

GET OVER YOURSELF

REBELLING AGAINST THE
CULTURE OF NARCISSISM

Part 6

SPIRITUALITY: The Culture of BELIEF

INTRODUCTION – Narcissism & Designer Spirituality

Romans 5:8

- Faith – a window rather than a painting...
- New Age – Jesus becomes my guru rather than my Lord...
- Religion's good side – restraining narcissism...
- Religion's bad side...
 1. Religions tend to become legalistic and institutional, investing money and energies and efforts into their own preservation rather than the cause itself.
 2. Religious leaders are sometimes the worst narcissists and model the worst attitudes.
 3. Personal salvation based on mental ascent...
 4. Worship songs and practices...
 5. Prosperity teaching...

DINE IN – Exchanging ME for WE

- Jesus calls us to himself, together...
- The disciples...
 - Matthew versus Simon and Judas...
 - Peter versus John...
- **John 13:34-35** – Our love for each other is the mark of our love for Jesus.
- **Matthew 6:9** – “OUR Father who is in heaven...”
- **Mark 10:29-30** – Christians become one new family
- **1 Corinthians 12** – Christians together form one body.
- **Galatians 3:28** – No distinctions.
- **Ephesians 2:11-22** – one new person, new body, new nation, new temple.
- **1 Peter 2:1-10** – one new temple, new race, new priesthood, new nation.

TAKEOUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKEOUT #1 – Set A Goal

The first step toward lasting self-change is setting a clear goal (e.g., “I want to put others first” or “I want to experience the world without always thinking about myself” or “I want to love the way Jesus loves”, etc.). What is your goal for change? Set it and share it with others.

TAKEOUT #2 – Establish Action Steps

With your goal in mind, identify and commit to clear and specific action steps (e.g., “I will volunteer at church” or “I will spend time talking with my parents/children/siblings every day about how their day went” or “I will not interrupt others with my own stories when they are talking, but will ask them further follow-up questions” or “I will not shop as therapy or recreation, but will find cheaper hobbies so as to redirect my money toward others” and/or “I will increase my financial giving”, etc.). What action step(s) can you begin to practice this week?

TAKEOUT #3 – Be Deliberate About Fellowship

We were made for relationship with God and God's people. We are not designed to function well outside of accountability and encouragement. Every change that matters will be made with the help of others.

Hebrews 10:24-25

TAKE OUT #4 – Choose At Least One Totally Transparent Relationship

Seek out one person – a spiritually and emotionally mature brother or sister in Christ – to be completely honest and open with, to invite into your world of fear and failure. Let them represent God's love to you in prayer, wisdom, challenge, and unconditional acceptance.

James 5:16

TAKEOUT #5 – Look For God In Quiet Time AND Loud Time

Western Evangelicalism has prioritized the practice of daily “quiet time” (a time of solitude, personal study, and prayer) as a foundation for spiritual growth and connection with God. But this alone misses the mark. We should also connect with God through “loud time” – time of celebration with and mission alongside others. Before going into a social setting (whether a church or non-church gathering), ask God to open your eyes to the ways he is present and at work. Invite him to work through you as part of his Spirit's activity.

Luke 15:25; 19:28-40; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16

TAKEOUT #6 – Seeing Others As Fundamentally Similar To You

Almost every form of aggression, war, and atrocity is based on highlighting differences among people. Studies repeatedly show that an increased sense of commonality enhances acceptance and decreases hostility. Practice seeing others as fundamentally similar rather than different to you.

Acts 17:28

CONCLUSION – How Are We Doing?

Church finances and MCC AIDS Care Kits... thank you for getting over yourselves!

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Looking back, what is one thing that has most challenged you in this series?
2. In *Christ the Centre*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, “Truth happens *only* in community.” What do you think about this?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **Ephesians 2** - from different translations if time permits. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Talk about the variety of ways Paul paints a strong before and after picture of our lives with Christ in **verses 1-7**. In light of this, remember Take Out #6. How can we appreciate the difference Christ makes in our lives without losing sight of our similarities with other people who don't accept Jesus? C) How are **verses 8-9** “irreligious” within a first-century Jewish and/or Pagan context? D) How does **verse 10** counter notions of cheap grace, of being saved by mental ascent rather than following Jesus with our whole lives? D) Christ brought together two distinct and separated groups that had never experienced unity before in history – Jews and Gentiles – into one new people group. According to **verses 14-16**, how did he accomplish this? E) How do you think it felt for first-century Jews and Gentiles to be told that they were being mortared together as living bricks in God's new temple? E) What kind of hostile groups need to experience this radical, reconciling, barrier-destroying unity of Jesus today?

So What?...

4. Review TakeOuts #1 and #2. Talk through them together and pray.

The Meeting House | Sunday, December 13, 2009 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching