



**Movement 1 Opening Question/Big Idea/Metaphor set up.**

Did you see the census data this week? Which revealed Australians are running away from Jesus and the church like never before?

**MOVEMENT SUMMARY**

People are running away from Jesus and the church.

I feel like doing that too. I don't blame them.

Some 'unwise' actions.

But we're called to be wise... How does this work? So that we're prepared to walk together rather than run away.

Census

## Australian census: religious affiliation falls as population changes rapidly

- First results show 29.6% of people say they have 'no religion'
- Most people born overseas from Asia not Europe for first time
- Less than one-third of homeowners own their home outright
- [Census 2016 liveblog: follow developments here](#)



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Gareth Hutchens

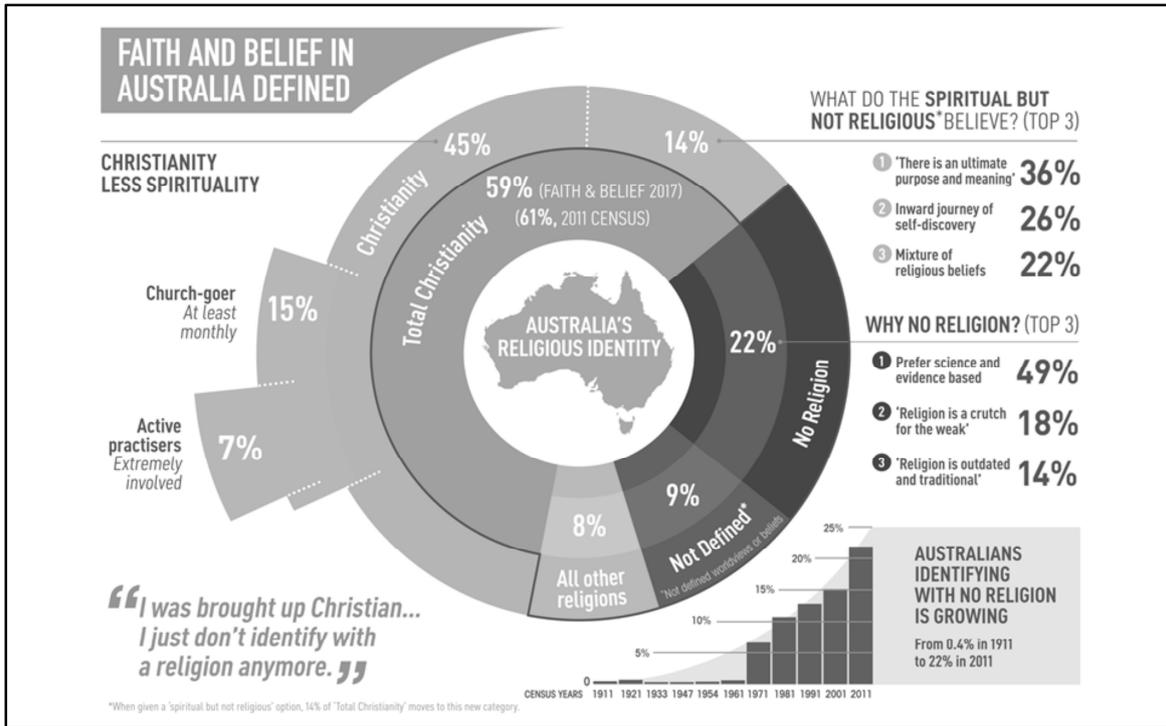
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Tuesday 27 June 2017 09.03 AEST

