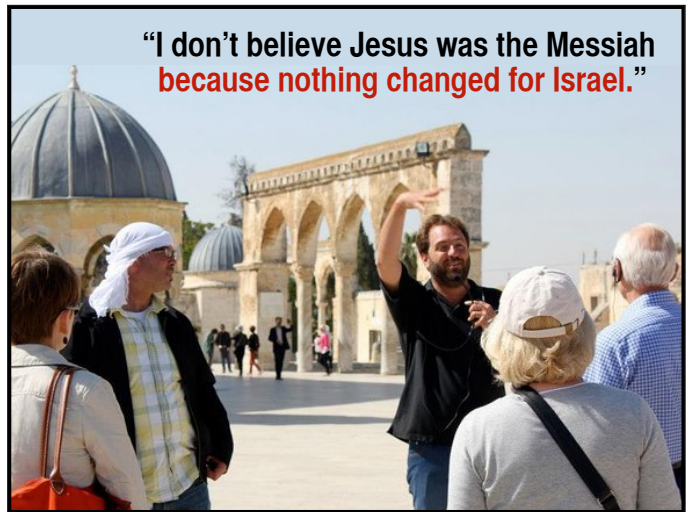




1



2

New Testament Introduction

1. A new addition - Inspired Scripture
2. A new message - The Word of life
3. A new covenant - The Biblical context
4. A new lifestyle - The Way of the Cross
5. A new nature - The Spirit of Christ
6. A new Israel - The Body of Christ
7. A new mission - The Disciples of Christ
8. A new hope - The Return of Christ

3

John 14:6

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

The early church was often referred to as
“the Way”

This could have been related to Jesus’ words
but more likely to the unique (new)
culture / lifestyle of believers.

Acts 9

“1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” (*Acts 18:25-26, 19:9,23, 22:4, 24:14,22*)

4

The Way of the Cross:
#1 - IN but not OF this world

I Corinthians 1

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block**, and **to Gentiles foolishness**, 24 **but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** ... 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.”

**While very active in this world, the church
did not share or reflect many of its values?**

5

**As Anointed, Alien, Ambassadors
believers were called to a hostile
world as the Body of Christ**

John 17

“16 They (disciples of Jesus) are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 **Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.** 18 **As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.** ... 20 I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.”

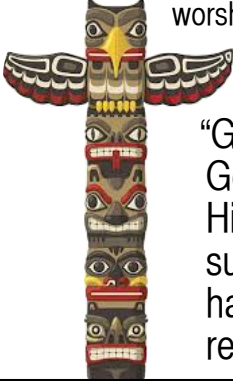
Romans 12:2

“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.”

This marked their identity and witness.


6

“The idea of god was nothing more than a symbolic representation of the collective values of the society that worships itself through him, she, or it.”



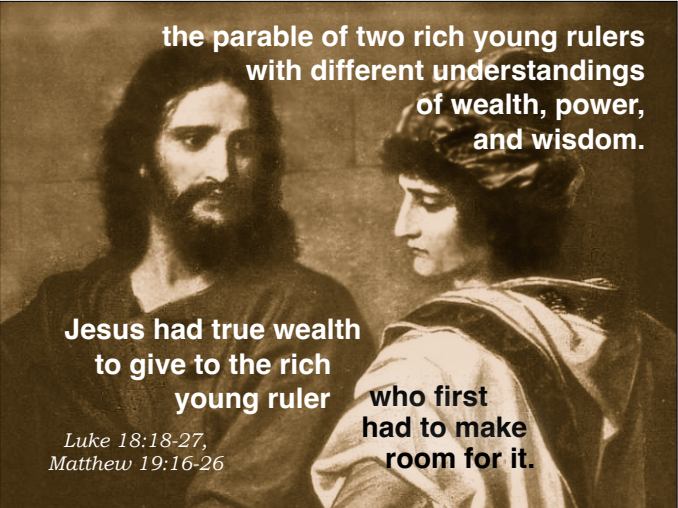
Emile Durkheim
1858-1917

“Genesis tells us that God created man in His image. History suggests that man has been trying to return the favor.”



7

the parable of two rich young rulers with different understandings of wealth, power, and wisdom.



Jesus had true wealth to give to the rich young ruler who first had to make room for it.

Luke 18:18-27, Matthew 19:16-26

8

The Way of the Cross:
#2 - Motivated by LOVE not LAW
Believers are free from condemnation under the O.C. Law and bond-servants to Christ through abiding faith and love.

Romans 7:1,4,6

“The law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?”

“You were **made to die to the Law** through the body of Christ.”

“But now we **have been released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound.”

Romans 1:1

“Paul, a **bond-servant of Christ Jesus.**”

9

The N.C. looked beyond the “shadow” to the substance of O.C. ethics (Sabbath rest).

