

# “YEAH... BUT”

## **Small Group Guide: "Yeah, But..." - Who Do I Live For?**

**Based on 1 Corinthians 2-3**

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### **Opening Prayer**

**Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help each person honestly examine their spiritual life.**

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### **Ice Breaker**

**Share a time when you tried to justify something you knew you shouldn't do. What excuses did you use? (Keep it light and appropriate!)**

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### **Sermon Recap**

**Pastor Brian examined three types of people in 1 Corinthians 2-3:**

- 1. The Spiritual Man - Led by God's Spirit, transformed thinking and living**
  - 2. The Natural Man - Living for self, rejecting God's wisdom**
  - 3. The Carnal/Cultural Christian - Straddling both worlds, saying "yeah, but..."**
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## Key Scripture Passages

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (Paul's message)
  - 1 Corinthians 2:6-13 (The spiritual person)
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (The natural person)
  - 1 Corinthians 3:1-8 (The carnal/cultural Christian)
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message

1. Paul told the Corinthians he came preaching nothing but "Christ crucified." Why was this message so counter-cultural to them? How is it counter-cultural today?
2. What does it mean that Paul came "in weakness, fear, and trembling"? How does this contrast with how we often present ourselves?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Why can't the natural person understand spiritual things? What does this tell us about evangelism?

### Personal Reflection

4. Of the three types of people described (spiritual, natural, carnal), which one do you most identify with right now? Be honest.
5. Look at the characteristics of a "cultural Christian" listed in the sermon. Which ones hit closest to home for you?
  - Disregard for true change
  - Desensitized to sin
  - Shallow faith
  - Shaped by culture rather than the gospel
  - Living off others' faith
  - Justifying sin

6. Paul describes the Corinthians as "babes in Christ" still drinking milk. What would "solid food" look like in your spiritual diet? What keeps you from pursuing it?

### Going Deeper

7. The sermon mentioned that cultural Christians often "redefine theology" to fit their lifestyle. Can you think of examples where our culture has tried to change what Scripture clearly teaches?
8. Read Matthew 7:13-14 (the narrow and wide gates). Why do you think the narrow way is described as "hard"? What makes it hard in your life specifically?
9. Pastor Brian quoted someone saying the church's greatest mission field might now be inside the church rather than outside. Do you agree? Why or why not?

### Application

10. Paul said he came to Corinth with one message: Christ crucified. If someone examined your life this week, what message would they say you're living?
  11. What is one area where you've been saying "yeah, but..." to God? What would full surrender look like in that area?
  12. How can you move from being a "consumer" of spiritual content (sermons, podcasts, books) to someone who personally feeds on God's Word?
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### Key Takeaways

1. The Gospel is Sufficient - Human wisdom and philosophy cannot save or transform us. Only Christ crucified matters.
2. True Faith Transforms - If the Spirit lives in you, your thinking, speaking, and actions should be different from the world.
3. You Can't Serve Two Masters - Cultural Christianity tries to marry the world and the gospel, but Jesus calls us to the narrow way.
4. Spiritual Growth Requires Spiritual Food - We can't stay on "milk" forever. We need to dig into Scripture ourselves.
5. The Question is Personal - Who do YOU live for? Not who do you say you live for, but what does your life demonstrate?

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## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

**Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:**

#### **Option 1: Honest Self-Examination**

- **Set aside 30 minutes of quiet time**
- **Go through the list of "cultural Christian" characteristics**
- **Ask God to reveal where you're compromising**
- **Confess specifically and ask for the Spirit's power to change**

#### **Option 2: Scripture Immersion**

- **Commit to reading 1 Corinthians all the way through this week**
- **Don't just read - study. Ask: What does this say? What does it mean? How should I respond?**
- **Journal what God is teaching you**

#### **Option 3: Accountability Partnership**

- **Find one trusted Christian friend**
- **Share one area where you've been saying "yeah, but..." to God**
- **Ask them to check in with you weekly about this area**
- **Commit to pray for each other daily**

#### **Option 4: Cultural Audit**

- **List what you consume this week: shows, music, podcasts, social media, books**
  - **Honestly ask: Is this shaping me toward Christ or toward the world?**
  - **Make one specific change based on your findings**
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## **Group Prayer Time**

### **Pray for:**

- **Courage to honestly examine our lives**
- **Freedom from justifying sin**
- **Hunger for God's Word and spiritual growth**
- **Power to live transformed lives**
- **Those in our church family who may be "cultural Christians" to encounter the real Christ**
- **Strength to walk the narrow way**

### **Prayer Model:**

- **Confession: Where have we been living as cultural Christians?**
  - **Thanksgiving: For Christ crucified and the Spirit who transforms**
  - **Supplication: For power to live spiritually, not carnally**
  - **Commitment: To seek first God's kingdom, not our comfort**
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## **Looking Ahead**

- **Next week begins the series on the Book of Esther**
  - **June begins "Renovating Our Theology" series addressing bad doctrine**
  - **Consider inviting someone to join your small group who might benefit from these discussions**
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## **Closing Thought**

**"The only thing that matters is Christ crucified. Who you live for will be demonstrated not by what you say, but by how you think, speak, and act."**

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## **For Group Leaders**

### **Tips for Facilitating:**

- **This topic can be convicting. Create a safe space for honesty**
- **Don't let the group simply point fingers at "those cultural Christians out there"**
- **Keep bringing it back to personal application**
- **If someone shares a struggle, affirm their honesty and pray for them**
- **Don't rush through the questions - better to discuss fewer questions deeply**
- **End on hope: the Spirit can transform us!**

### **Additional Resources:**

- **Encourage reading all of 1 Corinthians before the Esther series begins**
- **Suggest journaling through the "cultural Christian" characteristics**
- **Recommend accountability partnerships beyond the group meeting**