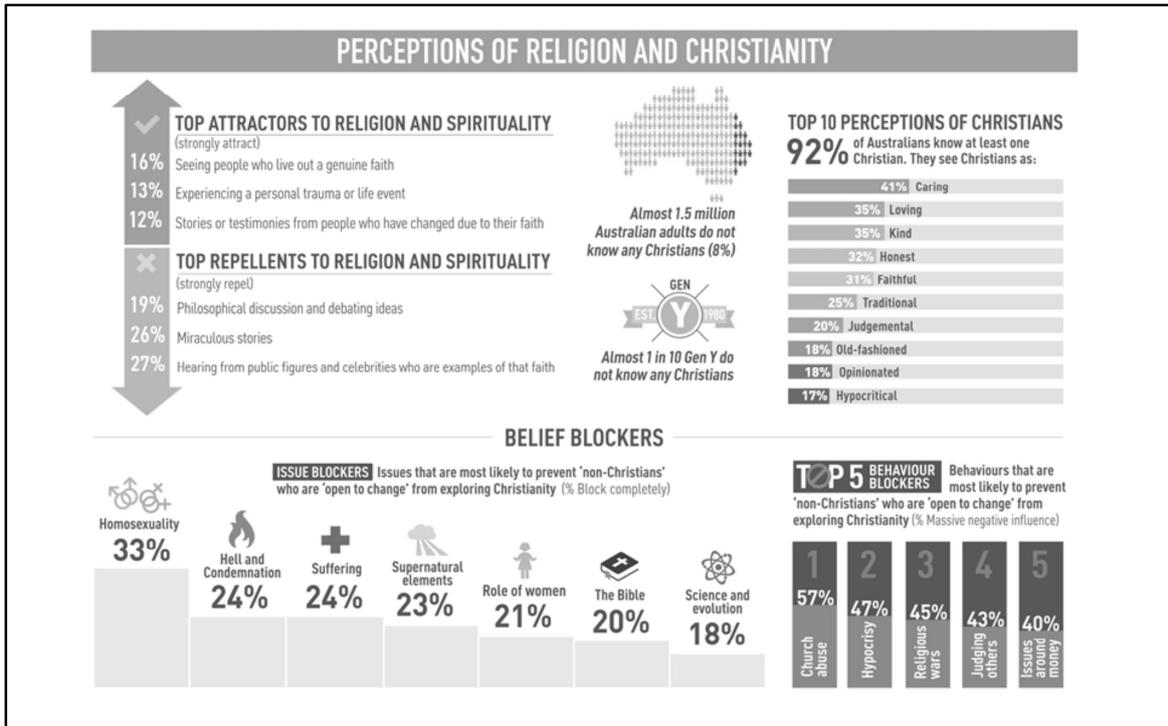


Almost a third of people now say they have no religion... A jump of around 8% since the last one...



McCrimdle research found some pretty similar stuff in a research project that came out just a few weeks ago — they say, though, there's a large percentage of the population who call themselves 'spiritual but not religious' who are loosely Christian, but might also account for some of those with 'no religion'...

They drilled down into 'why' Christianity in Australia appears to be shrinking rapidly... What's driving that... Why people are running away from Jesus, and the church...



### BELIEF BLOCKERS

#### ISSUE BLOCKERS

Issues that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Block completely)

33%	Homosexuality
24%	Hell and Condemnation
24%	Suffering
23%	Supernatural elements
21%	Role of women
20%	The Bible
18%	Science and evolution

#### TOP 5 BEHAVIOUR BLOCKERS

Behaviours that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Massive negative influence)

57%	1 Church abuse
47%	2 Hypocrisy
45%	3 Religious wars
43%	4 Judging others
40%	5 Issues around money

Their research found that Aussies are repelled by our approach to sharing our faith — by our tendency to argue, to hold up celebrity champions... But more than that people are turned off by our hypocrisy — our behaviours like abuse, wars, being judgmental — now some of these aren't fair — and how these play out in debates about sex, in suffering, and in some tricky areas where we live in the world and think differently...



When do you want to join the exodus?

When do you want to distance yourself from other Christians?

When have you been ashamed that your friends knew you were a Christian? When have you bottled it?

Why do Christians seem so stupid?

Why am I ashamed to be seen as a Christian sometimes?



