continue to explore and explain five ways cultural Christianity is different and should be different than biblical Christianity.

We talked about number one: anyone can be a cultural Christian. Secondly, cultural Christianity is convenience. Thirdly, our third Point today, cultural Christianity is more about outward appearance. And this is my first point of discussion that cultural Christianity embraces performance. Yeah. It focuses on the external, on the outer appearance, on works on deeds, on behaviors and actions that look appropriate and good. It focuses on looking good while doing well without actually being good. They are socially and religiously exhibitionist. They want to be heard and they want to be seen for all the good that they do in society. There are people who display pleasantries. They pay it forward. They announced to others, "look at the good that I am doing". They perform random acts of kindness. They are trying to create a place or state of things where everything is perfect. Cultural Christians view their good works, beloved, and deeds as a sign of righteousness before God. They are religious performers. They

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know how to say it, sing it, walk it, talk it but they really don't believe it. The cultural Christian might even attend church on occasions and promote religious syncretism (a belief that all religions teach the same thing.)

Let's turn to Luke 18. Luke 18: 9-14 is the parable of the Pharisee. The Pharisee is an example of a 1st century religious performer. Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves, in their own abilities, their own religious standing before God. They had an assessment about their spirituality that they thought was transcendent, that they thought God would take note of. So Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in God? They trusted in themselves. That they were righteous and treated others with contempt. That's amazing. The cultural Christian can appear outwardly to be spiritual and righteous, but inwardly they're not. Jesus said, "Two men went up in to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and one a tax collector." They call him a sinner, a publican. "The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God,' (Now notice he was praying to himself.) "God, I thank you..." And he's going to practice a lot of what we call comparisons. "God, I thank you that I am not like other men." Well, now he's comparing himself to other people. "Extortioners," I'm not an extortioner. They are unjust; I'm not unjust. They are "adulterers." I'm not an adulterer, they are. "Or even like this tax collector." The tax collector is in the temple with him. He said, "He not like me, look at him. He's a publican." And then he got down to the spiritual heart of his false identity. He says, "I fast twice a week." Good for you. Right? That's what people tell you. They're bolstering their spiritual portfolio. "I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." Now that's the Pharisee. That's the religious performer. Now look at the other guy that publican, that sinner, that tax collector. He was standing far off. Would not even lift up his eyes to heaven. But beat at his chest saying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!" Jesus said this in conclusion of his parable, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other [the religious performer.] For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." That's beautiful! Beloved, cultural Christianity is outward appearance only. How you look, how you dress, how you sound, how you smell, what you drive, where you live, who you

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associate with— it's all external, it's all social status. It's all peacocking, right? Is playing the game. It's acting successful even when you're not. It's being somebody when you're not that somebody you're trying to be. It's perpetrating a fraud. But they do it so well they sound so spiritual, they sound so knowledgeable, they look so blessed, but they're not. Because they're not in alignment with God.

Look at Matthew 23 verses 27 and 28. This is the same context we're in here. We're talking about hypocrisy. We're talking about people who fake it until they make it. Those are cultural Christians. They're religious, but not righteous. They're ceremonial, but they're not converted. They're a C&E Christians, you know, that group they come to church on Christmas and Easter. But listen to what Jesus says about that. Jesus said in Matthew 23:27 and 28, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" Pretenders. You're just mere actors. You're performing a role you don't even possess. "For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead man's bones and all uncleanness." Verse 28, "So you also outwardly appear..." What? "righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." You ain't about this life that you're proclaiming. Yeah, you proclaiming love in God, but you ain't about that life. Yeah, your proclaiming God is real, but you're not about that life. You living a double life. You perpetrating the fraud. Cultural Christianity does this. It falsely focuses on the outward appearance as evidence to measure a person's spirituality while biblical Christianity focuses on the inward repentance, obedience to God's word and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

A cultural Christian can also be termed as a nominal Christian. You know "in name only". And this is what America's stuck with today. This is what the American Church is stuck with. Oh, you can fill it up, pack it up. But you still gonna have a lot of nominal Christians. Cause, they're there for all the wrong reasons. And why did you attend morning worship? Many will say, well, they had a good youth program, they got a good this or good that. They have an outreach program, they got a good social program. It has nothing to do with the vertical relationship with God, it's always horizontal. Like what can you do for me? And if you can do

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something for me, then I'm gonna come. If you can make me feel good, I'm going to show up. If you can give me the conveniences of getting up early in the morning and bring in my children and family, then I'll return the favor by showing up. And maybe I'll give you a dollar or two during the offering.

