

## What the World Tells You VS What Jesus Tells You

### Introduction

1. Paul spoke to Timothy about perilous times in the **“last days” (cf. 2 Timothy 3:1-5)** – the days in which we find ourselves now.
  - a. Among the things men would be characterized by were – **“men will be lovers of themselves...boasters, proud...without self-control...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”**
  - b. All of these descriptions, but especially those mentioned, vividly describe our society today.
2. Society is self-pleasing, lacking in self-control, obsessed with pleasure, conceited, and self-absorbed.
3. These traits manifest in different ways, but one of the ways is the kind of advice people give each other.
4. The world will encourage you to do things and be certain ways that are entirely opposed to the things Jesus says.
5. **Romans 12:1-2** – we must present ourselves in sacrificial ways before God, and not be conformed to the egocentric worldview many hold.
- I. Discover Yourself VS Discover Me (purpose and priority)
  - A. Purpose and priority – your purpose is to become more acquainted with who you are, and make such your priority above all else?
  - B. Discover Yourself
    - a. **Acts 17:18** – Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.
      - i. Epicurean – followers of Epicurus.
      - ii. Basic tenets of Epicurus (“New Testament History – Acts,” Gareth L. Reese; Acts 17:18):
        1. Pleasure is the highest end of living.
        2. Matter is eternal – not created by some deity.
        3. The soul is not immortal.
        4. There is no future retribution for deeds after death.
        5. The gods exercise no providential control over human affairs.
      - iii. Many hold these Epicurean tenets – especially (1), and practically (3)(4) – whether an atheist or not.
    - b. If our purpose and priority is pleasure for self without fear of consequence, then the focus will be on what suits us the best in this world.
    - c. **Philippians 3:18-19** – what is your “belly” – i.e. appetite – what will you pursue for yourself with vigor?
      - i. Earthly things – anything that is TEMPORARY, not spiritual – NOT OF NECESSITY SINFUL INHERENTLY.
      - ii. Entertainment, popularity, work, sex, sports, etc. – WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE?

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- d. Any fleshly lust which catches your fancy is part of the discovery of self – **Galatians 5:17** – THE THINGS THAT YOU WISH.
- C. Discover Me
  - a. Our created purpose is to serve our Creator – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
    - i. Sin separated us from Him (**cf. Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23**).
    - ii. Jesus came to bring us back to Him – **John 1:4, 6-13**
    - iii. Fellowship with the Father through Jesus – **1 John 1:3-4** – HOW OUR JOY IS FULL.
  - b. Jesus to Pharisees – **John 8:21-24** – in failing to discover Jesus they would die in their sins – since Jesus is the only means of redemption.
    - i. Pharisee view of Jesus – not the Messiah because He doesn’t fit our mold of the Messiah.
    - ii. **(v. 21)** – seeking the Messiah in vain.
    - iii. **(vv. 23-24)** – seeking the Messiah through an earthly lens, instead of spiritual – THUS WILL DIE IN THEIR SINS BECAUSE THEY WON’T BELIEVE IN/ACCEPT THE TRUE MESSIAH FOR WHO HE IS.
    - iv. They weren’t trying to discover the TRUTH, THEY WERE TRYING TO DISCOVER WHAT THEY WANTED IN THE MESSIAH.
  - c. Many were ironically self-seeking in their seeking of the Messiah – **John 6:26-27** – Jesus says seek Me for who I actually am, and WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER.
  - d. **John 14:6** – we must discover who Jesus truly is, not merely our perspective of Him. (THAT’S THE IDEA OF A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS – IT DIFFERS FROM OTHERS, BUT HOW CAN IT IF JESUS IS THE SAME ACROSS THE BOARD?)
  - e. Discover the substance – **“the substance is of Christ” (Colossians 2:17)** – **Colossians 2:8-10** – complete IN HIM, NOT IN SELF.
- II. Believe in Yourself VS Believe in Me (trust)
  - A. Trust – you know you best, and you shouldn’t worry about what anyone else thinks or says? Trust in yourself?
  - B. Believe in Yourself
    - a. At first the thought that we know ourselves best seems logical, but it is a ploy of Satan!
    - b. **Proverbs 28:26** – trusting in self is foolish.
    - c. **Proverbs 14:12** – the end may be death.
    - d. **Jeremiah 10:23** – the way of man is not in himself.
    - e. Is it possible someone knows us better than ourselves? That someone knows what is best for us?
  - C. Believe in Me
    - a. **John 6:66-69** – after many stopped following Jesus because His words offended them, Peter displayed the mindset we are all to have.
      - i. Jesus knows better than we do. HE HAS THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.
      - ii. We need to have faith in Him.

