

Message: The Christian Way Versus the Way

Hello and welcome to JesusFamilies.org's audio messages!

The title of this message is, "The Christian Way Versus the Way".

One of the biggest problems that exist right now for people being able to find the real Light of the world, is that the counterfeit religious system is virtually universal. In other words, people cannot see what it looks like to actually follow the real Jesus or Joshua of Nazareth. The biblical Christian system essentially covers the earth at this time. And while the hundreds of millions of people who make it up divide over their beliefs and religious practices and thus cause tens of thousands of sects, the truth is the people who make up the 'church' or religious system are very similar in spite of their shallow differences. In other words, if you were to look at their lives each day – what they speak about, how they behave, what they do – you would not be able to tell any significant difference between them and agnostics or atheists or muslims or jews or buddists or anyone other people group. Their lives are simply not different. They talk about the same things and they do the same things and they behave the same way. This is the current state of that which calls itself Christianity and those who take some Christian, denominational or sect label to describe themselves.

Do those people who are actually, sincerely trying to follow Joshua of Nazareth based on **his** teachings alone, look any different than Christians or bibilians? Let's draw some contrasts between the lives of disciples of Joshua or of those who follow the one who says he is the way versus the lives of Christians and other non-disciples.

The Christian way is to go to what they call the church (really a religious organization's meeting building); believe the stuff the leaders tell them to believe; do the rituals the leaders say are necessary; and sing songs about God they call worship. If a Christian is honest, they will acknowledge that this is an accurate description of the average christian's god-life...what they might even label as the expression of their faith.

In contrast, the disciple's way is to first share life with other disciples since we love each other and are rejected by so many people due to our faith; our primary work is to share Joshua's truths with those we encounter because we care about people and want them to be able to escape the darkness and powerlessness we escaped to find our Life; we believe the things that Joshua himself teaches and not the millions of things other people teach or teach in his name; we understand that outward rituals do nothing whatsoever to please our Father; and to worship our Father in spirit and truth, not necessarily in song.

Let's take a look at each one of those distinctives in a bit more detail. First, the Christians or bibilians going to a building they call 'the church'. This topic has been covered multiple times on this web site, but here is the simple truth again. Joshua defines the church as his called out ones...his followers who are called out of the world and called into a collective life of true love and caring about what is right, with other disciples. Let me say this again...

This collective life that disciples share has absolutely nothing to do with a building because a building to meet in not only does not facilitate loving others, but provides a substitute for actually loving each other. Truly, the christian's building is not significantly different than a muslim

mosque or a jewish synagogue or a buddist temple or the local shopping mall for the many who worships material things. The Christian has been taught that the thing called 'the church' is central to the Christian life, and in fact it is since gathering at the building for various purposes makes up the vast majority of what Christians would describe as their god-associated activities.

In contrast, the disciples don't spend money and time and resources on building a temple to God since we know God does not want that. There is no place we need to be and no ritual that Joshua teaches we must observe, in order to please or worship God. Rather, we try and worship God in spirit and in truth – in spirit meaning at our deepest level and in truth meaning having a correct understanding of who God is and what He is like and what He wants of us. The concept of constructing a building to meet in being a central part of our living for our Father is totally foreign to followers of the Light. We are the church, period...there is no building or programs or clergyman for disciples. The buildings we have are our houses which we share with one another since we love each other. The only program we have is caring for one another and bringing Joshua to all the lost people. The only leader we have is Joshua – no one else has the truth that we need, no one else cares for our souls as Joshua does, and no one can lead us closer to our Father than Joshua can.

The next thing that really sets Joshua's followers apart from Christians and bibilians is the fact that we understand God only by Joshua and his teachings and applying reason to our beliefs. This is in stark contrast to the christians who believe whoever their religious leader or leaders are at a given time. Of course Christians are taught to look to the bible or the scripture, and many can quote that book. However, as this web site exposes many times, the bible has many contradictions in it, and a person can justify just about any behavior they desire by quoting the bible. So the average Christian is in a situation where they will say the 'believe the bible', and then they will go to their Christian book store and read hundreds of books explaining certain passages in the bible. They will also read the thousands of books by Christian authors with titles like, 'living the Christian life' or 'how to find god's will for your life'. Therefore, between their holy book and it's thousands of teachings about god, many of which contradict each other, and whatever Christian leaders they are listening to at the time – the Christians can spend their whole lives trying to understand God and what he or she wants.

This is in great contrast to followers of Joshua who have only his person, and his teachings, and reason to inform us about God and what our Father wants. It is beautifully simple for those who have ears to hear – that is those who are open to changing their lives to do what Joshua says. As the listener knows, most people are very uncomfortable with change...in fact, you could say the vast majority of people fear change. As we get used to certain things in our lives, we become attached and do not like the thought of having to be different in order to conform to some standard other than ourselves or what we have approved will keep us comfortable.

Let's look at perhaps the best example of how Christians listen to other voices on important matters that affect how we live our lives. Joshua says, "love your enemies". He lived this important teaching out by allowing his enemies to kill him even when he had the ability to avoid that. All of his teachings support the important principle he gave that violence is a primary problem of humankind and that violence will never to the solution to improving the human condition. He plainly taught that love was the solution to all of mankind's self-generated problems, and that love was to extend to all people, even those who hated you and wanted harm to come to you. Again, Joshua lived this principle out and was in fact murdered by the religious leaders and their followers.