People think they're doing God a favor by attending a local assembly of believers. That's your calling as a Christian to not forsake the assembling of yourselves together. That's your responsibility as a Christian, your requirement to be there, to be under the spiritual leadership and accountability to build fellowship with those in Christ, to keep each other in prayer, to lift each other when they're down, to be some source of encouragement to one another as you walk this Christian journey. And this journey is a long journey. On this journey, you can get tired. You can begin to doubt, in fear and be afraid. And you need brothers and sisters to come along on that journey and tell you it's okay to be afraid sometimes. It's okay to have doubt, it's okay to have fear and weakness, because God is still at work. Because you're an example of it. Because if you've been in the Christian life long enough and been walking down this road of faith, you have faced some things that shook your faith. And you need someone to come alongside you and encourage you and build within you a foundation of faith that is immovable and unshakable. Beloved, cultural Christians is the name only. Remember those members jackets? Members only. We gotta stop just being members of a local church. We need to be disciples. Cause disciples go produce other disciples. That's the problem with New Life. We have members, but no disciples. We, the members, need to become disciple makers. Not a program, not a system. And those things are fine but really, Christ calling you in this face-to-face, one-on-one relationship to take what he has done in you to other people. As you go, make disciples of all people. That's what we're called to do. And the nominal Christian leaves out the most important aspect of Christianity and that's point B.

Biblical Christianity is a personal relationship. That's the word. It's a relationship with Christ. It's union with Christ, communion with the saints. We're called the household of faith for a reason in the Bible. We're called the body of Christ for a reason in the Bible. We're called the

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Bride of Christ for reason in the Bible. That means we don't live independently of one another in the Christian life. We live interdependent. A body is interdependent. A household, a family is interdependent, not independent. The ecclesia (the called out church) is interdependent, but we, in America, are living this independent "Me, Myself and I" Christianity, which is detrimental to our spiritual development. We need a relationship with Christ and it starts with loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. See, that's just living out what you are. There's not doing something to be somebody. You already somebody in Jesus, now live it out. Right? The Commandments is not for you to obey in order to be a Christian. You are a Christian because you were born again. You were regenerated, you were converted, you were saved, you were delivered, you were brought into the family of God through the preaching of the gospel. Now that you're in the body, start obeying.

The law is love. The law is not works for us, it's love, and out of love we do good works. Ain't that the way it works? I'm motivated by love to love you, as you should be motivated by God loving you to love me and to do the good for one another and those outside the household of faith, but especially to those within the household of faith. Right? It's sad if you treat other people's kids on your block with love and compassion and then go home and don't treat your own kids with love and compassion. That's a poor parent. Biblical Christianity is a personal relationship with Christ. It emphasizes relationship. What defines a Christian is what Christ did for the Christian, not what the Christian can do for Christ. Well, we still got this thing that "I gotta do something to be something." Not so with Christianity. It is done. *Tetelestai*. He did it all. All you have to do is believe. And if you believe, he gave you the grace to believe it. Isn't that wonderful? So what defines a Christian is what Christ did for the Christian, not what the Christian does for Christ. Biblical Christians do good works not to be saved, we do good works because we are saved. Now the nominal Christian, the cultural Christian, the scribes, the Pharisees, they do it to get saved. They're gonna try to obey the law to be saved. And the law condemns them every time. When you look at the law, it tells you you're a sinner. Doesn't tell you you're a Saint. It tells you what you cannot accomplish, not what you can accomplish.

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That's what it was designed to do. It was to be a tutor, to draw you to Christ. "By grace, you're saved... not of works, lest any of us should boast." (KJV; Ephesians 2:8-9) It is a gift of God. And the gift of God in that verse is faith. By grace through faith you have been saved. It is not of works, it's a gift and you can't work for a gift. A gift is given, you can receive it, or you can reject it. So a biblical Christian is defined by communication and submission to God, fellowship and submission to God, relationship and submission to God. Those who are the proponents of cultural Christianity, miss out on that aspect: relationship. Eternal life now and forever.