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- b. **Matthew 19:16-22** – the rich young ruler seemed to honestly want eternal life and had been working hard toward it.
    - i. **(vv. 21-22)** – why would Jesus command Him to let go of the one thing that would be the most difficult?
    - ii. **Mark 10:21** – Jesus required such OUT OF LOVE – He knew the man’s heart and knew THAT WAS THE GREATEST THREAT TO HIS SOUL.
  - c. Trust that Jesus does not want us to be sad, and to go without, but wants to give us rest! – **Matthew 11:28-30; 1 John 5:3**
- III. Follow Your Heart VS Follow Me (devotion)
- A. Devotion – You are the priority, and you should be devoted to following your heart (feelings) wherever it takes you? No matter what or who the consequences are?
  - B. Follow Your Heart
    - a. Such misplaced trust leads to a destructive devotion to your own ways.
    - b. Some people have believed the lie that they know best, so when they have that “gut feeling” they follow it without hesitation, refusing to believe they could be wrong.
    - c. **Jeremiah 17:9** – heart is deceitful.
    - d. **James 1:14-15** – the end of following desires and feelings is sin and death.
    - e. Some are so devoted to their own desires (heart, emotions, feelings) they believe it is right no matter the consequences:
      - i. **1 Corinthians 8:1-3, 9-13** – since they had knowledge, they felt they were right in exercising their liberty, BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY DIDN’T STOP TO THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES.
        - 1. **1 Corinthians 10:23-24** – when liberties become death.
      - ii. **1 Corinthians 10:12** – take heed lest you fall – don’t assume your heart is right but be informed of God’s word.
  - C. Follow Me
    - a. Since we know Jesus knows best, we should be devoted to following Him wherever He goes.
    - b. **Luke 9:57** – we should have this attitude – I WILL FOLLOW JESUS WHEREVER.
      - i. **(vv. 58-62)** – He is not discouraging people from following Him but making them count the cost first.
    - c. Our thought should not be to follow our heart no matter the consequences, but follow Jesus no matter the consequences – **Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29**
    - d. If we’re true disciples/believers, we will walk as He walked, and in no other way – **1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:3-6**
- IV. Be True to Yourself VS Be True to Me (fidelity)
- A. Fidelity – You should never challenge where your heart is taking you? You should never do something that is not “you?”

B. Be True to Yourself

- a. One who believes self is the greatest purpose and priority, trusts in himself, and follows his every impulse due to that trust will grow to refuse any advice that would suggest he change in any way.
- b. Some speak of “My truth” – they believe in a subjective truth – they then ignore objective facts if they stand in contradiction to their “truth.”
- c. **Proverbs 12:1, 15** – it is foolish to hate correction.
- d. **Proverbs 10:8** – it is the fool who won’t receive commandments.
- e. Rebellious Israel was unwilling to change to what they knew was right – **Jeremiah 6:16-20** – they would rather continue what they were doing knowing the judgment pronounced upon them than change.
- f. Some like to deceive themselves – **James 1:22-24** – I see the truth, but I still want to think my way is better – that I am okay as I am.

C. Be True to Me

- a. JESUS WANTS US TO CHANGE!!
  - i. So many claiming to be Christians will deny this point whole heartedly.
  - ii. They claim Jesus will accept you as you are – BUT HE WANTS US TO BE DIFFERENT.
- b. Jesus does not say “Be true to yourself,” Jesus says, “Deny yourself” – **Mark 8:34-38**
- c. Paul did not dictate how he lived anymore – **Galatians 2:20** – He let Jesus control his life.
- d. The gospel demands change – **Acts 17:30-31** – repent!
- e. Those who practice sin will not inherit heaven – **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**
- f. Jesus demands fidelity to Him – **James 4:4-5** – The Spirit wants our entire devotion – not doing things that please us, but that please Christ.
- g. We are to crucify our desires, and follow Christ – **Galatians 5:24-25**

**Conclusion**

1. We should never buy into the worldly perspectives that surround us.
2. While the world is seeking to please self, we should be devoted to pleasing Christ.
3. Jesus is the center of the Christian’s universe, and dictates everything they think and do.