

Brand New Part 2 Cut it out

I. ME

- A. Week two of a new church experiment
 - 1. A church for people who don't normally like church.
 - 2. Church isn't just for religious church people

- B. Haven't been, haven't been in a long time, thinking of checking out of church, are here just to debunk Christianity...
 - 1. You are in the right place
 - 2. We've designed this whole thing with you specifically in mind

- C. We've started a New Series called... BRAND NEW
 - 1. We are all about Jesus here at CCC
 - 2. And what we learned last week (check out online) was that when Jesus came he started something brand new.
 - 3. It wasn't just another religion.
 - 4. **The arrival of Jesus signaled an end to the Temple Model and the arrival of something Brand New**

D. Temple Model

- 1. Almost all Ancient Religions
 - 2. Sacred Place
 - 3. Sacred Text
 - 4. Sacred Men
 - 5. Sincere/Superstitious Followers
 - 6. Jesus said, "No More!"
- E. What Jesus started was a total departure from the Temple Model... Something **Brand New**.
- 1. New Covenant (Agreement)
 - 2. New Command (Next week)
 - 3. New Ethic (A bit today)
 - 4. New Movement (Ecclesia)

F. Jesus V. Temple Model

- 1. The temple model was built around a standard only the elite could meet
- 2. Jesus presented a standard that no one could meet
 - a. "You've heard it said..."
 - b. Leveled the playing field
 - c. And then offered himself as a sacrifice for sin
- 3. Jesus offers a New Relationship with God and a New Life forever.

- 4. The temple model required followers to come make peace with God
 - a. Jesus said, "If you trust me... stop trying so hard... you and God are good... Go make peace with your neighbor.

- 5. The temple model was nation-specific
 - a. Jesus declared that his offer and his message was for all nations

G. Gentiles and Jews

- 1. Gentiles ran to Jesus and this new message
 - a. They were tired of the paganism that never seemed to work for them
- 2. Many Jews did too... but they had a tension that made it difficult
- 3. It just didn't feel right to give up all of their customs and traditions... **and religion**.
 - a. It felt sacrilegious and sinful to abandon the OT Law
 - b. Leads us to a point we'll explore next week....

II. WE

A. Our consciences determine religious realities, whether they reflect reality or not.

1. Ever had someone tell you, “Oh you shouldn’t feel that way” or you shouldn’t feel guilty about that”?
2. You still feel guilty b/c your conscience has been fine tuned to a certain set of values.
3. Catholic (Mary, Confession) or Baptist (Drinking, Dancing, etc.)... B/c “you’re not supposed to”
 - a. **Scooby Doo and the Smurfs**
4. The way you’re raised and the way religion is presented to you fine tunes your conscience
5. Here’s what happened...

B. The early Christians attempted add Jesus to the Temple Model.

1. “We like this Jesus stuff but we don’t want to get rid of our religious traditions... “You’re supposed to do religion this way”
2. So let’s just add Jesus to what we are already doing.”
3. But then came the Apostle Paul to the church’s rescue

C. Paul

1. First see him in history as Saul of Tarsus... Not a Christian
2. Pharisee...way more religious than any church person you’ve ever met.
3. Tried to destroy Christianity for God
4. Jesus changes him.... becomes a Jesus follower and joins the Jesus movement
5. He understood that this Jesus thing was not Judaism, religion 2.0 ... this is a completely new thing. Not an add on.
6. He understood how dangerous it was try to just add Jesus to the existing temple model... of trying really hard to make God like you...
7. You try to combine the two and you will lose everything good about Jesus.
8. You won’t enjoy the New Relationship and New Life Jesus offers

III. GOD

A. Galatians

1. Paul went around starting Jesus communities (ecclesias)... one of them was in Galatia.
 - a. Modern-day Turkey... was a Roman Province
2. Wrote them a letter...one of the earliest, maybe the oldest, letter in Christian writing.
3. Walk through part of Paul’s letter to help create a sense of urgency... see the emotion... the anger Paul had about this attempt at blending
 - a. B/c for some it won’t sit well.
 - b. Some of us might push back... some of us might stand up an cheer... some of us might find out that what Jesus was really about is not at all what we thought or were taught.
 - c. That Jesus was against the very same things that have kept many of us away from church and God.
4. So in this letter we’ll see just how big of a deal this idea of mixing religious rules with the NEW relationship and NEW Life of Jesus really is...
5. Going to talk about a group called the **Judaizers**.
 - a. Tried to just add Jesus to the Temple Model
 - b. Jewish Christians who believed Gentiles had to convert to Judaism to follow Jesus.
 - c. Which was a very complicated process...
 - d. And for men meant a pretty significant SURGERY.
 - e. “If you want to follow Jesus you need to be all in. He died for you, you can have a little surgery for him.”
6. When the Apostle Paul found out that this was happening he became irate
 - a. If you try to blend the two it will delude, denude, pollute the message of Jesus
 - b. It’s a big deal

7. So I want to walk you through Galatians 5 to see the emotion Paul had for this, why **WE** are so committed to stripping all the religious fluff and rules off of Christianity...