Someone may be asking, "What is eternal life? Is that something you get when you die, or do you get it here in the earthling realm?" Well, Jesus defines it this way in John 17:3. Jesus says, "And this is eternal life..." I love the way he just he just tells you what it is without you guessing. Jesus said, in his high priestly prayer in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you, Father, have sent." Now, don't run through that. That word 'know' that Jesus uses is the Greek word *ginóskó*. *Ginóskó* means to know through personal experience. My children cannot come to God through my experience. They need their own experience with God to know God. Right? They can't come primarily through my prayer life, they need a prayer life. They can't come primarily through my time in the word, they need time in the word. See, it's a relationship. In this relationship is one on one right? That's between you and the Lord. That's not between me, you and the Lord. I'm not the mediator. I'm not the middleman. Jesus is the mediator between God and man. He's the reconciler. Now, once you're reconciled to Christ— any reconciled relationship is a renewed relationship, is a relationship where you go, "*Reunited and it feels so good, reunited 'cause, we understood. There's one simple thing, and baby, this one is it. We both are reunited. Hey, hey.*" See, they're excited about being reunited! Because it's a personal, what? Relationship. I'm trying to get you to see this, that this is biblical Christianity. This is not cultural Christianity. This is not nominal Christianity. This is not a Christianity just outward appearance and no inward life. This experience is knowing God first hand, not secondhand. This is knowing the intimacy with

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your mind and your will and your emotions. It's an experiencing of God life in you by faith in his son Jesus Christ. Biblical Christianity is a personal relationship.

The 4th way that cultural Christianity is different than biblical Christianity: Cultural Christianity is selective regarding belief in the Bible. When culture and Christianity clash, the cultural Christian adjusts his or her worldview to accommodate the world. Whatever offends the world offends the cultural Christian. Whatever offends God does not offend the cultural Christian. Cultural Christians cherry pick the Bible. Have you heard 'em? Have you seen 'em? They cherry picked the Bible. They choose verses that appear to be not offensive over those that appear offensive. And that's just a matter of taste and perspective, isn't it? What's offensive and what's not offensive? When the directives of the Bible in the Bible don't line up with what the culture says, the cultural Christian go along with the culture. They go along with abortion. They go along with sexual immorality as a law. They go along with the redefinition of marriage. They go along with all the things that God speaks against. And then some who claim to be Christians in the church, go along with it. As our nation (and I mean America) as it drifts further away from biblical truth, a socially acceptable brand of Christianity is emerging. Cultural Christianity allows people to be religious without being seen as fanatical. Right wing or even left wing. It's that easy position of centrism, in the middle. Not offending the right or the left. It's just like Goldilocks, you know, she went to the father soup and it was too hot. The other one was like too cold, but that little kid's porridge, it was just right. See, that's the cultural Christianity. It is Goldilocks' soup. "Oh that tastes just right." It's not cold, it's not hot, it's just right. It's warm. When Jesus said in the Bible, "I'd rather that you be hot or cold 'cause if you're lukewarm, I'm gonna spit you out of my mouth." So that cultural Christian is drinking Goldilocks' warm, theological soup. Tastes good. Won't offend. Okay. Although the beliefs sound spiritual, they are radically different than biblical beliefs. So while we share the term Christian, we part ways when it comes to what we believe. And how we live out those beliefs.

What are the symptoms of cultural Christianity? The first symptom, a twisted view of scripture. Yeah. To the cultural Christian truth is relative and progressive. Truth is in you. You

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know, you have your truth, I have my truth, all gods children got a truth. No they don't. God's children have *the truth* and he said I am that truth. That's the truth we have. The truth that he is and the truth that he reveals, which is scripture. So while they read the Bible, it's more of a reference book for good living or a collection of fables with moral guidelines. They quote scripture, but only scriptures that validates their ideology. Even when verses are often twisted or taken out of context and parts of the Bible are simply thought of as irrelevant for today. That, you know, people look at that and say that don't even apply to the world anymore. It's so out of the pocket, it's out of context, it's out of the wave, the flow of the American life. This approach allows individuals to pick and choose what fits their personal truth. It's a twisting of scripture. Second Timothy 3:16 and 17 says, "All scripture is God breathed." *Theòpneustos*, out of God. "It is useful, profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. That the man and woman of God may be completely equipped for every good work."

The second one is a damage view of God. If you're cultural Christian today, that's what's going to happen. These are the symptoms: twisted view of Scripture and a damaged view of God. Because it's through scripture that we know who God is, is it not? God reveals who he is through the word. A twist of your scripture leads to an incomplete view of God. At best, the loving parts of his character are elevated over his Holiness. Everyone talks about the love of God. Everyone talks about peace. Everyone talks about mercy. Everyone talks about forgiveness, but no one talks about holiness. Righteousness. Justice. Judgment. As a result, He is seen as a doting grandfather or an affectionate Santa Claus. Whose aim is our, what? Life, liberty, and pursuit of... that's the whole goal of God for me, is "make me happy Jesus." The late Ravi Zacharias, describes this as forcing a square peg into a round hole. And what you do in the end is just damage the edges of the peg. When people force God into their mode, the result is a damage view of God.