What is christain's belief regarding love your enemies? Well, I won't pretend there isn't variance on this belief, but, in general, the average American Christian has no problem killing their enemies or supporting others who do. Many American Christian are very supportive of the united states

military and see no conflict between loving their enemies and dropping bombs on them. The plain and very important teaching of Joshua of love even those who make themselves your enemies is nullified in one of two primary ways. Either Paul is quoted in Roman's 13 where he does provide a teaching that would justify harming your enemies, or the Old Testament is quoted where God supposedly ordered the Hebrews to kill their enemies. No doubt there are other non-biblical means used to nullify or contradict the Light of the world's teachings of 'love you enemies', but the listener should get the point.

The listener might wonder how the belief of 'love your enemies' actually impacts the disciple's life. Well, it starts with not having animosity or bitterness or hatred towards any person. All of that disappears when the love of our Father takes over our heart. We learn to see other people as people our Father cares about, no matter how badly they behave. The thought of harming other people is utterly and completely gone from the disciples heart, and we now live to make peace – first between a person and our Father and second between people. Gone is vengeance and anger towards others, and any associated desire to harm them or see harm come to them.

Furthermore, when we speak the truth about God not wanting human's to harm each other, and that violence is never the solution to improve mankind's condition, we are at best looked at as being very wrong. Any natural family members who support the US military will at a minimum feel very strongly against us, and will likely ostracize us, refuse to speak with us, or cut us off. Thus we are often persecuted by people who support the use of violence to solve problems.

The Light's teaching of loving even our enemies is so fundamentally against what the people of the world think is right and just, that fear is typically the guiding force of those who do not want to consider not defending themselves against their enemies. One of Joshua's fundamental teachings is this:

“Those who seek to keep their life will lose it; while those who seek to lose their life for my sake, shall find Life.”

That saying is the foundation of which the teaching of 'love even those who make themselves your enemies' has its origin. You see, dear listener, if we love those who seek to harm us, we are in fact willing to lose our life in this world, and by so doing, we will find Life everlasting all the sooner if our enemies choose to act on their hatred. We will serve as an example of the Father's love even as our Master did. We will not take life in order to preserve our life in this world, since eternal life with our Father is so much better.

OK, what about the Christian rituals they label as sacraments or sacred ordinances or other such heavy language labels? You know, communion or the last supper or the eucharist, or other such rituals or concepts where something Joshua said is turned into some weird religious necessity? The disciples have no such thing we practice. We don't condemn someone who still thinks it is necessary to eat a piece of bread in such a way in order to pay some kind of homage to God. We know our Father and that He does not want or require such things. Rather, he wants empathy, compassion, kindness, harmony, caring for one another...in short, love. This is what he cares about and this is what we focus on. The concept of having to do some practice that is not based in caring for people or showing them the Way of Joshua, is foreign to both Joshua, and we his followers.

Another important difference between Christians and followers of the Light is the outworking of his saying, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for that which is right”. Disciples care about what is right and what is wrong, and we don't quietly go along with the world's program since we are not part of the world in the sense we belong and agree with those who reject Joshua as their leader.

The Christians are generally very compliant people, going along with just about anything, including even homosexual marriage. The christian's basic attitude is captured in the saying 'just live and let live'. The Christian is no different than non-christians in that they just want to be comfortable and entertained in the world. Don't rock the boat, and don't burn bridges, etc. are all part of the Christian's world view since most are very much part of the world.

Let's use another example to contrast the Christians and the disciples. Christian's are very much, in general, supportive of the health care system in the US. In fact, they largely make it up. They see no significant problem with medical providers not helping sick and injured people unless they pay them some money. This is an evil system that the christian's are blind to, just like most of the other systems of the world, which world is in darkness. Sick and injured people are starting to be turned away from medical treatment if they don't have the money. And if medical providers are forced to treat people without payment up front, they will make sure to go after that person for their money even if it will bring hardship to that person or their family...even if the doctor has 10 times as much money, the person with less will be forced to give the doctor whatever they have. This is an evil system. The truth is that if there was an ounce of compassion for people, the thought of forcing sick or injured people to pay me before I will help them would be repulsive. And yet, that way is business as usual.

Disciples of Joshua see the world for what it is and speak about it. We don't just go along with the program and pretend that evil does not exist, nor is our standard so low that the only evil we can identify is the mass murder of children. We see the world for what it is and we fight to change things first and foremost by being a people that does not live according to the world's rules and ways. We are different, in both what we believe and how we live.

So, dear listener, what can we conclude from this message?

First and foremost is this...if you take some Christian label, and yet you seldom if ever read Joshua's words, you should have no confidence whatsoever that you are doing what God wants. If you think going to church is the primary aspect of living for God or pleasing God, you should think again and consider saying of the Light such as this one:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not speak deep truths in Your name, and in Your name have the best worship services, and in Your name build grand buildings in our honor?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

The typical reaction to saying like that are, 'oh, well, I'm OK, I'm not so bad...' To be deceived means we honestly believe are right or fine when in fact we are not. The only true way to know if you are OK is for YOU to read Joshua's words as a child and compare your life to his and his teachings.

Your Creator and heavenly Father want very much for you to respond to His love. He cares enough about you to not leave you in darkness in terms of who He is and what He wants. He leaves it up to you what you will do with Him, His Son, and their love for you. You can ignore him or you can respond. You can hide in Christian religion or you can leave it and find an authentic life. You get to choose where your soul goes when you die. Isn't it foolish to live an empty life of shallow rituals and entertainment...of admiring nice speeches while never actually changing to become a better human being? You can choose to be one of the selfish ones who care only primarily for your own comfort in this world and use your Christian or bible religion to justify

yourself, OR, you can be a follower of the Light and seek to give your life away that you might find Life everlasting.