B. Galatians 5 V. 1

1. Freedom... **If your version of Christianity doesn't make you feel free... you are doing it wrong.**
2. Or the version and your experience of Jesus doesn't give you a full sense of freedom... there is something wrong with your version of Christianity. (**DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK**)

C. V. 2

1. Mark my words!!!! (Exclamation)
 - a. Circumcision
 - 1) Paul's not against the procedure of circumcision.
 - 2) Paul was Jewish, he was circumcised... all of Jesus original followers were... many of you...
 - 3) Circumcision represents the Old Covenant... and last week we learned that Jesus brought a New Covenant
 - 4) Paul's against those who said you had to do this to make God happy... you have to do anything special to make God like you more.
2. Saying, "Look Gentiles. You don't need to be circumcised. That was a sign for the Jewish people that they had a unique relationship with God. This isn't that... this is NEW
3. If you allow yourselves to be circumcised, you are embracing the old way and will lose the benefits (the freedom, the new life) of the new way.

D. V. 3

1. If you try to hang on to the old, you have to take all of it... do everything in the law.
2. You can't pick and choose. 630 Different laws.
3. They are part of the old relationship, they are of no value with the new relationship Jesus offers.

E. V. 4

1. If you add the law (temple model) approach to the grace (Jesus) approach... you end up with all law and no grace.
2. **\$50 dollar gift card... Here's \$10 for it.**
 - a. No longer a gift... it's a discount card
 - b. Taken all of the GIFT out of it.
3. Paul is saying... Grace is the whole point of Christianity
4. Grace means God knew EVERYTHING about you and chose to love you anyway
5. You don't deserve it... you can't earn it.
6. The moment you start trying to earn it... you have done away with grace
7. The moment you start saying, "God did you see, but I did, look at this..." you have fallen away from Grace.
8. "Paul you're so extreme"... just wait.

F. V. 6a

1. None of it matters
2. This is something brand new

- G. What he is about to say is probably the reason you have resisted churches and why you might resist Christians in particular
 1. B/c so much that is resistible about Christians is the fact the Church has resisted what He's about to say...
 2. Many of the things people resist about the church are the very things the church ought to resist.

H. V. 6b

1. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love**
2. **Faith and Love**
 - a. **Faith:** Choosing to trust that Jesus died and rose again to pay the penalty for the evil we've done
1) GOSPEL- Grace, Man, God, Jesus, Faith
 - b. **Love:** Out of that faith... LOVE. Loving others b/c we are free to and empowered to love unconditionally b/c He loved us so much.
3. Paul... come on... look how thick the Bible is
 - a. What about the 630? The 10?
 - b. The only thing that counts... the only thing of any value... is Faith that leads to love.
4. The temple model, circumcision, all that represents is vertical... "God how am I doing? We good?"
 - a. Paul is repeating what Jesus taught... "That's over. Trust that Jesus loves you so much that He died for you. You and God are good. Quit looking up and look around."
 - b. If you believe that God came and died for your sins... you're in.
 - c. **If someone will die for you... they are FOR you.**
 - 1) You never have to worry again about how you and God are doing... you're fine... GO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR through the love of JESUS.

I. V. 7-9

1. You were doing so good. Don't let these guys mess you up...
2. That thinking, doesn't come from God.
3. That temple thinking is like yeast in a ball of dough
 - a. Just a little bit, yeast is a single-cell fungus, affects the entire thing.
 - b. Just a little bit of this, "I have to make God happy with me" thinking can ruin the whole thing.

c. It takes a small dose of the wrong thing to corrupt the whole thing.

4. Ok Paul calm down
 - a. He knew exactly where all of this would lead.
 - b. In fact its what has led a lot of us to where we are today... 2000 years later
5. Now hold on... You think Paul is taking this a little too far... you haven't seen anything yet... plug the kids ears.
 - a. This next part will show just how angry he got over this idea of blending the old with the new

J. V. 10-12 (Focus on 12)

1. Gonna start cutting... go the whole way and cut it off.
2. **Apokopto-** to cut so as to make a separation; cut off, cut away.
 - a. That's a bit strong Paul...
 - b. **YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S AT STAKE!**
 - c. You're about to ruin the entire thing...
3. Paul knew what could happen if the temple model was allowed to be a part of this new movement... Had done it as a Pharisee.

