

Session 1

Where the Church went wrong

The Compartmentalization of Christianity

In 2016, we were the driving force behind using the Tenth Amendment to end abortion in the State of Oklahoma - **Protect Life and Marriage**. A man who we had hired to work with us in media relations was visiting with some men at the church he attends. They were talking about our work and me in particular – that I seemed to be controversial.

- My friend, who had gotten to know me quite well over the prior 12 months, said, *“I have heard that, too. But I have listened to Paul speak at least 20-25 times over the past year. I have never heard him **not be absolutely gracious in his delivery and absolutely truthful and accurate in his content.**”*
- When pressed further about supporting this effort, one successful businessman who was in the men’s group, said, *“Well, I am businessman who happens to be a Christian, but I am not a Christian businessman.”*

That is impossible. Either Jesus is the Lord of you...or He isn’t. His explanation was telling – he goes to church on Sundays, but doesn’t allow the Bible to influence his life the rest of the week.

As nonsensical as that explanation from that businessman sounded, that is not the exception –and it explains why we are in the condition that we are as a country. The American church has adopted a form of “Platonic Greek Gnosticism” into how we practice Christianity.

- That is how an Oklahoma Governor can lead in the National Day of Prayer events, then veto a bill ending abortion.
- That’s how Baptists campaign as Conservative Christian Champions then once they are in the legislature champion the expansion of gambling and liquor.

Rather than reading and applying the Bible literally, we have spiritualized the literal, practical instruction given to Believers in the Scripture.

As you know, context is critical to properly understand the Bible. You have to know who is writing, to whom he is writing and what he is writing about.

The books of the Bible were comprised from Jewish authors writing primarily to a Jewish audience about the Jewish Messiah – who also happens to be the God of all creation and the Savior of the world. The Hebrew Worldview was understood. As you know, at Pentecost the ecclesia was 100% Jewish, but also, as you know, over time, the church grew exponentially into Asia and Greece even reaching to Rome. What a great time of evangelism as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was proclaimed to the Pagan Gentile World.

But with that expansion and those converts, the Greek line of thought invaded the thinking of the church. Much of the New Testament addresses the error of Gnosticism as John and Paul and Peter warned against this heresy in their many epistles. What was that Gnosticism?

- The Greek's viewed the flesh as irredeemably wicked.
- The spiritual is good, but the physical is evil. Only the soul can be redeemed. The body is sinful and earthly.
- This led to the logical conclusion BUT heresy in the early church that Christ did not come in the flesh. After all, how could that which is holy and pure become evil?
- They theorized that Jesus was only a phantom spirit – not a man. If He walked on the sea shore, he would not leave footprints. Or, they theorized that the Spirit of Christ came upon this man named Jesus at His baptism and then left on the cross. Either way, they denied that God became flesh. They denied that our Creator actually gave His life for His creation.

This mentality of separating the spirit from the physical also led to the conclusion that you can separate your spiritual YOU from your physical YOU. In fact, they said "Sin all you want in your body, as long as your heart is pure."

Well, that is nonsense.

- **John said, (1 John 1:6-7)** *"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
- **Paul said, (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)** *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*

In Greek, thought only the flesh or physical does these things, the real you doesn't. This is absolutely contrary to Hebrew thought.

Paul said:

- **1 Cor 10:31** *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*
- **1 Thess 5:23** *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In like manner, we have adopted the same separation as we have “compartmentalized” our Christianity. Much like the compartments of a picnic plate.

- Christianity is something that we “do” on Sunday morning, but we don’t let our “church thing” interfere with the rest of our lives.
- We have our “Spiritual Life” where we place all of our “Sacred” things like going to church – then we have “Reality” our physical life – that is reserved for Secular thinking.

When Thomas fell on his knees as Jesus stood before him in His resurrected body, he cried out “My LORD and my God.” He was not asking Jesus to be the Lord of Sunday morning, he was surrendering his entire life – whatsoever he is, was or did – to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Christianity is not something **we do** and the church is not something **we attend** on Sunday mornings.

True Christianity means that a person has come face to face with the Risen Savior –

- recognizing that Christ came because we are sinners,
- that if we die without Him we will be separated forever from Him in the Lake of Fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels,
- but God stepped into His creation as a man - His name was Jesus.
- He gave His own perfect life as a substitutionary sacrifice to pay the penalty that we owe for our sins
- He rose again, to prove that the price paid was sufficient, as the penalty of our sin was death, and the chains of death could not hold Him
- and because He lives, we too will live forever in glorified bodies like His -- in a new Creation – as we are New Creations in Christ Jesus.
- We, like Thomas, fall before Him and cry out to Him “My Lord and my God.”

Paul said, (Rom 10:9-10) *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Salvation and subsequent lordship was understood in the Hebrew mentality. You can’t separate them. The natural result of one falling to His knees to call upon the resurrected Christ as his personal Savior is to recognize that He is YOUR Lord.

What did Hebrew scholar and Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul, tell the Greek Corinthian Church in correcting their inherent Greek view and reminding them of Hebraic Biblical Truth:

- **1 Cor 6:19-20** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

What did Paul tell the Roman Church correcting their inherent Greek view and reminding them of Hebraic Biblical Truth:

- **Rom 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We are not saved because of a transformed life, but a transformed life is the natural result of being saved.

