



We've been talking about living a life of forgiveness—one of the most powerful spiritual tools at our disposal. It's important because we are witnessing a deconstruction of our Christian heritage. Now, a Christian worldview contains principles that shape the world and society around us, but we are walking away from our Christian worldview, and therefore, walking away from our faith. But folks, we are not powerless, and God is asking us to live as children of the Light. So, the question on the table is: *What are we going to be? What are we becoming?*

I. CHRISTIAN OR PAGAN?

MARRIAGE

Matthew 19:4–6 ⁴ *“Haven't you read,” he (Jesus) replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”*

GENDER ROLES

Deuteronomy 22:5 *A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.*

1 Peter 3:1–4 ¹ *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

CHILDREN

Deuteronomy 11:19–21 ¹⁹ *Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.*

Matthew 18:5–6 ⁵ *“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

Matthew 18:10 *“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.*

1. Where in your life have you seen a biblical worldview diminished or discredited? How has this shifted in your lifetime?
2. What consequences have you seen as a result of secular culture ignoring our Christian heritage and redefining basic terms such as gender and marriage?
3. Do you have children in your influence? In what ways can you begin to intentionally teach them about the Lord and His truth through your interactions?

II. NO MORE FORGIVENESS? (JESUS' TEACHING)

Luke 13:1–5 ¹ *Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”*

Luke 13:22–28 ²² *Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.²³ Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them,²⁴ **“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.**²⁵ *Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don't know you or where you come from.’²⁶ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’²⁷ **“But he will reply, ‘I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’²⁸ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.****

Luke 14:16–24 ¹⁶ Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ ²¹ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

²² “ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ ²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ **I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ ”**

Luke 17:1–3 ¹ Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. ² **It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.** ³ So watch yourselves. “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

Luke 23:26–33 ²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, **“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.** ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then “ ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” ’ ³¹ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

4. Where have you been too casual about forgiveness? What does Jesus say about forgiveness, and how does that change your attitude about harboring unforgiveness?
5. In what areas of your life have you lived presumptive of God’s grace and followed the ways of the world more closely than the ways of the Lord?

III. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Luke 14:27 *And anyone who does not **carry his cross and follow me** cannot be my disciple.*

Luke 3:7–14 ⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?” ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ **“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.** ¹¹ John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” ¹² **Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”** ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some **soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”** He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

Luke 21:28 *When these things begin to take place, **stand up and lift up your heads**, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

6. Where can you use your voice to stand against those who have disregarded and degraded Christ in the public square?

If you would say before the Lord, “I have lived presumptively, and I want to change,” pray with me:

Father, nothing is hidden from You, and we readily acknowledge we have stepped far beyond Your boundaries and have stood with the world in ungodliness in our dreams, aspiration, hopes, ambitions, and what we have given our lives to. Father, we humbly acknowledge we were wrong—not confused, not deceived, not manipulated, not pressured—we chose, as we ask You to forgive us.

Father, we choose a new path today. We want to honor You. We want to walk uprightly before You. We want to give you priority in our lives—we want to give You our best. Holy Spirit, help us. Bring voices around us to encourage us in righteousness, and holiness, and purity. Give us understanding hearts to see the places where we have been deceived. May the fear of the Lord be more real in our hearts than the fear of people. Your power is present to break the bondage of sin and ungodliness in our lives. Thank You that, through the blood of Jesus, we can be redeemed out of the hand of the enemy, and we are free to serve the Most High God. In Jesus’ name, amen.