

### ***Do you agree or not?***

1. The essence of the Christian faith is love for your fellow man.
2. At the heart of the Christian faith is the call to follow Christ's moral teaching.
3. As long as you believe in Jesus you do not have to make too big a deal about living as a disciple.
4. The real objective in financial giving is the positive effect it has on the needs of others.

### **Being IN and OF the world**

**The Kingdom  
without the  
King**

Ethical living

Jesus as example

Temporal perspective

Minister to man

### **Being IN but not OF the world**

**The King  
and his  
Kingdom**

Orthodox faith

Ethical living

Jesus as redeemer

Jesus as example

Eternal perspective

Temporal perspective

Worship of God

Minister to man

### ***But which is most important?***

1. Love of God or love of fellow man.
2. The death and resurrection of Christ or the ethical teaching of Christ.
3. Doctrinal correctness or Christian living.
4. Personal ethics or social ethics.

### ***Four Greater things (Mark 12)***

1. **The Greater Commandment vs. 28-34**  
"There is no other commandment greater than these"
2. **The Greater Messiah. vs. 35-37**  
"David himself calls Him 'Lord'; and so in what sense is He his son?"
3. **The Greater Condemnation. vs. 38-40**  
"these will receive greater condemnation"
4. **The Greater Gift. vs. 41-44**  
"Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;"

### ***Mark 12***

"<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; <sup>30</sup> and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher, You have truly stated that He is One; and there is no one else besides Him; <sup>33</sup> and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions."

### ***The Greater Commandment***

- ✓ **Jesus made a big deal about peace with God.**
- ✓ **The Christian faith is about more than ethics (love of your fellow man).**
- ✓ **There is a hierarchy of moral laws.**
  - **A 1st and 2nd commandment.**
  - **Inseparable responsibilities.**
  - **Order and Priority are important.**

***Christianity is the service of worship.***

### ***Romans 12:1-2***

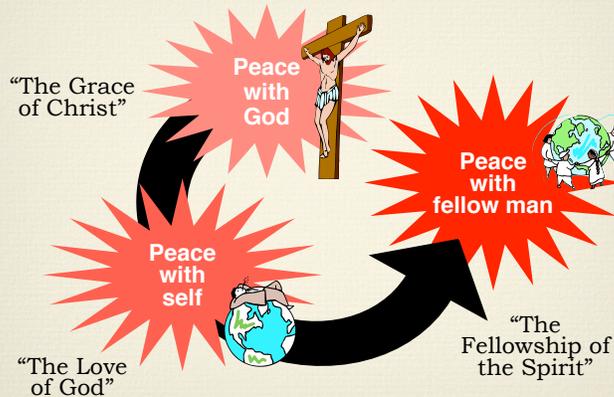
“Therefore I urge you , brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual **service of worship**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, . . .”

**The Gospel is about PEACE with God, self, and others.**

### ***2 Corinthians 13:14***

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

**Peace with God is the first step to being a peacemaker with others.**



### ***Mark 12***

“<sup>35</sup> And Jesus answering began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘*The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.*’ <sup>37</sup> David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; and so in what sense is He his son?” And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him.”

***Romans 1:3-4***

### ***A Greater Messiah***

- ✓ **Jesus made a big deal about his unique identity.**
- ✓ **The Christian faith is about more than Jesus’ ethical example.**
- ✓ **Jesus is not just a messenger of good news. He is the good news.**

***Jesus is the center of our faith because of who he is and what he did not because of what he calls us to do.***

- ✓ The prophets of Israel drew attention to the Torah, the Covenant promises, and God; never to themselves.
- ✓ Jesus did not fit this model.

*John 14:6*

“Jesus said to them, “**I am** the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

## LORD

- ✓ The Jews reserved this term for YHWH (God) as did the early Christians.

*Philippians 2:10-11*

“so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”

## LORD

- ✓ The N.T. often connects Jesus to quotes from the O.T. that are descriptions of YHWH.

*Hebrews 1:8*

“But of the Son He says, “*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.*”

## MESSIAH

- ✓ The Son of God
- ✓ The Son of Man
- ✓ The Son of David
- ✓ A Utopian age

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

“For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

*Mark 12*

“38 And in His teaching He was saying: “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, 39 and chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets, 40 who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”

### ***The Greater Condemnation***

- ✓ Jesus made a big deal of hypocrisy.
- ✓ The Christian faith is about more than “faking it till you make it.”
- ✓ Jesus was not impressed with official position or outward appearances.

***Christianity is an inside-out relationship.***

### ***Mark 12***

“41 And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. 43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.””

### ***The Greater Gift***

- ✓ Jesus made a big deal of personal ethics.
- ✓ The Christian faith is about more than changing this world.

#### ***What gets Jesus attention?***

- ✓ NOT the size of the gift but the sacrifice of the giver.
- ✓ NOT the effect of the gift on others but the effect on the giver.

***Christianity is more about sincerity & sacrifice than numbers & productivity.***

**These paragraphs contrast a God-centered life with a man-centered life**

*God-centered life*

*Man-centered life*

<b>Love God</b>	<b>Love man</b>
<b>Jesus / redeemer</b>	<b>Jesus / example</b>
<b>Please God</b>	<b>Impress man</b>
<b>Worship of God</b>	<b>Minister to needs</b>

### ***Four marks of a Great Disciple***

1. Their service of others grows out of their worship of God.
2. Their faith is Christ-centered not law-centered.
3. They have an inside-out spiritual integrity.
4. They give sacrificially.

**Example of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.**

**Disciples are heavenly minded (God-centered) in all that they do.**