

Ambassadors for Christ in a Divided Church by Philip Martinson

ALL Christians have one thing in common – they believe Jesus (Yahshua) is the promised Messiah of Israel's Living God, Yahweh. **1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.** We may not embrace the theology of a church we attend, and we may not fully understand the Bible, but the Spirit of the Living God takes us “as is” and teaches His Truth to our Inner-Man. **Ezekiel 36:27 (NKJV) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.** We work out our own salvation in a private connection with Christ. **Philippians 2:12-13 (LSB) Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.** Our connection with Christ is unique to us, yet consistent with the Bible's revelation. We may find Christ in a church, through a friend, from a personal Bible study, or by a private encounter with Christ. Our new life in Christ is distinct to our circumstances, history and personality. Sometimes well-meaning people or organizations create roadblocks and contaminate the Gospel of Christ with human insights, man's theology, or personal prejudices. **Psalms 4:2 (NIV) How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?** Apart from human efforts or religious programs, the Spirit of God (Yahweh's Spirit), works on our Inner-Man to teach us God's Truth. The apostle Paul relied on God's power, not human eloquence. **1 Corinthians 2:3-5 (NKJV) I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.** It is easy to rely on human efforts or religious programs in our personal walk with Christ, and overlook repentance, humility, surrender, and dependence on Christ's power. **Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.** It has been said, “God does not Call the Qualified, but Qualifies the Called.” **1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (ESV) Consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.** We are new creatures; rebuilt into the image of Christ, by the Spirit of God, NOT from religious programs! **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** As we turn from the desires of this fallen world, we discover God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's logic, the world's explanations, and human understanding. **Isaiah 55:7-9 (LSB) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to Yahweh, and He will have compassion on him,**

and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares Yahweh. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

A. Because of the Sin Nature within us, We are Easily Deceived: We are warned to not be deceived by Satan’s delusions. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (ESV)* False apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. This world is full of false teachers and corrupted gospels. *Galatians 1:6-7 (NIV)* I am astonished you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. Our new life is from Christ alone. *John 14:6 (NIV)* Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” It is vital to avoid false teachings or religious ideas that are contrary to God’s Word of Truth (*the Bible*). *2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV)* A time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. Turning their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. Many Institutionalized Churches today have replaced Christ’s Gospel of Repentance and God’s Kingdom, with a gospel based on human insights, church doctrines, and social agendas. *Mark 1:14-15 (NKJV)* Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Before his execution by the Nazis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned us about false gospels rooted in personal affirmation, instead of the True Gospel of sin and repentance. The following notes are from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s writings - **A False Gospel today, Is Destroying the Church**¹

The cross is being replaced by a mirror because we are no longer called to die, but only to feel good...The real gospel demands everything. To lose your life in order to find it. It doesn't offer comfort. It offers crucifixion. Not a better version of yourself, but death and resurrection into someone entirely new...When Christ calls a man, he bids him, “Come and die. Not feel good, not be accepted, not live your truth, but die. Die to pride, die to sin, die to comfort.” Only then does real grace begin...This gospel today, promises everything and asks for nothing. It tells you that you're already enough, that God wants you happy, and that grace means never having to feel uncomfortable again. It removes the cross and replaces it with convenience. It erases repentance and replaces it with affirmation.

We are also warned to be careful and guarded when sharing God’s Truth and Sacred or Holy messages with others. *Matthew 7:6 (NIV)* **“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear**

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, **This Gospel Is Destroying the Church — Bonhoeffer Was the Only One Who Spoke Up**, Bonhoeffer’s Journey, YouTube, July-19-2025. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zinw_RlrSuA&t=405s (accessed Sep-23-2025).

you to pieces. In our desire to show love for others, it is easy to confuse tolerance with grace. The Corinthian church was proud of their tolerance of sexual immorality within their church. ***1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (NIV)*** *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?* The Apostle Paul warned them to hold fellow believers accountable and maintain a fellowship of moral purity. Whether you attend a large mega church or a small home church, churches are simply a fellowship of Believers. Christians are told to encourage fellow Believers to live a life above reproach, while NOT passing judgement on the world. ***1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (NIV)*** *I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”* As we turn to Christ in repentance, it is the Holy Spirit (*the Spirit of the Living God, Yahweh*), Who convicts us of sin and our need to repent. ***John 16:7-11 (NIV)*** *It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged..* It has been said, “God convicts us of our sin, but Satan convicts us of other people's sin.”

