

## IT'S WHAT WE DO

### Week 4: Love's Response

#4/6

April 21 & 22, 2018

Pastor Jeff Bogue

WE ARE IN A SERIES IN WHICH WE ARE TALKING ABOUT **WHAT WE DO**, AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS.

- FOR THE CHRIST FOLLOWER... THIS SERIES WILL TEACH YOU HOW YOU ARE CALLED TO LIVE AND LOVE THE WORLD AROUND YOU.
- IF YOU ARE NOT YET A CHRIST FOLLOWER... THIS SERIES WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOUR LIFE COULD BE LIKE AND EXPLAIN A LITTLE WHY CHRISTIANS ACT THE WAY THEY DO.

AMBASSADORS

COMPASSIONATE CHRIST FOLLOWERS

THIS WEEKEND WE WANT TO THINK TOGETHER ABOUT THE RESPONSES PEOPLE AROUND US SHOULD EXPECT FROM CHRIST FOLLOWERS WHEN THEY DON'T AGREE OR UNDERSTAND.

*LET ME VENT MY CHILDHOOD A LITTLE BIT. ☺*

*I TAUGHT CORRECTLY THAT "THE WORLD" "UNSAVED" WERE*

- *BLINDED BY THE GOD OF THIS AGE*
- *ENEMIES OF GOD IN THEIR HEARTS*
- *CALLUSED TO THE TRUTH*
- *REBELLIOUS AGAINST GOD*

○ **ALL TRUE**

*THE CONCLUSION THAT WAS REACHED WAS FALSE –*

*THEY SHOULD BE SHUNNED.*

*THEY SHOULD BE FEARED.*

*THEY SHOULD BE REJECTED (IMMORAL PERVERTS).*

*THEY... WERE INFERIOR IN GOD'S EYES, AND WILL GET THEIRS SOON ENOUGH.*

THE RESULT WAS OFTEN –

SHOUTING DOWN THE LOST PEOPLE CHRIST LOVES

MOCKING THE PEOPLE GOD LOVES

BEING SNARKY TOWARD PEOPLE GOD LOVES

**FORGETTING, THAT I AM JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE THAT GOD LOVES**

IF YOU ARE NOT YET A CHRIST FOLLOWER AND HAVE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF THESE ATTITUDES --- I AM SORRY.

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THESE ATTITUDES CUT BOTH WAYS...

HOWEVER, CHRISTIANS ARE TAUGHT BY GOD TO -- NOT REPAY EVIL WITH EVIL

SO, HOW ARE CHRIST FOLLOWERS TO RESPOND TO INDIVIDUALS, CULTURAL SYSTEMS THAT WE MUST, BY CONVICTION NOT AGREE WITH?

GOD GIVES US A GREAT EXAMPLE IN **ACTS 17 – PAGE # 772**

TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO PAUL WAS AN AMBASSADOR TO:

**BELOW: 3 SLIDES (one slide per verse)**

**RELIGIOUSLY LOST**

**ACTS 17:2-4 - THESSALONICA**

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

AND A BUNCH OF OTHERS TRIED TO KILL - AND HAD ALL HIS FRIENDS ARRESTED 😊

**SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE**

SOMEONE IS RELIGIOUSLY LOST WHEN THEY BELIEVE THAT ANYONE OR ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION IS ABLE TO CLEANSE THEIR SIN AND GIFT THEM ETERNAL LIFE.

- GOOD WORKS
- RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
- FALSE GODS
- JESUS “PLUS”
- JESUS “MINUS”

PAUL SAW THAT MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE SYNAGOGUE WERE SINCERELY LOOKING FOR THE TRUE GOD...

- THEY WERE RAISED IN A CERTAIN CULTURE.
- THEY HAD NOT CONSIDERED OTHER IDEAS.
- THEY WERE BIBLICALLY IGNORANT.

HE DID NOT PUSH “HIS CHURCH”, HIS POLITICS, HIS “TABOO” SIN. HE SIMPLY, GENTLY AND RESPECTFULLY “REASONED, FROM THE SCRIPTURE” WHY JESUS IS GOD AND DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE TO US”.