Sometimes for me it's when we want to pretend there are easy answers... That life is black and white... So we don't listen to people who feel lost and disconnected, or to people who are thinking deeply about life and what it means... We're more interested in speaking.... And we sound like a kid having a tantrum...



Or like the out of touch grandpa with his banjo in a rocking chair... With cringeworthy misunderstandings of the way people think. And Live. And desire...

Disconnected from life as it is in our world...



We reach for the megaphone...



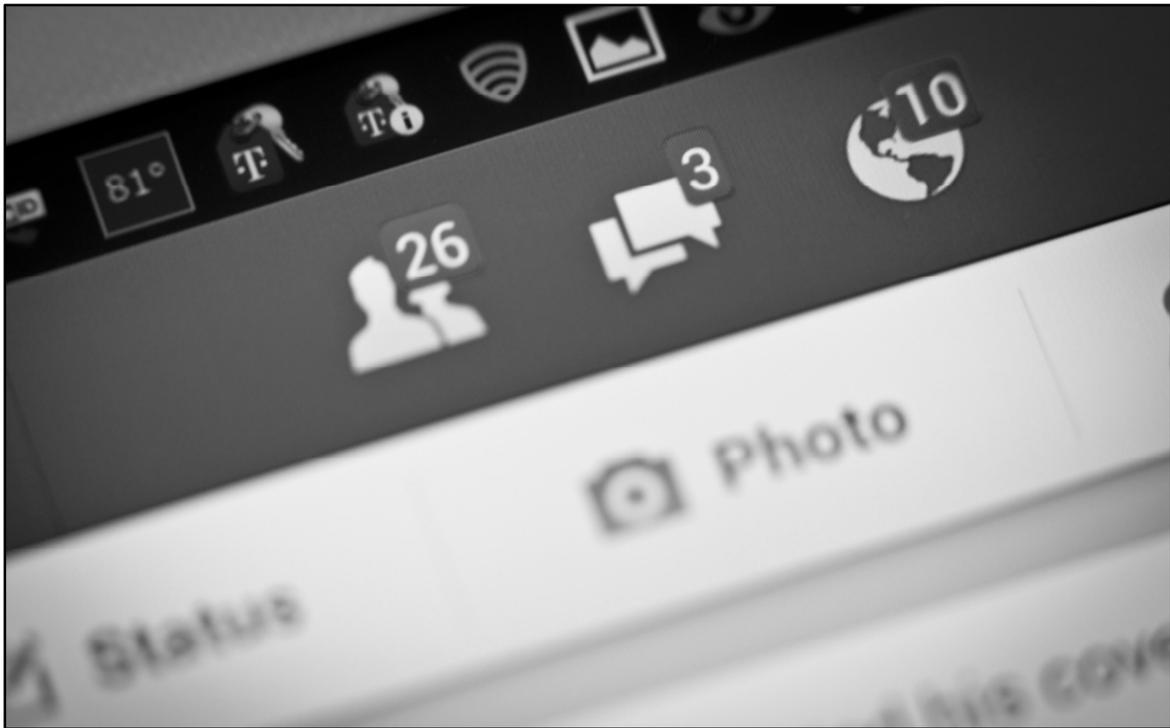
The placard...



The awkward Christian colleague who just weirds you and the rest of your colleagues out with their strange beliefs or over the top piety...



Jump in front of a camera or microphone... To proclaim a Christianity that has nothing to do with Jesus...



Or when we broadcast our thoughts on social media... And get into pointless arguments...



That's when I just want to run away... to go into witness protection or something...

Be **wise** in the way you act  
**toward outsiders**; make the most of  
every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

If only other Christians would live up to this...



We're not called to run away, but to walk through this stuff together... And to do this *towards outsiders*... We can't do that if they're running away from us...

We're called to be wise... But what does a 'wise' life look like as a Christian? How do we navigate our way through a changing Australia? Keeping our heads down? Living in a hostile world?



