

Man Made?

By: David Burruss

I hear it often. People say, “Christianity is just man-made religion.” On the surface, it might sound like a strong argument. But if you pause and really think about it, something doesn’t add up. If Christianity were truly created by man, wouldn’t it cater to everything man naturally craves? Wouldn’t it make life easier, self-focused, and comfortable? Yet when you read Scripture and look at the life Jesus calls us to, it is the exact opposite.

The Bible consistently pushes against the desires of our flesh. Paul writes, “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). Our natural desires lean toward pride, greed, lust, and self-glorification. But God’s Word calls us to humility, generosity, purity, and self-denial.

Think about what Jesus said: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). Deny yourself? Take up a cross? If man had invented a religion, would he ever design one that asks him to die to his own desires and follow a path of sacrifice? That doesn’t sound like something our selfish human nature would come up with.

The truth is, Christianity constantly points us away from ourselves and toward God. Our instincts say, “seek pleasure now,” but the gospel says, “store up treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:20). Our hearts say, “love yourself first,” but Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

To me, this is one of the strongest pieces of evidence that Christianity is not man-made. It speaks truth that convicts us instead of flattering us. It demands holiness when our natural selves want compromise. It calls us to worship God when our hearts want to worship ourselves.

If we are honest, much of Christianity makes us uncomfortable at first. It rubs against our pride and exposes our sin. But isn’t that the very proof it comes from God and not from us? After all, if it were designed by man, it would indulge our every desire instead of challenging them.

So, when someone says, “Christianity is man-made,” I can’t help but think, no, that cannot be. Because everything about it runs contrary to what man would have written for himself. And in that tension, we find something beautifully divine.