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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Jude 20-23  
Lesson #36  
Stand Firm  
09/11/2022*

**The world often rejects,  
not Jesus, but his followers -**



1

**The world often rejects,  
not Jesus, but his followers -**

**- who often reflected  
worldly culture  
(present or past)  
rather than  
God's Kingdom.**

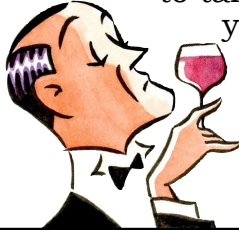


2

***HYPOCRISY and IRRELEVANCE  
are major criticisms of  
the Christian church.***

*Matthew 7:5*

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of  
your own eye, and then you will see clearly  
to take the speck out of  
your brother's eye.”




3

***HYPOCRISY***

*Is not the gap between  
Virtue Vice*

***but the gap between***


***Claim Conduct***



4

***HYPOCRISY***

<p><b>Others are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>legalistic</li> <li>angry</li> <li>fearful</li> <li>careless</li> <li>selfish</li> <li>wasteful</li> <li>materialistic</li> </ul>	<p><b>I am:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>principled</li> <li>intense</li> <li>cautious</li> <li>flexible</li> <li>conservative</li> <li>generous</li> <li>tasteful</li> </ul>
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5



As Christians  
we are not alone  
*in more ways  
than one.*

*The Way of the  
Cross is not good  
news for those  
who seek hope  
in this life only.*

6

**As Spiritual Aliens in a Hostile World  
we face pressure to either:**

**Change the world**  
**Conform to the world**  
**Check out of the world**



**In each of these cases we are  
in danger of losing THE FAITH.**



*We need wise guidance -  
knowing that Satan is not  
after OUR FAITH but rather  
it's object, THE FAITH.*

7

*John 14*

“25 These things I have spoken to you,  
while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper,  
the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will  
send in My name, **He will teach you all  
things, and bring to your remembrance  
all that I said to you.**”

*John 16:13*

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
**He will guide you into all the truth;** . . . and  
He will disclose to you what is to come.”

**This is Jesus' endorsement of  
apostles' teaching.**

8

**But what do the Apostles teach?**

*Jude 20-23*

“20 But you, beloved, **building yourselves** up  
on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy  
Spirit; 21 **keep yourselves** in the love of God,

**waiting anxiously** for the mercy of our Lord  
Jesus Christ to eternal life.

22 And **have mercy** on some, who are  
doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out  
of the fire; and on some have mercy **with fear**,  
hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.” 9

*Jude 20-23 (paraphrase)*

**Double down on the Word of the Cross.**

“20 The grace of God is something you know very  
well, so keep nurturing it in yourselves as you  
commune with God through the gift of His  
Spirit. 21 Keep the grace of God foremost in your  
mind as you eagerly look forward to heaven.

**Follow through with the Way of the Cross.**

22 But don't just soak up God's grace for  
yourself. Show it toward those who are confused  
by false teaching. 23 Rescue those who have  
fallen away, but be wise in showing grace lest  
you compromise the full truth of the Gospel.”

10

**Paul's "Great Commission"**

*Romans 12*

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the  
mercies of God**, to present your bodies a  
living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And **do not be conformed to this world**,  
but be transformed by the **renewing of  
your mind**, that you may prove what the  
will of God is, that which is good and  
acceptable and perfect.”

11

## Paul's "Great Commission" "Operations manual"

*Ephesians 4*

"11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, **to the building up of the body of Christ;**"

"Body Life"

12

## The Gospel

The **WORD**  
of the Cross



The **WAY**  
of the Cross

Evangelism  
is central.

Spiritual  
Experience  
is central.

Social Reform  
is central.

Christ  
**FOR** us

Christ  
**IN** us

Christ  
**THROUGH** us

13

## The Gospel

The **WORD**  
of the Cross



The **WAY**  
of the Cross

When "Body Life"  
is central

Christ  
**FOR** us

Christ  
**IN** us

Christ  
**THROUGH** us

14

## What is the **END** and the **MEANS**?

*Ephesians 4*

"13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the **truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

15

*Ephesians 4*

"13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

### Goal #1 - **Be transformed** (to the image of God)

1. **Unity** - Bring believers together.  
(solidarity with the majors and gracious with the minors of the faith)
2. **Maturity** - Bring believers to adulthood.  
(secure, strong, and steadfast)
3. **Fullness** - Bring believers to full humanity.  
(an integrated life)

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## What does God's Image (spiritual "salt and light") look like?

**Fearless**

- Vulnerable / Selfless / Confident

**Loving**

- Forgiving / Empathetic / Gracious

**Hopeful**

- Visionary / Patient / Positive

**Peaceful**

- Unifying / Comforting / Joyful

17

*Ephesians 4*

“14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”

**Goal #2 - Be not conformed (to the values of this world)**

1. **Stability** - Bring believers to stability. (remaining faithful and yet flexible)
2. **Security** - Resisting seductive teaching. (fads, trends, political correctness, etc.)
3. **Scrutiny** - Discerning deceitful sources. (recognizing those who lead others astray)

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“15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

**Means - common tools & individual roles**

1. **Tools** - Use words and attitude to shape lives. (integrated Christ likeness)
2. **Participation** - Everyone needs to show up. (It takes a community to build a disciple.)
3. **Propriety** - Focus on your part. (respect the different roles of others)

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**As Bereans, note what you will not hear the Apostles teach:**

**Jesus and the Apostles do not try to:**

1. **transform** the worldly environment.
2. **remove** God's sheep from the worldly environment.
3. **sugarcoat** the cost of discipleship in a worldly environment.
4. **give hope** that the world will change before Christ returns.
5. **anoint** things that are bad and call them good.

20

**Walking in a manner worthy of our calling.**

1. We are **commanded** to build the Body of Christ (the church) to maturity (Godliness).
2. The way we relate to **one another** in the community of faith is paramount.
3. The way we relate to the outside world is a **show and tell** ministry of faith, hope, and love through us by God's Spirit.
4. A big part of being salt and light is in how we **respond** to life's ups and downs.

21

**Some “sacred cows” that may reflect our world more than God's kingdom.**

1. **Christian Nationalism** - We should promote kingdom values over individualism, tribalism, nationalism, etc.
2. **Competitive spirit** - Competition without cooperation, and compassion is carnal.
3. **Narrow vision** - We should seek a broader & longer perspective.
4. **Optics & pragmatics** - We should address the inner person not just outward appearances.



22



23