K. He knew... (probably something you know from experience)

L. If the Temple Model and the Jesus Movement blended...

1. Leaders would become self-righteous

- a. Leaders get to interpret the text in such a way that they are always able to keep the law and good luck to the rest of you.
- b. You're not good enough, doing it right
- c. But if you come to me with the right amount of money and sacrifice, I can make god like you better.
- d. But I'm fine... and if I'm not ,I have to pretend I am so you don't get rid of me.

2. Followers would become hypocrites

- a. We all have to pretend we're keeping all the rules perfectly to be accepted by everyone else
- b. Jesus came and said, "You have heard it said... but I tell you..."
- c. Jesus put the standard so high that no one could meet it... we have all messed up
- d. And then he died so we don't have to bear the burden of the standard
- e. So we can be real with who we are

3. Texts would be manipulated

- a. Well you're not good enough and it says right here, and it says right here...

4. And ultimately... People would be mistreated

- a. Have you ever been mistreated by a church?
 - b. Or someone who claimed to be a Jesus-follower who put a law or a rule or a tradition over love?
THE MAIN THING!
5. Paul knew if we cling to old things we will miss the main thing. Check this out...

IV. You

A. V. 13

1. The freedom given by faith in Jesus doesn't give us permission to just indulge every appetite, whether its selfishness or power...
2. The freedom of Jesus enables us, empowers us to serve one another humbly in love.
 - a. "If I ask Jesus to forgive me He forgets my sin and I can just do whatever I want to people... "no
 - b. "If I just go to confession than I can do whatever I want during the week..." no
 - c. Fill my bucket up during the week, confess it and empty it on the weekend."
 - d. That's not love

B. V 14

1. 1 commandment. Not 630 not 10
2. It wasn't something new
 - a. This was in the original law... Leviticus.
 - b. This is what the whole point was all along.
 - c. It was the one thing that would inform the rest of the things
3. It had gotten swallowed up by everything else.
4. Jesus agreed... Great Commandment
 - a. Love God. Love others... the rest is detail.
 - b. Trust that God loves you enough to die for you
 - c. Love others out of the love He gives you.
 - 1) Let Him love others through YOU
 - d. And by loving others you are actually loving God
 - 1) 2 weeks

V. WE

- A. Temple Model- God how are we doing?
- B. Jesus Model- God loves you... He died for you...
 1. Trust Him and you two are good.
 2. And now show His love by loving your neighbor.
 3. Quit worrying about making God happy... make things right with your neighbor.
 4. B/c when things are right with your neighbor things are right with God.
- C. It's why Paul could say..."The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."
- D. When we get this right... When we accept this new relationship with God and live the new life he promises, things will be different...
 1. You're relationships will have a whole new meaning
 2. You will see people in a whole new way
 3. You will pray differently
 4. You will see sin in a whole new light (2 weeks)
- E. When we get this right your life will be characterized by FREEDOM

- F. If this seems exciting and freeing... you are understanding why Jesus was so irresistible.
1. Why He came to end the temple model and start something Brand New.
 2. You are sensing what it's truly like to have a NEW RELATIONSHIP with GOD and A NEW LIFE forever.
- G. IF this feels wrong and too unstructured... that's exactly how the Jewish Christians felt and many Gentiles after them
1. In fact in the 4th century they couldn't take it anymore and things began to change... as we'll see next week
- H. Imagine
1. How different city, state, country, world would be
 2. If even just the Christians decided there's really just one thing that matters...
 - a. My faith in Christ being shown through my love for others.
 - b. I'm not gonna rate myself by some holy scale or religious performance
 - c. What's important to God is how I treat others.
 3. B/c if you're here today and you had a bad church experience... it's not b/c the people at that church believed in Jesus
 - a. You don't resist the church b/c we're loyal to Jesus
 - b. It's b/c of how we have treated you
 4. The moment we start trying to make God happy we forget about what matters most to God... the people around us.

- H. What would it look like this week if every interaction you had, every conversation, every temptation... you asked yourself...
1. **What does love require of me?**
 - a. I don't want to do... that it'll take to long
 - b. I don't really like people like that
 - c. I'm not comfortable with that type of person
 - d. It's consensual
 - e. It's legal... it's not illegal
 - I. That will change your life and everyone else's life around you.
 - J. It's not new. It's how it was always supposed to be
 1. But we've allowed the old way, the religious rules, to seep in
 - K. But we are not going to let it continue
 1. B/c **The only thing that counts is FAITH expressing itself through LOVE**