First Peter 1:14 to 16 says, "As obedient children do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who call you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. Since it is written [some text "As it is written,.."] you shall be holy, for I am holy." God told us to

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love, but he never told us to be loving. He told us to be holy. That's important because holiness is the essence of God's being. Look at a bicycle wheel, spikes moving around the wheel but in the middle, the hub. That hub holds all the spikes of that wheel. Because that hub is not the core. Right? Without the core, the spikes don't have anything to hold to or to adjust themselves to. That's the Holiness of God. Love, mercy, peace, justice, righteousness, omnipotence— all that is tied to his Holiness. So if God's character in his core is holy, then his love is holy. It ain't like your love. His justice is holy justice, his peace is holy peace. His righteousness is holy righteousness. You gotta see the whole essence of God. The full orb view of God to know God. Not just to focus on one of his attributes at the dismissal of the other attributes that you don't like. We gotta take his justice and judgment and wrath along with his love, mercy and grace. They're all holy. Whenever God acts, he acts in a holy manner with holy motives. So twisted view of scripture will give you a damaged view of God.

Thirdly, a damaged view of God will give you a distorted view of sin. See cultural Christians view personal sin as a normal part of life. But there are many Christians who've been surveyed by Barna Research, that many people who claim Christianity in America, a large percentage believe that Jesus sinned because Jesus was human. That's a lack of reading of Scripture. Most families have at least two to three Bibles at home. And they're just collecting dust. But if you just read a cursory— just a cursory reading of scripture, you will know that Jesus, there was no fault found in him. No one claimed him to be a sinner. Other than the Pharisees and the scribes, people didn't like him. Most of people viewed him as holy; a righteous man, a prophet. But he was never characterized as sinful. When you have a twisted view of Scripture, you have a damaged view of God that will lead to a distorted view of sin.

So they tolerated, they ignore it and even joke about it. After all, they justify, "God knows I'm not perfect." You heard that before. Have you said it before? This attitude carries over to others as well. Since cultural Christians are heavily influenced by what people think, they often remain silent out of fear of being "cancelled". You know this is a cancel culture we live in. They're afraid of being cancelled for being intolerant or offensive. They do seem to

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Speak up on one issue. Those who speak up regarding biblical truth, those people are quickly labeled as judgmental. If you make a judgment in this society about anything that's going on, "Judgmental!" I mean, that's going to be your scarlet letter, right? It's not gonna be a red "A", right? It's gonna be a red "J". Judgmental, Judgmental, Judgmental! And you're making an ethical and moral distinction between right and wrong, and they called that judgementalism. Well, then why are you saying that what happened in these shootings is evil. This is the same society is feeding us the garbage. The same mouth, the same system, the same people that would say this is evil, will say abortion is right. Y'all are confused. It doesn't make any sense. You're morally correct over here, but you're morally incorrect over there. It's the same system saying the same thing when it suits their heart. So here they are.

Those people are quickly labeled as judgmental. The cultural Christian would tell that Christians are judgmental. "I'm a Christian, I'm not judgmental. But these folks here, they're judgmental." Well, Roman 6:1-2 says this for those who don't believe in sin, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means. How can we who died to sin live in sin any longer?" It's not okay to claim Christ and live in sin. I did not say that you can't sin living in Christ. I'm saying you can't live in sin and claim Christ. Cause as you live you will sin. That's why we got 1 John 1:9. "Confess your sins. He's faithful, and just to forgive your sins, cleanse you from all unrighteousness." He's not saying you will not sin, he's saying you won't live in sin. That you won't have habitually, consciously rebel against God by claiming his name and doing your thing. You won't do that at the same time. But as you live the life, you may stumble and fall on the path, but you get back up. You repent, you turn away, you confess, you get cleansed, and you keep on walking by faith. But these folks? They live in sin because they don't think sin is an issue with God, that's just for judgmental people. Beloved, Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." Now that's just one sin. He's dealing with the nature of man. The wages of sin; not committing a sin, but sin itself leads to death. "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." You don't have to commit a sin to be a sinner. You're born that way. You're born a sinner until you're born again.