Alex McFarland is a good friend. He is a tremendous evangelist, apologist and the former President of Southern Evangelical Seminary. One time he was in a debate with a Muslim Cleric named Khalid Griggs, when he asked Griggs, “Does one have to truly believe the Shahada (*the Muslim confession of faith*) to become a Muslim or just say it?” The answer given by the Imam, “He just has to say it.”

Saving faith is not simply mental assent. It is not praying an empty prayer. It is not simply a “get out of hell, free” card.

The prayer of faith is a heart’s confession that is based upon the revelation that Jesus is Lord and results in a transformation.

It is not the lukewarm rational pistis of the Greek philosophers. It is not just mental ascent. Saving faith is of the Hebraic EMUNAH. It is more than belief that certain statements about God are true; it is...trust and reliance...which call forth behavior consistent with that stance of trust and reliance.

<http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Articles/Emunah/emunah.html>) (<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/emunah-biblical-faith/>)

As James said, “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

The Great Commission tells us to go into the world and make “disciples” not church members, not professors of faith, not people who have repeated the “Sinner’s Prayer” – but disciples.

To make disciples, we are to teach them to observe “ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you.”

And as Acts 11 tells us, those disciples were first called “Christians” at Antioch. And the term means a “disciple or follower of Christ.”

I was in Israel just a few months ago, we were walking through the old city of Jerusalem in the Jewish Quarter. One of the members of the tour asked our guide Isaac, why the Jews dressed so differently.

There are some liberal Jews that are Jewish in heritage, but are not religious. You have some, orthodox Jews that are the good, patriotic Jews that practice their faith to some degree, work hard, fight in the military – basically just like your average hard-working middle-class American.

Then there is this group called the “ultra-orthodox” – primarily, the Hassidic Jews. They are dressed in black suits with black hats and white shirts, but so many of them dress with distinct differences. They wear different style hats. They wear their socks differently. They wear different styles of jackets – similar, but different.

I just assumed that these were fashion choices, but the answer Isaac gave shed light on what I am about to teach you. He said, *“They wear hats the way their particular rabbi does. They wear their socks the way their rabbi does.”* Their goal was to become like their rabbi in their thought, mannerisms and behavior.

A Jewish Rabbi didn’t hand his pupils a syllabus, they were commanded to “follow him” or literally “walk with him”. Does that expression ring a bell?

One author likened the maturity of a disciple to be measured by the amount of dust he accumulated on his clothing from following his rabbi so closely - as you watched, imitated, listened, learned and applied his teaching.

- The Hebrew Word for walk his “Halakh” and it means more than simply taking a stroll. Your “walk” in life refers to your overall lifestyle including how you conduct yourself morally. *(Walking in the Dust, Tverberg)*
- A rabbi’s interpretation of the Torah was called “halakhah” – how to walk by God’s Word. As Jesus’ disciples, they knew their obligation was to memorize his words and live according to his “halakhah” – His teaching of God’s Word – and again, Jesus taught not as a scribe, but as the author – which He was.

In America, we have redefined what it means to “Live by Faith”. We believe that living by faith means that we live our lives the way we want to live our lives, justifying our behavior in light of the world’s wisdom – then when we absolutely make a mess out of things – we get on our knees and ask God to fix it.

- That is not living by faith. That is testing God.
- Galatians 2 tells us, “The just SHALL LIVE by faith.”
- Romans 10:17 says, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

Living by faith means that we listen to what our Lord is telling us in His Word and obey it and apply it to our lives.

- Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.
- Wives let your inner beauty exceed your outer beauty and let your husband see your love of Christ in the home.
- Parents raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- Children obey your parents in the Lord.
- Avoid the very appearance of evil.
- Don't commit adultery.
- Flee fornication.
- Don't lie. Don't gossip. Don't steal. Don't cheat. Don't covet. Don't murder.
- Be honest in business.
- Be just in judgement.
- Pay your bills on time.
- Be generous.
- Don't be in excessive debt.
- Let your work be an offering and testimony unto the Lord.
- Don't be lazy. Work like the ant and save for lean times.

This is what it means to live by faith. A disciple of Jesus is one who walks with Jesus day by day, studies His teaching of the truth and applying His instruction to your life – since He is the Lord of all.

George Barna completed a survey of Christians and the worldview they possess in 2004. These were individuals who self-identified as “born again” Christians. However, when they were given a test on their life views only 9% possessed a Biblical Worldview. The predominant world view was post-modernism.

We have accepted and believed the lie of dualism. We have compartmentalized our lives between secular and sacred. We may truly be born again, but we think like Darwinian Marxists as that is the doctrine in modern public education and university.

Every issue that we face today has been dealt with in Scripture and the area of responsibility has been assigned by God to one of four realms of government:

1. Self
2. Family
3. Church
4. Civil

We no longer preach on sin, we now are victims of an illness – *“I’m not an adulterer, I’m a sex addict.”* (a victim is helpless and hopeless; a sinner can repent). It is not-PC to

rebuke, it could damage your self-esteem. Didn't Jesus rebuke Peter? Didn't Paul instruct Timothy to rebuke? Didn't Paul instruct the church to rebuke sin?

The family has been destroyed with the Sexual Revolution, subsidizing unwed mothers and now the unconstitutional Obergefell decision.

The Church is no longer relevant as we are more concerned about being liked than being upholding truth and righteousness. The Church in Acts was accused of turning the world upside down. Not anymore. We try to blend in with the world.

Civil government is all that's left to take care of everything. Wouldn't Marx be proud?