THE SECOND GROUP OF PEOPLE HE ENCOUNTERS IN ATHENS:

## **"HUMANIST" LOST**

A **HUMANIST**, IN BROAD TERMS, BELIEVES THAT LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT, AND YOU CAN MAKE IT AS GOOD OR BAD AS YOU CHOOSE.

A **SECULAR HUMANIST**, IS GENERALLY AN ATHEIST OR AGNOSTIC --- THEY BELIEVE LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT, AND THAT THERE IS NO SPIRITUAL REALM AFFECTING US IN ANYWAY.

**BELOW: 1 or 2 SLIDES (however it fits best)**

ACTS 17:16-18

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him.

Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

<sup>19</sup>Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup>You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."

THIS THINKING IS VERY PREDOMINATE IN OUR CULTURE TODAY... IT IS CULTURAL FOR US.

**A MODERN EXAMPLE OF A STOIC**

**(ON TV) PICTURE OF: SPOCK**

**A MODERN EXAMPLE OF EPICUREAN**

**(ON TV) PICTURE COLLAGE OF: TONY ROBINS/OPRAH/OLSTEEN/"YOU DO YOU"**

HUMANISM SOUNDS LIKE:

"SELF MADE PERSON"

"I BELIEVE IN WHAT I CAN PROVE."

"PULL YOURSELF UP."

"THE SUPERNATURAL CAN BE PROVEN."

"SELF ESTEEM"

"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF."

**SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE**

THESE PHILOSOPHIES ALL EXCLUDE THE EXISTENCE AND DEPENDENCY ON A LOVING GOD WHO HOLDS AUTHORITY OVER MY LIFE...

SO HOW DO WE RESPOND?

GENTLY AND RESPECTFULLY – REASON

FOR THE OLDER GENERATION, THE THINKING WAS THIS:

PROVE ME WRONG, AND YOUR VIEW RIGHT AND I WILL ACCEPT IT AS TRUE.

- THE BIBLE SAYS IT, I BELIEVE IT, AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME (ACTUALLY NEVER TRUE ☺)

FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION, THE THINKING IS VERY DIFFERENT:

SHOW ME WHAT WORKS, AND I WILL ACCEPT IT AS TRUE.

THIS IS AWESOME!!!

BECAUSE THE BIBLE WORKS!!

**Below: 1 SLIDE 4 CLICKS**

SOMETIMES WE "REASON" WITH WORDS.

- EXAMPLE

SOMETIMES WE "REASON" WITH COUNSEL.

- I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO AVOID DIVORCE.

SOMETIMES WE "REASON" WITH SACRIFICE.

**\*\*MUST BE SOMETHING THERE IF THEY ARE WILLING...**

- IF THEY SERVE
  - IF THEY GIVE
  - IF THEY INVEST THEIR LIVES
- \*\* PURSUADE ME WITH YOUR LOVE.**

SOMETIMES WE "REASON" WITH LIFE CHANGE.

- THEIR MARRIAGE HEALED
- THEY HAD VICTORY OVER ADDICTION
- THEIR ATTITUDE CHANGED

**SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE**

REASON NEVER SOUNDS LIKE:

- A SHOUTING MATCH
- A POLITICAL ARGUMENT
- A TWITTER FEED OR POST
- A CONDESCENDING REMARK

- CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THINK THAT  
PATRONIZING SOMEONE –  
CONTROLLING SOMEONE'S BEHAVIOR

ONE OF THE HOTTEST SUBJECTS IN OUR CULTURAL TODAY IS SEXUALITY –  
A FEW YEARS AGO, A LADY ASK ME WHAT THE CHURCH THOUGHT ABOUT BEING GAY?

- NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING... CAN WE SIT AND TALK?

SHE WAS GREAT – WE TALKED

- ABOUT WHO OWNS MY BODY

SHE NEVER CHANGED HER MIND –

BUT SHE KNOWS I LOVE HER!!

AND I KNOW SHE LOVES ME!

OR

CONVERSATION WITH MUSLIM TEACHER

OR

TEACHING SOMEONE ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL RESPOND TO FOLLOWING JESUS.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL HATE YOUR GUTS.

AND THERE ARE TONS OF PEOPLE WHO WHEN INTERACTED WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT,  
WILL BE VERY OPEN TO A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION BASED IN SCRIPTURE.

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,

and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.