**Movement 2. The 'why' – unpack passage/key verse.**

One of the things about this passage — one of the reasons I picked it as a 'must see' — is there's actually more going on beneath the surface than it first appears... There's lots in just these few verses that might help us navigate post-Christian, post-truth, post-everything Australia...

**MOVEMENT SUMMARY**

We talk together in wisdom only *in* and *with* the Gospel of Jesus. All the time for everyone...

What is our 'wise walk' – who do we walk with? Jesus. Paul. The church.

Who do we walk 'towards' – the lost.

Why? To create opportunities and questions that are answered with the Gospel (spoken graciously and 'salty')

What is wisdom?

What is grace?

The wisdom Paul is talking about has him in chains. It doesn't always look like wisdom. It

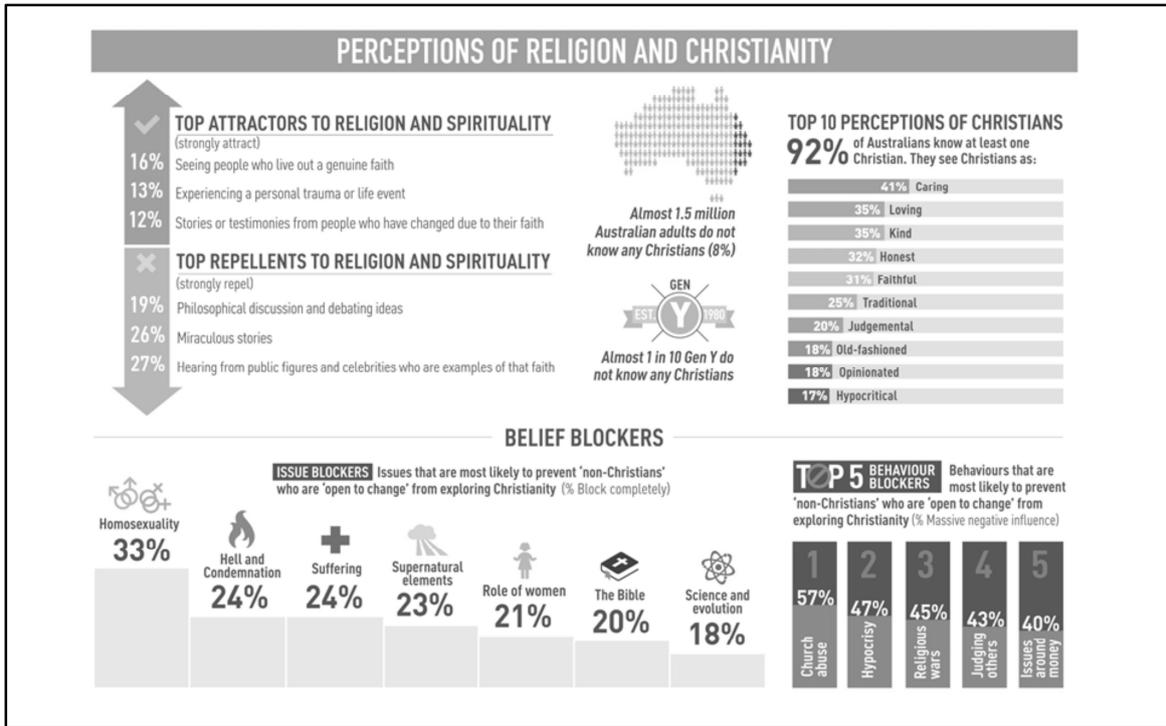
can look like stupidity. But we've got to be the right kind of stupid. Together.  
(Colossians 3 – one body), Colossians 2 'mystery of Christ' is where real wisdom is found.

**Be wise** in the way you act  
toward outsiders; make the most of  
every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

See first off... We mostly hear the word *wisdom* and think its about knowing the right information. That our job is to fill our heads with as much as we can so that we can sound smart and be persuasive when people ask us questions...

We think we need to argue people into belief by being smarter than them...



