

CHRISTIANITY

Inside-Out, Upside-Down, and Backwards

Part 2

Jesus + Something “More” = NOTHING

RELATIONSHIP Truth	VS.	RELIGION Error/Lies
A Father Who Is Pleased		A God Who Can't Be Satisfied
13. <u>Everlasting Life vs. Everlasting Death</u>		
<p><i>John 3:16¹</i> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</p> <p><i>John 10:10</i> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have <u>life</u>, and that they may have it more <u>abundantly</u>.</p> <p><i>1 John 5:11</i> And this is the testimony: that God has given us <u>eternal</u> life, and <u>this life is in His Son</u>.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">ERROR:</p> <p>Sinners are offered everlasting life, but afterwards they discover that the Christian “life” is more akin to everlasting death.</p>
14. <u>Abundant Life vs. Hard Life</u>		
<p><i>Matthew 11:28-30</i> Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you <u>rest</u>.²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find <u>rest</u> for your souls.³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”</p> <p><i>John 10:10</i> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have <u>life</u>, and that they may have it <u>more abundantly</u>.</p> <p><i>Mark 10:29-30</i> So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s,³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">ERROR:</p> <p>Yes, salvation is free, but the Christian life is HARD...a life of death, of difficulty, and of defeat.</p>

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all scripture is taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) The Holy Bible, New King James Version Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Note: There are often hardships in this life. First of all, “life” happens to everyone on this earth. Secondly, many who labor in ministry face opposition and difficulties, even severe persecution. Even during these times, the Christian is able to rejoice in this LIFE we have.

Acts 16:24-26

²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

15. Already Blessed vs. Trying to Merit Blessings

(God Giving to Me vs. Me Giving to God)
 (Spiritual Blessings vs. Spiritual Disciplines)
 (Believing vs. Begging)

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

ERROR:
 We are taught a blessings-by-merit system. If we do good (or pray “hard” enough), we will be blessed—maybe. If we do wrong we will be cursed, (or at least we will not be blessed). We’re told God doesn’t “have to” answer our prayers or say, “Yes,” to His promises.

16. Equipped vs. Seeking for “More”

(Anointed Already vs. Seeking “the” Anointing)

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

(Already Full of God’s Power vs. Seeking His Power)

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

ERROR:
 Someone who is not seeking “more” is considered less spiritual. There is never rest for the person who is living under religion because the carrot is always just beyond reach. There is never a point where we are satisfied or complete. Standards and goals can always be doubled then tripled. This leads to self-righteousness, misery, and even mental instability.

17. Equality vs. Religious Hierarchy

Matthew 23:8-12

But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 2:17

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.'

ERROR:
 Certain people in the Body of Christ (the clergy) are closer to God, more anointed, and more gifted. The rest of us are just the laity. Men only should teach and be in ministry. We are not to "touch God's anointed". This means we cannot disagree with what they teach or how they behave.

18. Spirit-Lead Life vs. "Purpose" Driven Life

(God working through me vs. Me Working for God)

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

♦Paul is saying that sons of God ARE led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:24-26

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If (since) we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

♦BECAUSE we are in the Spirit, not the flesh, we can/will/should live like it.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

♦God created us for good works which HE prepared for us to walk in.

ERROR:
 We are taught in order to live in the Spirit we must act a certain way. We are taught to do great exploits for God as proof of our zeal or love for God.

19. Love vs. Fear

Romans 8:14-15

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

ERROR:
 We need to live in a constant state of the dread of God.

20. Loving from the Heart vs. Loving as a Duty

1 John 4:19

We love because He first loved us.

ERROR:
 We must love our neighbor as ourselves and love each other as He loved us.

21. Discipleship vs. Slavery

♦We are all capable of learning from God.

Matthew 11:29

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

♦Ministers are to serve the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-15

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
- for the edifying of the body of Christ,
- ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
- ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
- ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

♦We submit to our pastors in the sense of cooperating with them in the ministry and knowing they are to “watch for our souls”, but our life decisions are ours to make.

1 Peter 5:2-4

² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

22. Unity of the Faith vs. Social Conformity

Of course, we are to get along with each other, but our principle unity is that of faith in Christ. We are to examine what is taught and evaluate what happens.

Ephesians 4:13

Until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.

ERROR:

Discipleship is seen as a process of being mentored, coached, and even directed by someone “more mature” in the Lord. Those struggling are assigned “accountability partners”. Those not submitting to “discipleship” are regarded of less sincere or “out of submission”. Intimidation and manipulation is not uncommon.

ERROR:

A true Christian will “get along” with others in the church by agreeing with everything that is taught and everything that goes on. Disagreeing with what is taught or with what happens is divisiveness.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

23. Enjoying His Presence vs. Seeking His Presence

(Knowing Him vs. Knowing Him “More”)
(Already Close to Him vs. Getting “Closer”)

Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Jeremiah 31:34

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

ERROR:

God is in heaven. We are in earth. To have His presence, we must invite it down, pray it down, praise it down, or plead it down. His presence comes and goes usually based on something we do or don’t do.

24. Fully Satisfied vs. Hungering and Thirsting

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 4:13-14

Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

ERROR:

We are told we must keep ourselves in a constant state of hunger and thirst and desperation for God. Being satisfied in God is seen as arrogance.

25. Son vs. Slave

Galatians 3:26

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

ERROR:

We begin as slaves of God and gradually become full sons of God through spiritual discipline and faithful service to God.

26. God Loving Me vs. Me Loving God

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ERROR:

There is a tendency to downplay God’s love for us and emphasize that we must demonstrate our love for God (please Him) through various religious activities.

ERROR:

27. God's Arms Open vs. God's Arms Folded

Romans 8:31-32

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

The subtle but deadly idea that God is working against us...that He is annoyed when we ask instead of "just listen".

28. Me Serving Jesus vs. Jesus Serving Me

Matthew 20:27-29

And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Luke 10:38-42

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

ERROR:
Jesus wants us to serve Him.

29. A Satisfied God vs. A God Who Is Never Pleased

God is satisfied with the offering of His Son. Jesus purchased EVERYTHING for us at the cross. It is finished. We can't improve on what God accomplished in Jesus.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
He has put Him to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹ **He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.**

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Philippians 2:13

It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

ERROR:
God is never satisfied. He wants more and more and more. No matter what we do, it will never be enough.

If you would like to study some of these topics more in depth, we recommend our series entitled "DO YOU KNOW HOW?" To view these teachings go to: <http://graceandfaithministries.org/do-you-know-how-series-2/>
Also recommended along these line is the book: Are We Preaching "Another" Gospel? by C. D. Hildebrand