

The Narrow One Way Path

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Last week I talked about how disheartening it can be when we witness behaviors that contradicts Christianity. We must remember that as followers in Christ, we are called to exhibit love, humility, and compassion in our interactions with others. However, as soldiers in Christ, our sacred mission indeed includes evangelism; to proclaim the Good News and illuminate the one path toward salvation.

How many of us have heard the phrase, “we are all getting to heaven, but we are taking different paths”? The problem with this statement is that it completely contradicts what the Bible teaches us. In fact the Bible is very clear on the subject and tells us that there is only one way to get to heaven, so for the sake of our souls we must prioritize biblical truth over man-made doctrines, traditions, or creeds. The Bible serves as our ultimate authority, guiding our faith and practice.

So, what does the Bible say? Well for starters, the Bible condemns division. John 17:20-23: In this powerful prayer, Jesus intercedes for His disciples and all future believers. He desires that they may be one, just as He and the Father are one. Unity among believers is a reflection of the divine unity within the Godhead.

- **Unity in Belief:** Jesus prays that believers may be united in their faith and understanding of Him.
- **Witness to the World:** Unity among believers serves as a powerful testimony to the world, demonstrating the reality of Jesus and His mission.
- **Love and Oneness:** Jesus desires that believers love one another and experience the same oneness that He shares with the Father.

1 Corinthians 1:10: Paul addresses the church in Corinth, which was experiencing divisions based on various allegiances. He pleads with them to be of one mind and judgment.

- **Speak the Same Thing:** Paul urges believers to have a common confession of faith, avoiding conflicting teachings.
- **No Divisions:** Divisions weaken the church and hinder its effectiveness. Unity is essential for growth and impact.
- **Joined Together:** The goal is not uniformity but genuine unity—a shared purpose and love for Christ.

Romans 16:16-17: Paul instructs the Roman Christians to mark those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine they have received. Such individuals are to be avoided.

- **Identifying False Teachings:** Christians should discern false teachings and those who promote them.
- **Protecting the Flock:** Marking divisive individuals helps protect the integrity of the church and its members.
- **Staying Faithful:** Remaining faithful to sound doctrine is crucial.

These passages emphasize the need for unity, sound teaching, and discernment within the body of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we should strive for unity while standing firm on biblical truth, but the problem is this is not happening to with those who call themselves Christians. Even worse is there are so many denominations or non-denominations churches teaching doctrine not found in the Bible which is putting souls at risk.

One example, there are churches who teach that in order to be saved that you simply believe, or that you recite what they call the sinners prayer and that you will be saved. Friends, I love you, and I want everyone to make to heaven and that is not what the Bible teaches.

Shortly before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commissioned His disciples (and, us) to go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). In Mark 16:15-16 He said Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

So, we see that Jesus gives instructions on what we need to do in order to be saved and his disciples followed his divine instructions. The book of Acts records the early history of the Church and the conversions of various individuals. Each conversion account follows a consistent pattern:

- **Hearing the Gospel:** People heard the message of Jesus and His sacrifice for their sins (Acts 2:22-24, 36-38; Acts 8:12; Acts 10:34-43).
- **Belief:** They believed in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God (Acts 16:31; Acts 18:8).
- **Repentance:** Repentance involves turning away from sin and turning toward God (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30).
- **Baptism:** Baptism followed belief and repentance (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16:14-15, 30-33).
- **Remission of Sins:** Baptism was for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Baptism is not merely a ritual or an outward expression of what is inward; it symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). It is an act of faith and obedience and as 1 Peter 3:21 says there is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Friends, Matthew 7:13-14 says enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. If you have not followed God's divine pattern for your salvation and instead followed the doctrine of man, then you are entering the wide gate that leads to destruction and let's get that corrected before it's too late, because I love you and want you to have a home in Heaven.