But did you notice that this approach turns people off. It's not wise at all... It's funny too that our *behaviour* is both the most attractive thing about Christianity and most consistently part of how people perceive us, and why they like or loathe us...

This is all very interesting because for Paul, wisdom isn't just about *knowledge* but about *action*.

**Be wise** in the **way you act** toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

Wisdom is *enacted*. It is a way not just *knowing stuff* but *doing stuff*. Our actions are to be 'wise' and 'toward outsiders'... It's a 'way' of life...

and we might think this is just an instruction for 'me' as I go it alone in the world... but there's more going on here...

Be wise in the way you act  
**toward outsiders**; make the most of  
every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

This wise action is directed *towards outsiders*. The wisdom Paul is talking about is about how we behave *in the world* for the benefit of those not *in the church*, so that we can create and take opportunities to invite people to know Jesus...

Be wise in the way **you** act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

And there are a couple more things under the hood here that are worth noticing... First. The you is plural...

Be wise in the way **you** act toward  
outsiders; make the most of every  
opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

... it's a corporate way of life... together. We're to be wise together — not to run away from each other...

**Be wise** in the way you act  
toward outsiders; make the most of  
every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

And what's underneath this, literally, in the Greek...

**Walk together in wisdom** toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

...is 'walk the way together' – it's a picture of being schooled in wisdom in the ancient world...



– the ‘peripatetics’ were philosophers who *walked around* — *that’s literally what peripatetic means* — answering people’s questions about life... A school that believed *philosophy or wisdom* was connected to life in motion...

And in the ancient world, these teachers would walk with students who would start to imitate their teachers in dress and manner... think Socrates and Plato and Aristotle... those guys... the ‘impressive’ thinkers of the ancient age... they would walk in wisdom together...



A bit like a West Wing style walk and talk... good ideas – wise ideas -- were discussed as people walked through life together... and as they applied them to life as it really was. Real wisdom was both 'big picture truth' and practical. It caught up the 'head' and the 'hands'...

My goal is that they may be encouraged  
in heart and united in love, so that they  
may have the full riches of complete  
**understanding...**

**COLOSSIANS 2:2**

Earlier in the letter Paul has explained why he's writing to them – it's to push them towards a wise and Godly way of life in a wisdom obsessed world...

A world obsessed with 'wisdom' – the temptation for the 1<sup>st</sup> century Greek is to get caught up in 'wisdom' and 'fine sounding arguments.

But a very different sort of wisdom and understanding...

...in order that they may know the  
**mystery of God**, namely, Christ, in  
whom are hidden all the treasures of  
**wisdom** and knowledge.

**COLOSSIANS 2:2-3**

He wants them to understand that wisdom isn't found in the best and brightest philosophers or looking like them... That's not who they're to walk with... Wisdom is found in Jesus...



He's got a particular purpose in mind and a particular walk he wants them to adopt...  
And a particular type of walking in wisdom to avoid...

See to it that no one takes you captive through **hollow** and **deceptive philosophy**, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than **on Christ.**

**COLOSSIANS 2:8**

A world obsessed with 'wisdom' – the temptation for the 1<sup>st</sup> century Greek is to get caught up in 'wisdom' and 'fine sounding arguments.

When Paul talks about wisdom he's not talking about Aristotle or Socrates... But about Jesus.

**Be wise in the way** you act  
toward outsiders; make the most of  
every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

Paul wants us to avoid unwise thinking... to know the truth... but he also wants us to ACT WISELY. To WALK IN WISDOM together...



He wants us to walk together in a particular sort of wise action — towards outsiders...

Walk together in wisdom  
toward outsiders; make the most of  
**every opportunity.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

And to do so in a way that both creates opportunities and helps us to *make the most of them* when they come.

And pray for us,  
too, that God may  
**open a door** for  
**our message**, so  
that we may  
proclaim the  
mystery of Christ,  
for which I am in  
chains.

