

TRUE CHURCH –pt. 3 “JESUS is GREATER than RELIGION”

BARNA RESEARCH

The 10 research statements used to examine **Christ-likeness** include the following:

Actions like Jesus:

- I **listen** to others to learn their **story** before telling them about my **faith**.
- In recent years, I have **influenced** multiple people to consider **following** Christ.
- I **regularly choose** to have **meals** with people with very **different** faith or **morals** from me.
- I try to **discover** the **needs** of non-Christians rather than **waiting** for them to come to me.
- I am **personally** spending **time** with **non-believers** to help them **follow** Jesus.

Attitudes like Jesus:

- I see God-given **value** in every **person**, regardless of their **past** or **present** condition.
- I **believe** God is FOR everyone.
- I **see** God working in people's **lives**, even when they are NOT following him.
- It is **more** important to **help** people know **God** is FOR them, than to make sure they know they are **sinners**.
- I feel **compassion** for people who are not following **God** and **doing** immoral things.

The 10 statements used to assess self-righteousness (like the **Pharisees**), included the following research items:

Religious Actions:

- I tell **others** the most **important** thing in my **life** is following God's rules.
- I don't **talk** about my **sins** or **struggles**. That's between ME and **God**.
- I try to **avoid** spending **time** with people who are **openly gay** or lesbian.
- I like to **point** out those who do NOT have the right **theology** or **doctrine**.
- I prefer to **serve** people who attend my **church** rather than those outside the **church**.

Religious Attitudes:

- I find it **hard** to be **friends** with people who seem to **constantly** do the **wrong** things.
- It's **not** my **responsibility** to help **people** who won't help **themselves**.
- I feel **grateful** to be a **Christian** when I see other people's **failures** and **flaws**.
- I **believe** we should stand **against** those who are **opposed** to Christian **values**.
- People who follow God's **rules** are better than those who do **not**.

Matt. 23:5

⁵ “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.

²³ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe your income even to the penny, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish,* and then the outside will become clean, too.

- Bottom Line (One Thing)

Why JESUS is GREATER than Religion:

- ✓ **SKEWED Church** relies on **RELIGION** to produce **Behavior MODIFICATION**
- ✓ **TRUE Church** relies on **JESUS** to produce **Inward TRANSFORMATION**

Matt. 23:27

²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

RELIGION= obey the "**LAW**", but breaking the law requires **death**

JESUS = **OBEYED THE LAW FOR** us, died **ONCE** for **ALL** of us (who broke the law), so that we could have **HIS** **LIFE** that would **TRANSFORM** us

2 Cor 4:16

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our **outward** man is **perishing**, yet **the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.** ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are **seen** *are* temporary, but the things which are **not seen** *are* eternal.

Rom 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ✓ **SKewed** Church relies on **RELIGION** to produce **Behavior** **MODIFICATION**
- ✓ **TRUE** Church relies on **JESUS** to produce **Inward** **TRANSFORMATION**

Rom 12:2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that (**THEN**) you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Gal 5:22

²² But the fruit of the (YOU) Spirit produces (**PAST TENSE**) in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.

2 Cor. 5:16

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating and identifying ourselves and others from a human point of view.¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a **gift** from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,* so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- ✓ **SKEWED Church** relies on **RELIGION** to produce **Behavior**
MODIFICATION
- ✓ **TRUE Church** relies on **JESUS** to produce **Inward**
TRANSFORMATION
- ✓ Get RID of the **RELIGIOUS** attitudes of how we **APPEAR** to man
and be more concerned with how our **HEART** Appears to **GOD**