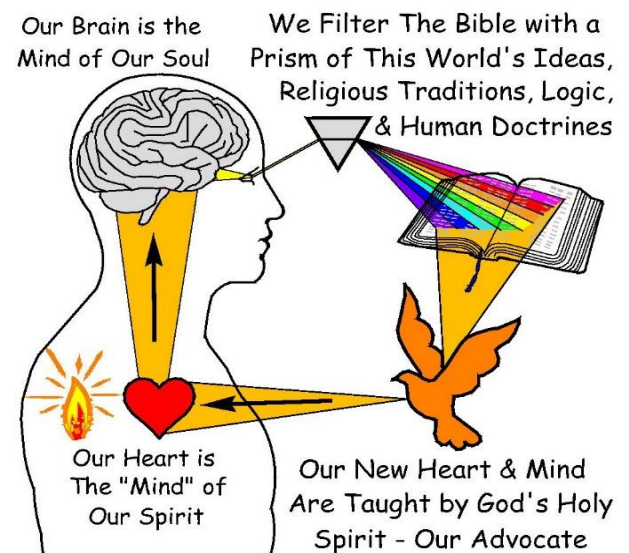
B. Loving God in Obedience while Loving Others in Kindness: False doctrines, deceptions, and false teachers can lead us away from Christ. ***Colossians 2:8 (ESV)*** *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.* We are also told there are to be no divisions in the church. ***1 Corinthians 1:10 (LSB)*** *I exhort you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.* Sadly, Christian history is a road map of division, disunity, and conflict. Neither Christ nor the Body of Christ (the true Church) are divided. ***1 Corinthians 1:12-13 (NKJV)*** *Each of you says, I am of Paul, or I am of Apollos, or I am of Cephas, or I am of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

Before leaving THIS world, Christ Commanded His followers to have Love and Unity with

other Believers. *John 13:34-35 (NKJV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* In the words of Corrie ten Boom: “The Bible does not have suggestions; It has commands.” Christ commanded us to have unity and assures us we are protected from the Evil One. *John 17:15-16 (NIV) My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.* Christians have unity as a testimony to THIS world. *John 17:20-21 (NIV) I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.* With “Spirit led” unity came an effective “Acts 4” church, exhibiting the divine power of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 4:31-34 (NKJV) They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul; neither did anyone say that the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked.* We can verbally profess our love for Christ and God His Father, but loving Christ and His Father requires obedience. *John 14:21 (NKJV) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.* Following Christ requires loving unity with other Believers, while remaining faithful to God’s Word of Truth. Yet we are also told to avoid those who cause divisions. *Romans 16:17 (NKJV) Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Is it even possible to follow Christ in Spirit and Truth, while maintaining unity and love in the church?* *1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* Only the power of Christ can balance conflicts with other believers (having different views on God’s truth), while showing loving kindness. *John 15:5 (LSB) Apart from Me you can do nothing.* How do we balance obedience to God’s Truth, and unity with those having diverse beliefs? Apart from Christ, it is humanly impossible to obey both commands. *Matthew 19:26 (NIV) With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*

C. The Cause of Church Divisions: The Apostle Paul explains the cause of church divisions is NOT doctrinal differences; but CARNALITY. *1 Corinthians 3:3-4 (NKJV) Where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