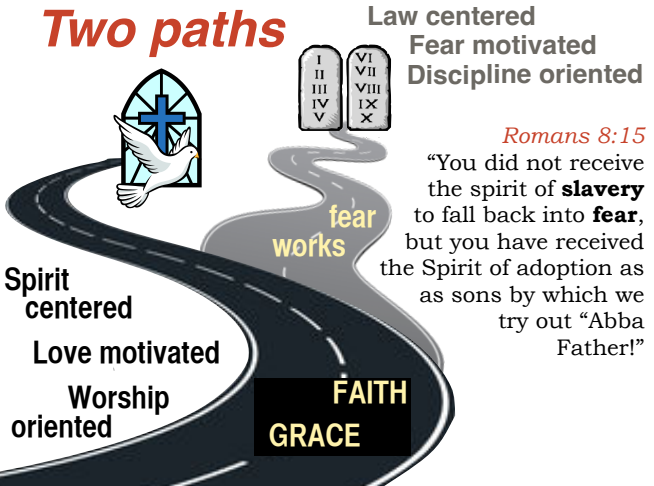
Romans 14 (Heb.4:3-10)

“5 One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. **Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.** 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;”

This was one of the signs that the N.C. community was no longer under the Law.

10

Two paths



Spirit centered
Love motivated
Worship oriented

FAITH GRACE

Law centered
Fear motivated
Discipline oriented

Romans 8:15

“You did not receive the spirit of **slavery** to fall back into **fear**, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by which we try out “Abba Father!”

11

The Way of the Cross:
#3 - Unified DIVERSITY
The church, while united, celebrated many of its differences.

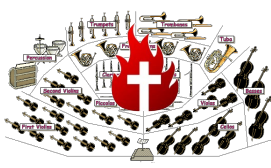
I Corinthians 12

“4 Now there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

Put your best foot forward, without losing your balance or kicking your neighbor.

12

The Body of Christ is a family, team, orchestra.



The church is the Body of Christ, but only when the pieces function by doing their part while attached to one another and the head (Jesus).



not clones of one template



not body parts disconnected



not a class system of value differences

13

The Way of the Cross:

#4 - CLASSLESS community

The N.C. had a new understanding of Priesthood and Temple.

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen race, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession,”

1 Corinthians 6:19

“Do you not know that **your body is a temple** of the Holy Spirit within you...?”

Hebrews 4:14

“Since then we have a **great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God**, let us hold fast our confession.”

14

The promised blessing from Abraham was offered to all races, social status, & genders.

Galatians 3:28

“There is **neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

This classless community was offensive to both Jews and Greeks.

1 Corinthians 12

“24 But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 that **there should be no division in the body,**”

Function & ability should not separate us.

15



As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

“Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I don’t need a position or a title to exercise that power.”

Agnes Mary Donovan
Superior General, Sisters of Life



16

Differences can be divine or divisive. It can make or break a church.

Acts 2

“4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.... 11 ... we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “**What does this mean?**” (Tongues are a sign of **DIVINE diversity**.)

1 Corinthians 1

“10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. ...12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “**I am of Paul,**” and “**I of Apollos,**” and “**I of Cephas,**” and “**I of Christ.**” 13 Has Christ been divided?” (Exclusion is a sign of **DESTRUCTIVE diversity**.)

17

The Way of the Cross:

#5 - SELF Sacrifice


The Messiah came for the purpose of dying so that all those who place faith in him might live.

2 Corinthians 5


“14 For **the love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ... 17 **Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.** 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, ... 21 **He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

18

Christianity is the only religion that celebrates the death of its founder.



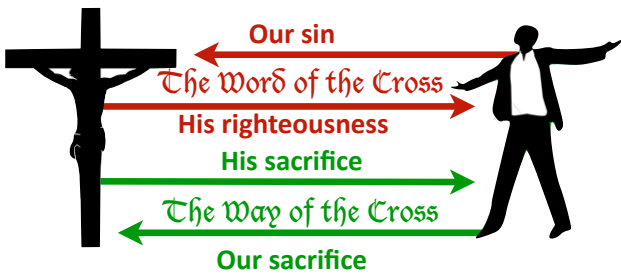
and calls its participants to be living sacrifices.



19

2 Corinthians 5:21
 "He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Romans 5:19
 "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**"




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."

20

A strong faith is not driven by fear but drawn to the Word and Way of the Cross by love and grace.

It is willing to sacrifice and suffer like soldiers, athletes, and farmers because it sees the prize.



We bear a cross to a banquet.

21

New Testament



22

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Intro to the New Testament


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Introduction to the New Testament
 (01) A New Addition

Understanding Apostolic teaching is key to understanding Christianity.

1. Christianity cannot be reduced to ethical purity, unadorned morality, or social justice.
2. Justifying faith is rooted in moral virtue, but not vice versa.
3. The New Covenant is not a doublet done on the old. Love has nothing to do with it.
4. The whole Bible is written FOR us, but not always TO us ABOUT us.
5. Godly behavior is motivated by love not fear.



23