The Lord has led me to speak to you this morning on:

Biblical VS Cultural Christianity

Many of us know folks who say they already have a saving relationship with Jesus, but their lives (words/attitudes/actions) reflect the current culture more and “heaven” (the Bible) less.

Some may have been raised in a church that teaches eternal security (cultural easy believism).

I believe the Bible teaches that God wants His children not only that they are “saved”, but eternally saved.

1 John 5:13

It also teaches that that applies to the “bond servant” of Christ, who is a true, sold out, “all on the altar of sacrifice” servant.

I’m also confident that the Bible teaches, and God’s will is, that His people reflect Heaven more, and our current culture less and less everyday.

The difference between cultural & Biblical Christianity can mean the difference between living eternally in the Smoking or non-smoking section

The difference between hearing Jesus say “well done”…, and being well done in the Lake of fire

Jesus did not say in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will do what the culture dictates and do what you or others think you should do. He said, If you love me, keep my commands.

And since Biblical Christians love everyone… trying to help them understand the difference between Biblical & Cultural Christianity is important to us…

In my study on this topic, I have found that the main difference between these two is this:

* Cultural Christianity believes in the God they want.
* Biblical Christianity believes in the God that is.

Cultural Christians often use Scripture, but use it out of context, CHANGING the meaning to fit what the current culture deems as acceptable by God.

Biblical Christians however, base their belief and build their life lives of faith on the solid rock of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, in context.

Cultural Christianity believes in (mentally acknowledges) the existence of God, but often views God differently than He reveals Himself in the Bible.

Cultural Christians often view God as a loving, forgiving, benevolent grandparent who blesses His grandchildren and allows them do what they want, without fear of consequence.

Even if what they want or what they do… violates Scripture, thereby not revealing the truth of God.

Years ago, Len (& Dee) asked me to explore a very deep question…

“what does Jesus save from”? The answer I gave was…

Matthew 1:21 (sin, self, save us from what everyone else is doing)

Cultural Christianity views Salvation as Jesus saving us to live like we want (regardless of what God says in the Scriptures).

In their minds Cultural Christianity believes in a loving God who understands/forgives. Which is true…,

But what they choose to ignore is living as “we want”, pleasing our flesh (not our Father in Heaven), and it is the very thing that Jesus came and died to save the world from.

Matthew 1:21

There is no shortage of churches today that believe and teach Cultural Christianity as the “loving”, “benevolent” grandfather.

Who unconditionally loves, accepts, includes, all… Which again is true, but He does so for the purpose of:

* Adopting us
* Transforming us
* Re-making us, so that we represent/reflect Him/Heaven/His Word in our world that needs Jesus before it’s too late.

The God of Cultural Christians appears to transform Himself to embrace/accept the current cultural which is led by our flesh.

This false belief actually reverses the roles and makes the believer god and God their servant.

John 13:16 - *Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his* master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

I’m very confident that churches who teach that God understands and overlooks a lifestyle that contradicts Scripture has few empty seats, plenty of money in church accounts and plenty of people willing to serve and get that message out.

Which means Cultural Christianity is likely growing at a much faster rate than Biblical Christianity.

Biblical Christianity believes (trusts in, relies on and clings to) the One true God who is.

* Revelation 1:8
* John 1:1
* John 1:14

The God who does not adapt to the changing beliefs of culture.

* Hebrews 13:8

The God of love who loves even His enemies sacrificially - Romans 5:8

Therefore teaching us to do the same.

Have you ever noticed that when the beliefs of Cultural Christians are questioned, the person questioning is attacked and villainized. Made an enemy.

Biblical Christianity loves, prays for and strives to allow heaven to “fall out” of our lives, so those who oppose us may see what Jesus saves from.

Matthew 5:43-48

If God was the one expected to change and adapt to the current culture, why did Jesus say that “we must be born again”?

John 3:3

Bringing that message of redemption and hope to our culture.

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 2:20

Revelation 1:6

* A People changed by the Bible.
* A People transformed to live more obediently to what the Scriptures say every day.

Pslam 119:11

2 Timothy 2:15

That’s grace – God’s divine influence upon one’s heart that is reflected thru their life.

Studying and APPLYING God’s Word to one’s life for the purpose of becoming a clearer reflection of the One who is Holy & Divine.

Praying that the Holy Spirit may use our Biblical Christian life to draw others to faith before:

Our inevitable death.

Their inevitable death.

The inevitable Rapture of the God’s church

The inevitable 7 year tribulation period in where God will judge sin on the earth… and the drastic death and destruction that will ensue upon the earth.

And the final Great White Throne Judgment where all unbelieving/unbiblical souls will be brought before Christ to receive their payment for their unbelief.

Eternity in the Lake of Fire (Jesus called it hell), with Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet who led many away from truth of a saving, Biblical Christian relationship and life with the Father, thru Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is basically the difference between Biblical and Cultural…

Is there something that you would like covered that I may have missed?

Let’s look briefly at the word “Christianity” itself.

What does the word “Christian” even mean?

The word is an adjective (to describe)…

I’ve heard it said by pastor’s over the years that “it was the Jewish/Roman authorities that first used the Greek word “Christianos”…

When they were complaining that “they thought they had put an end to their problems by killing Jesus… but now (after He rose from the dead) we have all of these Christianos “little Christs” running around.”

Jesus did not change/adapt or follow the culture of His day, nor did He teach His followers to do so.

John 6:38

The church in Antioch (where the great examples of Biblical Christianity) Paul & Barnabas taught for at least a year)… was the first place the word was applied…

Acts 11:26

The term is used twice more times in Scriptures.

Acts 26:28 – Paul almost persuading Agrippa.

Is it worth living a Biblical Christian life that often times opposes our culture?

1 Peter 4:13-19

13But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.15If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler (sin).16However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.17For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
    what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

19So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Please stand as our praise team comes back up for our closing song.

Does your faith/lifestyle reflect Biblical Christianity or Cultural Christianity? Are You a Christian (a follower of Jesus yet)?

I have given my life to Jesus because I believe God wants not just me, but everyone to be Biblical Christians. There would be much more love and much less hate…

* I still have fun/play hard.
* I still enjoy life.
* I still love and spend time with my family, children & grandchildren.
* I still work hard.
* I still have pains & problems.

But instead of following our ever changing culture that holds no promise or hope of eternal life, I choose to follow Jesus Christ.

Who gave His life to save us from sin...

I choose daily to let the Holy Spirit and the Word of God change me, so people see more of Heaven through me everyday.

Praise God that through Christ alone I have the hope of living eternally with Him in a glorious place the Bible calls Heaven.

In fact, the Bible describes Heaven as such an amazing, beautiful, wonderful place… I want to bring as many people with me as possible.

So how about you? Does your life reflect the cultural idea of God or the God of the Bible

If you would like to pray and receive God’s offer to become a “Biblical Christian” today, I would love to pray with you in my office after we pray and sing…

Just remember, no culture is worth missing heaven for…