For when one says, *I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are you not carnal?* Today we would say some are Protestant, or Catholic, or Fundamentalist, or Pentecostal, etc. Fortunately, we have a *carnality meter* inside. If we put a denomination, human theology, or church doctrines before Christ, we are carnal. It is easy to follow the logic of our human minds (*the old **Outer-Man***), instead of following the Holy Spirit from our reborn spirit (*the new **Inner-Man***). We may rely on a religious system and fail to focus on our *Personal and Private relationship with Christ*. Believers are taught by the Living God of Israel – *not man*. **John 14:26 (NKJV) The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things.** Every day we have a choice to be taught by the wisdom of *this* world, or taught from *God's Word of Truth*, by *God's Spirit of Truth*. **1 John 2:26-27 (ESV) I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in Him.** It is easy to rely on religious teaching instead of our private connection with Christ. Any type of Christian outreach can become marketing of our religious beliefs if we *rely on human efforts*, instead of listening to the Spirit of God. **John 6:44 (NKJV) No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.** We are NOT transformed by human effort or religious doctrines. **John 6:45 (LSB) They shall all be taught by [Yahweh – Isaiah 54:13]. 'Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.** It is the power of Yahweh's Spirit that enlightens, teaches, and draws us to His Kingdom as we become a temple of the Living God. **1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** We may accept religious teachings (*Outer-Man Logic*), but still ignore Christ's call to humility and kindness towards others. **1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (NKJV) Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He catches the wise in their own craftiness; and The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.** We may desire to follow Christ and put others first, but even good intentions can be fooled by our *deceitful and wicked heart*. **Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV) The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?** Our *best righteous acts* (*Good* deeds or *Godly* conduct) are only *filthy garments* from God's perspective! **Isaiah 64:6 (LSB) All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.**



D. Our Carnal Nature: Our corrupt nature (*old Outer-Man*) is rooted in the carnal desires of our flesh. *Genesis 6:12 (NKJV) God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.* Our carnal nature wars against our new and reborn human spirit. We need to follow *our Spirit*; not *our Flesh*. *Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV) Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* Our corrupted nature has *four categories* of our flesh, as described in Galatians. *Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV) Works of the flesh are evident: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, [1-Sexual Immorality] idolatry, sorcery, [2-Idolatry & Witchcraft] hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders [3-Selfish Ambition & Contentions] drunkenness, revelries, and the like [4-Self-Indulgence];...those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* We are reborn in Christ, but our corrupted nature (*our old Outer-Man*) wars against our reborn Spirit (*our new Inner-Man*). The only solution is to *kill or crucify the desires of our old nature*. *Galatians 5:24 (NIV) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* We need to execute our carnal desires.

