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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**2 John 4-6  
Lesson #27  
Walk it out.  
07/10/2022**

## Roe v. Wade & Abortion

### What would Jesus have us do?

Love them both  
along with pro choice advocates  
following the Way of the Cross.

*John 3*

“16 For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_ whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

**Was there a part of the world that God EXCLUDED?**

“17 For **God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world**, but that the world should be saved through Him.”

**“He who has an ear to ear, let him hear.”**

**You're pro-life until they are born:**

**POOR  
TRANS  
GAY  
BLACK  
MEXICAN  
DISABLED**

**I am so tired of people running around with a mouthful of scripture and a heart full of hate.**

“I don't hate my enemies. After all, I made 'em.”

Red Skelton

“conflict is inevitable, but combat is not.”

Max Lucado



6

“You can safely assume that you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”

Anne Lamott



7

“We’re tired of the national conversation centering on “What should we fear?” and “Who should we blame?”.”

Brene Brown



8

*2 John 4-6*

“4 I was very glad to find some of your children **walking in truth**, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. 5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we **love one another**. 6 And this is love, that we **walk according to His commandments**. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should **walk in it**.”

9

But how to walk in love

**following  
the Way of the Cross  
modeled by Jesus**

This is what builds the church,  
wins the lost, challenges  
culture, and glorifies God.



10

**1. Face in the right direction.**

*Invest in true riches, Godly wisdom  
and the right kingdom.*

*Bring in the kingdom  
AS JESUS DID  
- through the church  
not the state.*

*Take your baptism  
seriously.*



11

## The right direction.

### The right attitude (God the Father)

“Love your enemies.”

Matthew 5:44-45

“love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father”

### The right goal (Holy Spirit)

“Make peace.”

Galatians 5:22-26

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, . . . gentleness, self-control;”

### The right model (Jesus Christ)

“Befriend sinners.”

Matthew 11:19

“Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!”

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## 2. Focus on the right priorities.

Are we numbered among  
“some of those” who are walking in it?

Does “it” mean “truth”?

Affirming the authority of Scripture  
Respecting the righteousness of God  
Defending the dignity of human life.

Or does “it” mean “love”?



Be a Berean and check it out  
- Read John’s letters again.

13

“The Seeker Church movement is much better at making mega churches than making Christian disciples because when you win folks with cultural idols it is hard to convince them that they must give them up to follow Jesus.”

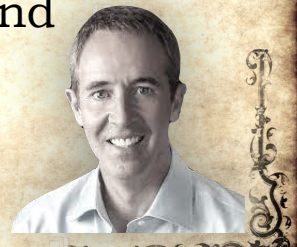
Oz Guinness



14

“We can choose to follow Jesus. We do not get to choose what following Jesus looks and sounds like.”

Andy Stanley



15

ANDY STANLEY

NOT IN IT TO WIN IT

WHY CHOOSING SIDES  
SIDELINES THE CHURCH



16

## 3. Fight the right battles.

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

• It’s not “them” or only the demons in them but the temptation in us - **Reflect on the temptation of Jesus in Matt.4:1-11.**

17

*Matthew 4*

**(prosperity?)**

“**3 Command** that these stones become bread.”

**(protection?)**

**6 He will command His angels concerning you** so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

**(power?)**

**9 All these things I will give you, if you prostrate yourself before me.”**

***The temptation is to live with the expectations of O.C. shalom (this world's peace).***

18

## 4. Find peace in the right place.

*Zechariah 4:6*

“**Not by might nor by power**, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.

*Isaiah 30*

“**1 Woe to the rebellious children,**” declares the Lord, “Who execute a **plan, but not Mine**, and make an alliance, **but not of My Spirit**, in order to **add sin to sin**; **2 Who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me**, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! **3 Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.**”

***Do we have ears to hear this warning?***

19

“We’re tired of the national conversation centering on “What should we fear?” and “Who should we blame?”.”

Brene Brown



20

*Jeremiah 2:13*

“For My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”



***We may win the battle and discover we have been fighting the wrong war.***

21

## 5. Follow the right model - Jesus.

***Why did sinners listen to Jesus?***

***He was a “friend of sinners”.***

- the woman at the well
- washing feet not lording it over.
- hanging out in Galilee (low rent district).

***He listened and asked questions.***

- seeking and addressing root needs.
- the adulterous before the Pharisees. Jn.8

***He sacrificially served the cry of the poor.***

- It’s hard to argue with those who take time and personally sacrifice to love us.

22

***Jesus’ example and style***

- He walked beside sinners.
- He sought to understand.
- He asked questions & listened.
- He addressed the root issues.
- He walked the **WAY OF THE CROSS.**

23

James 1:19

Listen empathetically  
Speak humbly  
Act rationally

### LOVE

Listen to concerns  
Overlook weaknesses  
Value strengths  
Empathize with joy & pain

24

Take your **baptism** seriously.

The main thing is to keep **the main thing** the main thing.

Major on majors,  
minor on minors.

Be a Disciple of **Jesus**,  
not the Pharisees.

25

### Advice to pro-life Christians

- **Face in the right direction.**
- **Focus on the right priorities.**
- **Fight on the right battlefield.**
- **Find peace in the right place.**
- **Follow the right model.**

26

*They will know  
that you are my disciples by:*

*Your defense of  
sound doctrine?*

*Your knowledge  
of the Bible?*

*Your anger at  
the sins of  
the world?*

*Your ability  
to win  
arguments?*

*Your hatred  
of sinners?*

**Your love?**

27

## 2 John

Next week  
1:7-8

**Watch  
yourself.**

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