

REAL CHRISTIANITY

SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

1 John 3:3b – ... *The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

Philippians 3:20 – ... *we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.*

“This American Life” podcast:
www.thisamericanlife.org/304/heretics



1. Christian counterfeits

- Truth and love, not truth or love

1 John 3:10 – *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

Matthew 18:6 (NLT) – *(Jesus) ... if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

John 10:9-10 – *(Jesus) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

2. Christian trajectory

- Inside out, not outside in

1 John 3:2 – *2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

John 8:11 – *(Jesus) ... “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”*

1 John 3:6 – *No one who abides in him (Jesus) keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.*

3. Christian confidence

- Christian salvation is opposed to earning, not to effort.

1 John 3:9 – *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. (See “The Parable of the Sower,” Mark 4:1-20.)*

John 14:9 – *(Jesus) ... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father ...*

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) – ... *I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

1 John 3:3 – ... *And everyone who thus hopes in him (i.e., of being like Him one day) purifies himself as he is pure.*

Purposeful reflecting...

- Pray for help to know God better as you reflect on today's message.

Experience

- What struck you as personally significant in the message? How might God be speaking to you through this?
- Can you recall a time when God treated you with both truth and love? What happened? Why were both important?
- Ask the Lord to show you the condition of your heart-soil. Then slowly read Mark 4:1-20. Talk to the Lord about what you notice. If it's encouraging, thank Him. If it's challenging, ask for His help and direction about how to nurture the seed of God's truth in you.

Transform

- Is there some way truth and love are out of balance in your life? How would God have you to change? Will you trust Him to help you to make that change and step in that direction?
- Is there any other action to take or attitude to adopt as a result of what you've heard? Is there a Christian friend you can enlist for help, prayer or counsel?
- Can you discern ways the Lord has recently been helping or prompting you to grow in Christlikeness? Take time to thank Him.

Share

- Is there someone who needs to experience both truth and love from you? How could you convey those to this person? When might you have an opportunity to follow through by doing it?
- If you could tell one person something God has done for you recently, who would it be? And what would you say? Ask God to open a door of opportunity to share and for the courage to do so.