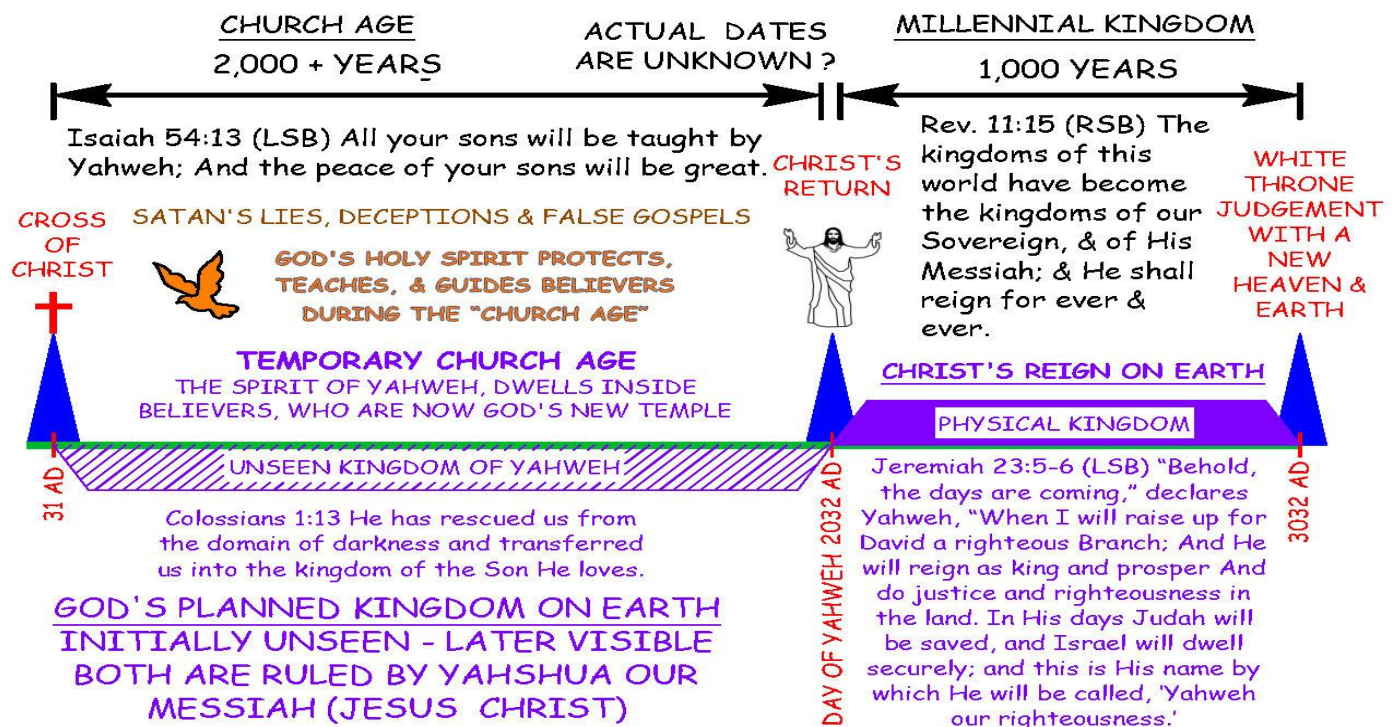
- 1) **Sexual Immorality** – This category includes all sexual sin. Sadly some churches adapt the world’s counseling theories and human logic that destroys families, and churches.
- 2) **Idolatry & Witchcraft** – In today’s world, **witchcraft** (*sorcery & divination*) and **idolatry** seem obscure and unrelated to churches. Yet Satan’s curse of evil deceives us with **witchcraft** (*to manipulate and control others*); and deceptions of **idolatry** (*create our own image of God*). *1 Samuel 15:22-23 (LSB) Has Yahweh as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination [witchcraft], and stubbornness [we stubbornly keep our own image of God] is as wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of Yahweh, He has also rejected you.* Our flesh moves our corrupted desires to the satanic realm (*witchcraft = control & manipulation*) and drug addictions (*sorcery = potions, drugs, pills, etc.*).
- 3) **Selfish Ambition & Contentions** – We may excuse our behavior as **righteous anger**. Yet these *nine carnal behaviors* come from our corrupted flesh: **hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, and murders**. The nine behaviors of our flesh are opposite to the *nine Fruits of the Spirit* that come from the seed of Christ (*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience* **the first 4 fruits develop into** → *Kindness, **resulting in the last 4 fruits** → Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control*).
- 4) **Self-Indulgence of our Inner Cravings** – This last category relates to personal discipline in controlling our physiological cravings, relating to gluttony, drunkenness, and chemical addiction. *Luke 4:4 (NKJV) It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by*

every word of God. Consider Esau's gluttonous desire for food: **Hebrews 12:16 (NKJV)**
Or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

