

I GIVE
Because It's Christmas – Part 3 of 3

QUESTION: What do I have to **BELIEVE** in order to be a Christian?

BETTER QUESTION: Is Christianity **GOOD** news for our culture?

“...Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10b

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

KEY OBSERVATION: You have **NEVER** met anyone, for whom the good news was not good news.

CRITICAL QUESTION: Am **I** good news?

“By this, all men will know that you're my disciples, by the way that you love one another.” John 13:35

“14 You are the light of the world.... 16 ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14, 16

“The only thing that really matters is faith expressing itself through love.” Galatians 5:6

“! Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves....” Philippians 2:1-3

“Because God so loved the world...” John 3:16

“4 ...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage...” Philippians 2:4-6

KEY TRUTH: Jesus leveraged his power and influence as God for the **BENEFIT** of those who had less power and less influence.

“7 ...rather he chose to make himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:7-8

“I have come to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

“12 ...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act to fulfill his good purpose. 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God, without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky...” Philippians 2:13-15

FOUR WAYS TO BE THE LIGHT OF WORLD:

1. Apologize **IMMEDIATELY**
2. Forgive **QUICKLY**
3. Have an “others first” attitude **CONTINUALLY**
4. Give **SACRIFICIALLY**

BOTTOM LINE: The good news becomes bad news when **I'M** bad news.

“10 Do not be afraid; I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11