

SALT AND LIGHT

Living Well In A Spiritually Broken World

The religious systems and the spiritual culture of this planet is broken and needs repair.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Jesus taught us to go into all the world but don't let the world get into you.

We are called to be the influencers not the influenced.

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

A lot of people have a Christian buffet mentality.

They only want what they feel is right for them.

Here are some statements you will hear at the spiritual buffet.

Truth is relevant.

I need to find my own truth.

If it feels good do it!

Whatever works for you.

Don't judge me!

It has produced a broken spiritual world.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

We have let culture impact us.

Here are some stats...

There are more professing Christians now than ever in history.

There are approximate 2.5 billion Christians in the world today.

Christians remained the largest religious group in the world, making up nearly a third (31%) of Earth's 7.9 billion people, according to a new Pew Research Islam is about 1.907 billion: 24.9%:

279 million (12.8%) of the world's Christian population) identify themselves as Pentecostals,

304 million (14%) are Charismatics.

285 million (13.1%) are Evangelicals or Bible-believing Christians.

65% of polled American adults identifying themselves as Christians.

But a recent nationwide survey completed by the Barna Research Group determined that only 4 percent of Americans had a "biblical" worldview.

The research indicated that everyone has a worldview, but relatively few people have a biblical worldview – even among devoutly religious people. The survey discovered that only 9% of born again Christians have such a perspective on life. The numbers were even lower among other religious classifications: Protestants (7%), adults who attend mainline Protestant churches (2%) and Catholics (less than one-half of 1%) have a biblical worldview.

The denominations that produced the highest proportions of adults with a biblical worldview were non-denominational Protestant churches (13%), Pentecostal churches (10%) and Baptist churches (8%).

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God.

Someone with a biblical worldview believes his or her primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

Someone with a biblical worldview believes that absolute moral truth is defined by the Bible?

Only 36% of evangelicals protestant would agree with this statement, that my religion and belief in Jesus is the one true faith that leads people to eternal life.

83% of main line protestants agreed that many religions and belief systems can lead you to eternal life.

Over 70 % of the church attendees believe people will go to heaven if they live a good life.

Here are 6 important components of a biblical worldview.

1. God is the Creator of the world and rules this universe! (Genesis 1:1)

2. The Bible is God's Word for mankind and is completely accurate including matters of life and its origin. (2 Timothy 3:16)

3. Because of God and His Word, absolute moral truth exists!
(Psalms 102:25–27; Malachi 3:6)

4. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God and He lived a sinless life, died for our sins, was buried, and rose again from the grave three days later!
(1 Corinthians 15:3–4; 1 John 4:9–10)

5. Satan is a real being (not symbolic) and seeks to defeat God's plan for man!
(1 Peter 5:8)

6. Salvation is obtained solely by individual faith in Christ's work on the Cross and cannot be earned! (Ephesians 2:8–9)

3 Dangers facing a biblical worldview.

1. Not viewing all of life through the Bible.

2. Viewing an opposing worldview as enemies rather than opportunities.

3. Not believing your worldview is absolute.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

3 ways you can live well in a spirituality broken world.

1. PURSUE AN UNDIVIDED HEART

Psalm 86:11-12 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. 12 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

A divided heart creates instability in your life.

Mark 12:29-31 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

We must love God with everything in us.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

2. PRACTICE TRUE TOLERANCE

Tolerance: to tolerate those holding different opinions / to treat others with kindness and respect, even while disagreeing with them.

I stand on biblical morality and I still love you even if you don't.

That's tolerance.

You can be fully loving, totally tolerant and completely accepting and affirming of spiritually broken people, without

deconstructing Biblical truth or apologizing for the moral absolutes you live by.

3. SILENCE YOUR CRITICS BY SERVING

Matthew 5:16 “...In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

You cannot resist unconditional love.

1 Peter 2:15 It is God’s will that by doing good you should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.

Titus 2:7 “In everything set an example by doing what is good”

John 13:13-17 You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s

what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

God will bless you if you serve with humility and availability.

The road to greatness is serving.