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

The sort of opportunities he wants us to take are the sorts of open doors he's just asked the church to pray for for him... Opportunities to share our message — the message we proclaim... The mystery of Christ...

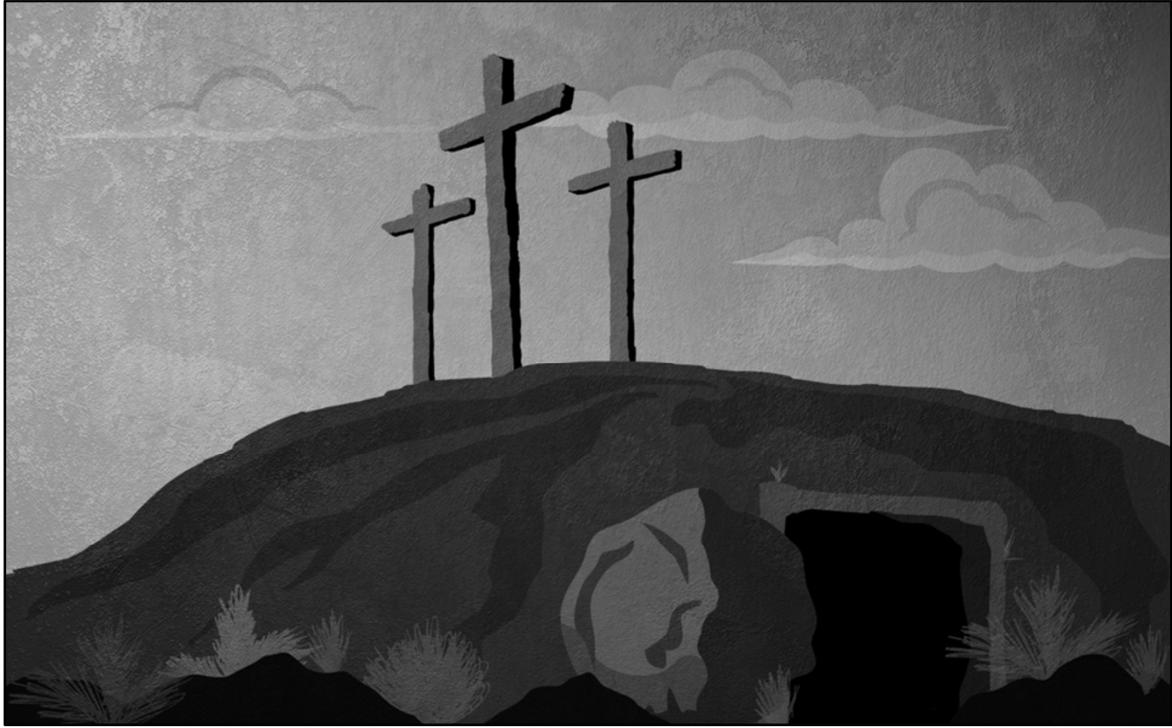
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**COLOSSIANS 2:2-3**