We cannot fix or control our Outer-Man's corrupt desires. Under God's Plan of Redemption, our carnal nature was crucified with Christ. **Romans 6:3-4 (NKJV)** **Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** We are all sinners. Christ takes us "as is" and recreates us in His image. Christians are NOT told to modify, fix, control, counsel, or resist their flesh. We are commanded to crucify or kill our flesh! **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)** **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.** We are not physically crucified, but we share in Christ's suffering as we learn to crucify or execute or kill our carnal desires and behavior. We **Reckon** (*Declare, Decide, Assert, etc.*), ourselves dead to sin in the Outer-Man of our flesh and share in Christ's crucifixion and death of self. **Romans 6:11-14 (NKJV)** **You also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you.** Since our old nature was crucified and died with Christ, we now join Him in being reborn or resurrected into a new life. A life that is free from following our old, corrupted nature. **Romans 6:6-8 (NKJV)** **Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.** We can now live for our New Reborn Inner-Man Spirit. **Romans 6:9-10 (NKJV)** **If we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.**

E. Ambassadors for the Kingdom of God: The same power that raised Christ from the dead is now dwelling within us. **Romans 8:11 (NKJV)** **If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.** As we repent and turn to Christ, God translates us from the Kingdom of THIS world, into His New Kingdom. **Colossians 1:13 (NIV)** **He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.** We become ambassadors for Christ's new Kingdom; using the power we have in Christ. The Gospel of The Kingdom is God's plan to have His Son destroy the works of the devil. **1 John 3:8 (NKJV)** **The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** God's Kingdom is unseen now and made up of Believers

who are Christ's ambassadors. When Christ returns, God's Kingdom will becomes visible. Opposed to Christ is Satan, working with deceptions, distractions, and discouragement. **2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)** There will be false teachers among you, who secretly bring in destructive heresies. We are warned to reject human traditions over God's truth. **Mark 7:7-8 (NKJV)** This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold to traditions of men. Christ warned that following human traditions will Nullify the Word of God! **Mark 7:13 (NIV)** You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. In the words of Martin Luther, "Your God is too human." Satan is a defeated foe but still attacks us with fear, doubt, and temptations. The



weapons that defeat Satan are ALWAYS available to us: (1) the Blood of Christ, (2) our testimony or witness of God's grace in our life, (3) our fear of death is gone. **Revelation 12:11 NIV)** They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. It is through our surrendered, humble, and yielded lives that we access and experience Christ's power; allowing us to be empty vessels shining Christ's light into this dark world. **2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)** He said to me, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." In Christ's power, we learn to Balance (1) Obedience to God, with (2) Kindness to others, and (3) Unity with other Believers as we shine the Light of Christ into THIS fallen world. **Matthew 5:16 (LSB)** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. In following Christ, we too partake in His unjust suffering and learn obedience by denying (crucifying) our flesh. **Hebrews 5:8 (NIV)** Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered.

F. Spiritual Blindness comes from Spiritual Pride: A tragic sin for a Believer is Spiritual Pride – to think my Biblical understanding, my theology, and my walk with God is superior or correct and others are wrong. *Luke 18:11-14 (NIV) The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “This man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”* Israel was blind to God’s Truth, but self-righteousness in their behavior. *Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV) My desire and prayer to God for Israel is they may be saved. I bear them witness they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. They being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* Derek Prince discusses *Spiritual Blindness - Cause and Cure*, with 3 key points:²

- **Self-righteousness is a Trap – Acting as Satan’s Prison** – “Legalism is making the law an end in itself and thus losing sight of the real purpose for which the law was given...So a legalist becomes entrapped in his own rules and loses the vision of why the rules were given.”
- **God’s Law is Based on Two Commands - Love God and Love Man - Matthew 22:36-40 (NKJV)** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” **This is the first and great commandment.** And the second is like it: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” “Jesus said “The Old Testament is hung on two commandments: love God and love your neighbor.” “If I hang my jacket on a peg, the peg has to be there before I can hang my jacket on it. And so the law is hung on those two commandments. Those two commandments are primary; the law is secondary. The purpose for which the law was to produce two things: love for God and love for our neighbor. Any use or application of the law which does not produce those two things is a misuse, a misinterpretation, and a misapplication. Many who are occupied with religious laws are the least loving.”
- **Self-righteousness Produces Spiritual Blindness** – In Jesus indictment of self-righteous religious leaders in Matthew 23:16-26...one word recurs, **Blind**. I believe self-righteousness inevitably produces **spiritual blindness**. Paul says in Romans 11:25 “**blindness** in part has happened unto Israel.” The Greek word is not the same, it means **hardness of heart**. But the two are closely related because it’s with our heart that we perceive spiritually. Self-righteousness today still has the same results. It produces **spiritual blindness**. I see God moving sovereignly in many mighty ways. But some who are religious churchgoers, committed Christians, baptized in the Holy Spirit; are almost totally **blind** to what God is doing and cannot see. I have really been concerned and agonized over this problem, but I find talking to them doesn’t change them. I’ve come to the conclusion the root of their **problem is self-righteousness**, and its inevitable **consequence is spiritual blindness.**”

