

# Changing the Way You Think

## The Authority of Scripture (Part 3)

### A Summary of Layers

(1) *“Let God Transform You Into a New Person by Changing the Way You Think”* (Rom. 12:2)

(2) *“Having Ears to Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church”* (Rev. 2:7)

1. Examine the Genuineness of Our Love for Christ
2. Consider the Influence and Pressures of Cultural Values and Morals of this World and How They May Have Blinded Us from Truth
3. Search Our Hearts and See if We Have Made a Place for Sin & Self to Thrive
4. Take Inventory of Our Commitment to Following Jesus, Carrying Our Cross Behind Him

(3) *“If you love me you will obey my commandments”* (John 14:15)

(4) **A Clear and Present Danger**

- **Losing Confidence in His Word**
- **Counterfeits of Truth**
  - Personal Preference
  - Cultural Morals and Values
  - Religious Tradition

### Colossians 2:8-10

**Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.** <sup>9</sup> For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup> So you also are complete through your union with Christ, **who is the head over every ruler and authority.**

- **Don't Be Captured**

- Empty Philosophies
- High Sounding Nonsense
- Human Thinking
- Spiritual Powers

*Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all **strategies of the devil.** <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, **but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places...***

-- Ephesians 6:11-12

- **“Christ is the Head Over Every Ruler and Authority”**
  - His Word is the Ultimate Authority

## 3 Reasons Why We May Give Personal Preference, Religion, and Culture More Authority in Our Lives Than Scripture

# 1. We Desperately Want to be Accepted and Affirmed by Others

## John 12:37, 42-43

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees **they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;** <sup>43</sup> **for they loved human praise more than praise from God.**

- Fear of being misunderstood
- Fear of looking foolish or wrong
  - We don't know the answers to what seem like complex questions raised by culture
- Fear of causing division, hurt feelings, discomfort with our friends, co-workers, our children...

## John 15:18-21

**"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.** <sup>19</sup> The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. **I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.** <sup>20</sup> Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' **Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you.** And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. <sup>21</sup> They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me.

## Luke 12:49-52

**"I have come to set the world on fire...** Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other...families will be split apart..."

# 2. Jesus is Only Lord in Theory, But Practically His Lordship is Too Costly

*"You can't be my disciple"...if family is more important than I am...*

*"You can't be my disciple"...unless you're willing to go the way of the cross...*

*"You can't be my disciple"...If you don't give up your possessions...*

*"You can't serve two masters..."*

# 3. We Tend to Think of Christianity Strictly in Terms of Individual Souls, Not as a Worldview Facilitating a Redemptive Force in Every Area of Culture.

## John 3:16-17

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.**

## Matthew 5:14-16

**"You are the light of the world...Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**