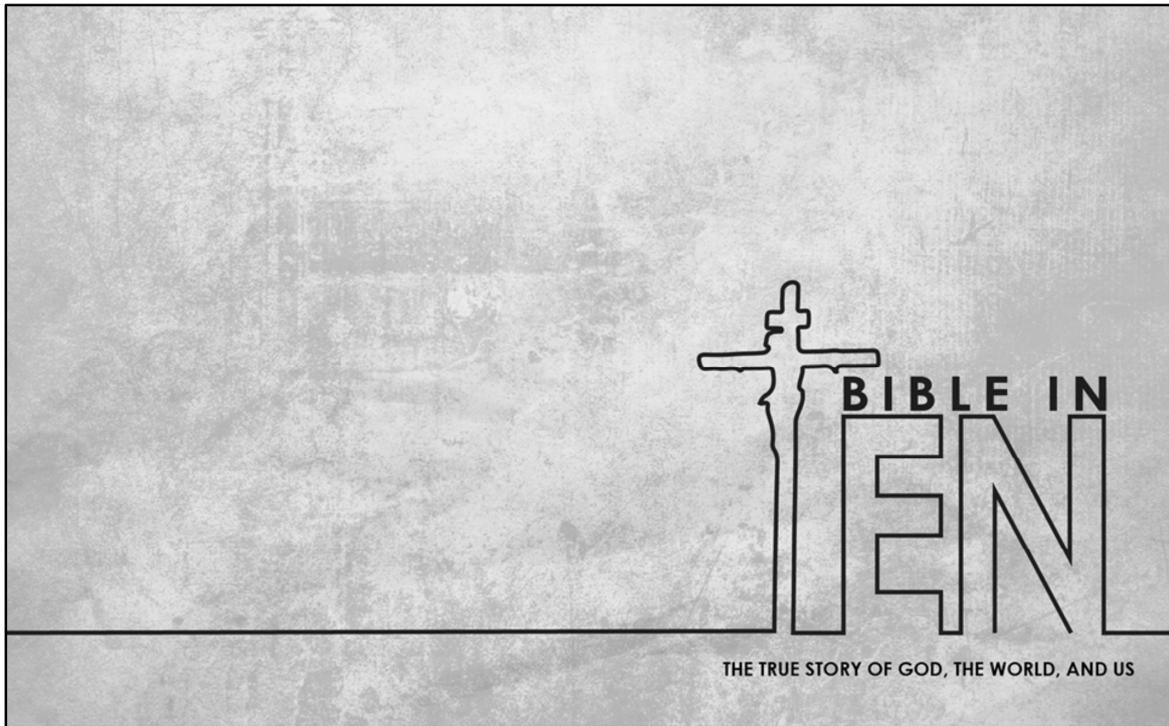
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**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

That's what he's been banging on about all letter...



It's this message.  
The Gospel. The message of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



The story of God the world and us...

The story of the Bible...

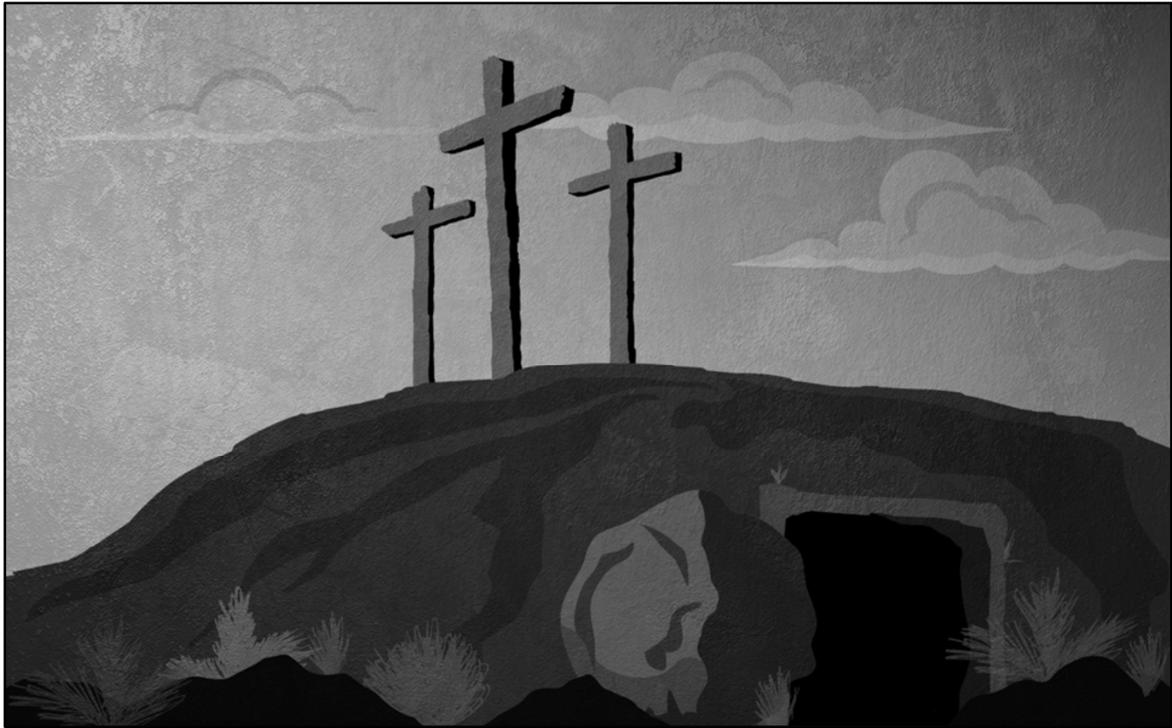
That Jesus is the king the Old Testament points to and anticipates. The son of David.