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So a distorted view of Scripture gives you a damaged view of God, a damaged view of God gives you a distorted view of sin and a distorted view of sin, lastly, gives you a perverted view of grace. That's deep, a perverted view of grace. Because people who sin without thought, without remorse, without guilt over their personal sin, is because cultural Christians misuse God's grace to indulge ungodly behavior. God made me this way. God didn't make you that way. Sin made you that way. First Adam made you that way. The second Adam came to deliver you from that way. Get your Adams right. Jesus is called the second and last Adam. Let's get the Adams right first before we start saying who made us do what. It's the first Adam that gave you the apparatus to do what you're doing: rebelling. It's the last Adam, Jesus who delivers you from that. Grace becomes a license to do whatever I want to do without remorse and without guilt. Jude verse 4 says this (and this is the attitude of the cultural Christian, of the nominal Christian, in name only Christian), "They are ungodly people," Jude said, "who pervert the grace of our God into a license of immorality and denied Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." See the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, they found that adults today increasingly adopt a Salvation-Can-Be-Earned perspective. 48% believe if a person is generally good or does enough good during one lifetime when they die, they earn a place in heaven. See, beloved, that's not biblical Christianity. Romans 3:20 says, "By the works of the law, no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes the knowledge of sin." The law just reminds you, you are a sinner, doesn't help you to be a Saint. Galatians 2:16 says, "Yet we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but through faith In Jesus Christ. So we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by the works of the law, no one will be justified." Twisting of scripture, a damaged view of God, distorted view of sin and a perverted view of grace.

And this is the last distinction between biblical Christianity and cultural Christianity. Cultural Christianity, here it is, requires little to no sacrifice. It requires little to no sacrifice. Cultural Christians, religious Christians, nominal Christians don't sacrifice for the cause of

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Christ. They don't have to. The label of cultural Christianity claims easy believism. That's what it is. They just say— by saying "belief", that covers everything for them with no behavior, with no commitment, with no confession, with no repentance. Being a nice person, that's it for them. A nice person tends to get what he or she wants. It leads to a conformity instead of transformation. If you do what people want you to do, they'll be happy with you. Of course they will be. They're getting what they want out of you. But that's how they think. They don't rock the boat, they don't want to tip the boat over. So they go along with the mess. They go along to get along. That's not biblical Christianity. They are people pleasers instead of God pleasers. Cultural Christians accepts what God rejects. When you're ever around a Christian, by the time you finish your conversation, they have defended the world and the things of the world. You need to ask them, "Are you truly born again? Are you really a follower of Christ? Do you really believe the Bible? Because for this hour, you just defended the world against the truth." And maybe they don't know, maybe they're blind to that reality.

That's why we need to be woke. Spiritually woke, biblically woke so that we can speak to this world that think they are awake and they're not. Remember, Jesus never said that following him would be easy. But he said it's possible. He said in Luke 9:23, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." That's possible. If we're willing to do what? To sacrifice. Taking up a cross— me, I gotta sacrifice. I gotta die of something. I gotta remove something out of my life in order to pick up his cross and follow him. That means there's sacrifice in the life of a believer. And it's not bad. Jesus demanded radical sacrifice to the rich young ruler in Luke 18:22. Eleven out of the 12 apostles died a martyr's death. They were killed for the cause of Christ. Christ cause us to be followers of his, not fans. We're not fans of Jesus. We don't need pompoms and rah rah for Jesus. We need to do what he called us to do.

What are you today? Are you a fan or are you follower of Jesus Christ? Jesus said this, if you follow me, if you deny yourself, if you take up your cross and you follow me daily, he says this in John 15:18 and 19, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated

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you.” Don’t think you’re that special that they just come after you. They already came after me, that’s why they coming after you. “If you were of the world, the world will love you.” Is that something? Because the world love it’s own, it’s celebrates its own. You’ve seen the award shows. Just celebrating a bunch of foolishness and immorality. That’s what they’re doing.” But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Now you know why the world doesn’t like biblical Christianity. Because it doesn’t like the Christ of Christianity. 1 John 4:4 says, “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” See, cultural Christianity have no requirements in terms of lifestyle. Biblical Christianity has a requirement: love God with all your heart, mind and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. This fulfills the whole law of God. And if it’s true that they categorize these laws as 613, which includes ceremonial laws and dietary laws, and all kinds of laws, it’s all fulfilled in those two. That’s all you have to do is those two if you are saved, if you are a follower of Jesus. Love God, love others. If you do that, you will obey God. Right. Jesus said. If you love me you will keep my commandments.

Let’s pray.

Father, let us never see ourselves as anything more than a fully devoted follower of your son Jesus Christ. Never let us lean on the flesh. What others might or can do? Please allow us to quickly see when we are seeking to lead ourselves, and as quickly step in behind our Lord and Savior. Father, I pray for a decreasing fear of what may come in following you by a greater understanding of your Majesty, your wonder, your power, and your redeeming love. I know that being a follower of your Son is the greatest blessing, calling and endeavor that are redeemed sinner can be allowed the privilege of receiving. I’m grateful every day for that blessing of blessings. May we become as a body of believers, as New Life Community Church, fully devoted followers of Christ for time and for eternity. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.