2. Derek Prince, YouTube - **Spiritual Blindness - Cause and Cure - A**. Audio Sermons Library - Composed by 1 sermon divided into 2 parts, Jan-30-2024. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54IMEGWtT_w&t=156s (Accessed June-2-2025).

G. Our Faith grows out of our Humility: In His crucifixion, Christ humbled himself to the point of death. ***Philippians 2:8 (NIV) Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*** Christ has called each of us to join Him in the crucifixion, death, and surrender of our own life. ***Matthew 16:24-26 (CSV) If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it. For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life?*** The following notes are quotations from Andrew Murray's book ***Humility***³:

Preface: I am amazed at how little humility is sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus. Sadly, humility is not an esteemed cardinal virtue, the only root from which grace can grow, the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus. Meekness and lowliness of heart are the chief marks of those who follow the meek and lowly Lamb of God.

Chapter 1: The creature needs to acknowledge it owes everything to God; our highest virtue is to present ourselves as empty vessels, so God can dwell and manifest His power and goodness. Humility is the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of all virtues. **Pride is the loss of humility, the root of all sin and evil. Christ's humility is our salvation. Christ's salvation is our humility.**

Chapter 7: The mark of counterfeit holiness is a lack of humility. We discover our own danger is not from the Self-righteous Pharisee who despises us, **but from the Self-righteous attitude within our soul that praises and exalts ourselves**. There is **no pride so dangerous as the pride of holiness**.

Chapter 9: Jesus shows us **it is pride that makes faith impossible**. "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another? **Faith and humility are at the root one**. We never have more true faith than we have true humility. Faith is to surrender self and wait to let God work. The most secret seed of pride is our self-seeking, self-will, self-confidence, or self-exaltation; Because it refuses to allow God to be what He is - the All in All. **Pride makes faith impossible**. Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ. Salvation is our humble fellowship with the crucified Christ in the Spirit of His cross. There were two cases in which Christ spoke of Great Faith – the Centurian and the Phoenician woman. Both displayed humility in expressing their unworthiness before Christ. We have been mistaken seeking to believe, while our old self (in its pride) was seeking to possess itself of God's blessing and riches. Let us seek first to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, so He will exalt us. We need to gladly accept whatever humbles us before God or men; this alone is the path to the glory of God. Out of this nothingness you will grow strong in faith, giving glory to God, and you will find that the deeper you sink in humility before Him, the nearer He is to fulfill every desire of your Faith. We find Christ's power as we abide in Him through our humility. It is only in our humility that Christ can work in us as His ambassadors in our world. ***John 15:7 (NKJV) If you abide in Me, [Humility] and My words abide in you [Obedience], you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you***. We abide in Christ **NOT** from our knowledge, understanding, beliefs, credentials, or eloquence in proclaiming God's Word of Truth; But **ONLY** in **Humility**, since *the root of Faith and Humility are the same!* **Pride makes faith impossible**.

3. Andrew Murray - **Humility**. First published in South Africa, 1884. PDF <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a7fcc973-5214-4f45-b706-10ed453c2e4a/downloads/Humility%20by%20Andrew%20Murray.pdf?ver=1761681705955>.