God's king who will rule forever...



The story of God with us. The heroic king who defeated sin and death and Satan to launch a kingdom — a kingdom of life, not death. Of light, not darkness. A kingdom we're invited to be part of as he saves us from sin and death by taking our death, and taking our sin upon himself...

This is Paul's message — a story of a crucified king — and it brings with it a wise way of life... That confounds the wisdom of the world...



And if you're here today checking out Christianity for the first time... This is what we want you to believe... This is what we hope we're on about.

And pray for us, too, that God may **open a door** for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which **I am in chains.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

It's a message so world upending that Paul can talk about open doors while he's in chains...

Which is just bizarre when you think about it...

As bizarre as a crucified king...

And he can talk about a wise way of life while imprisoned because the world believes he's a fool...

Yet somehow this way of life — this situation — is the basis from which Paul believes it is possible for open doors...

Pray that I may **proclaim it clearly**, as I should.

**COLOSSIANS 4:4**

*And for clear proclamation...*



This is his example.  
His wise walk. As he follows the crucified king...

And it's one he asks the Colossians — and us — to walk with him.  
Together.  
To walk with him — and each other — together — as we walk towards outsiders...  
With the message of Jesus...

Be wise in the way **you** act toward outsiders; **make the most** of every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

So what does this look like? How do we make sure we're — together — walking in wisdom — so that as we walk towards outsiders it creates opportunities for us to share this message?

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of **one body** you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**COLOSSIANS 3:15**

It comes back to being who Paul says we are if we believe that the Gospel is where wisdom is found — our walk together is built from who we are — one body — ruled by Jesus — this is what Paul has just said to them in the chapter just before this one — in what could easily be another ‘must see’ passage... Where he describes us as ‘one body’ with our hearts ruled by Christ...

Let the **message of Christ** dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with **all wisdom** through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

**COLOSSIANS 3:16**

A body who have this rule work on us as we let this same message of Christ dwell in us richly — shaping us as we teach and admonish each other — as we teach and admonish each other with wisdom... Singing to each other. Sharing with each other. Cultivating a wise way of life in Christ together that is the basis of our walking towards outsiders...



This is a picture of life together in the sort of community — and this community has to be one that shapes us not just to walk together in Jesus wisely — but to *walk together towards outsiders wisely*.



Paul's vision for how we engage with the world looks like this — like the people around you this morning — but this community spreading out into the week *walking the walk together*.

With the message of Jesus...

Be wise in the way you act **toward outsiders**; make the most of every opportunity.

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

Walking TOWARDS OUTSIDERS...

We aren't just in the business of looking after ourselves — looking inwards — we're on a mission together.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of **every opportunity.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:5**

We're meant to be looking for — and creating — opportunities TOGETHER...

Let your **conversation** be **always** full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to **answer everyone**.

**COLOSSIANS 4:6**

And what Paul says about our **conversations** implies both *LISTENING* and *SPEAKING*.

*We're not only* speaking to people, but listening to them, and having them listen to us...

This is a picture where people are asking questions and we understand them enough to answer what they're asking...

**every ... always ... everyone.**

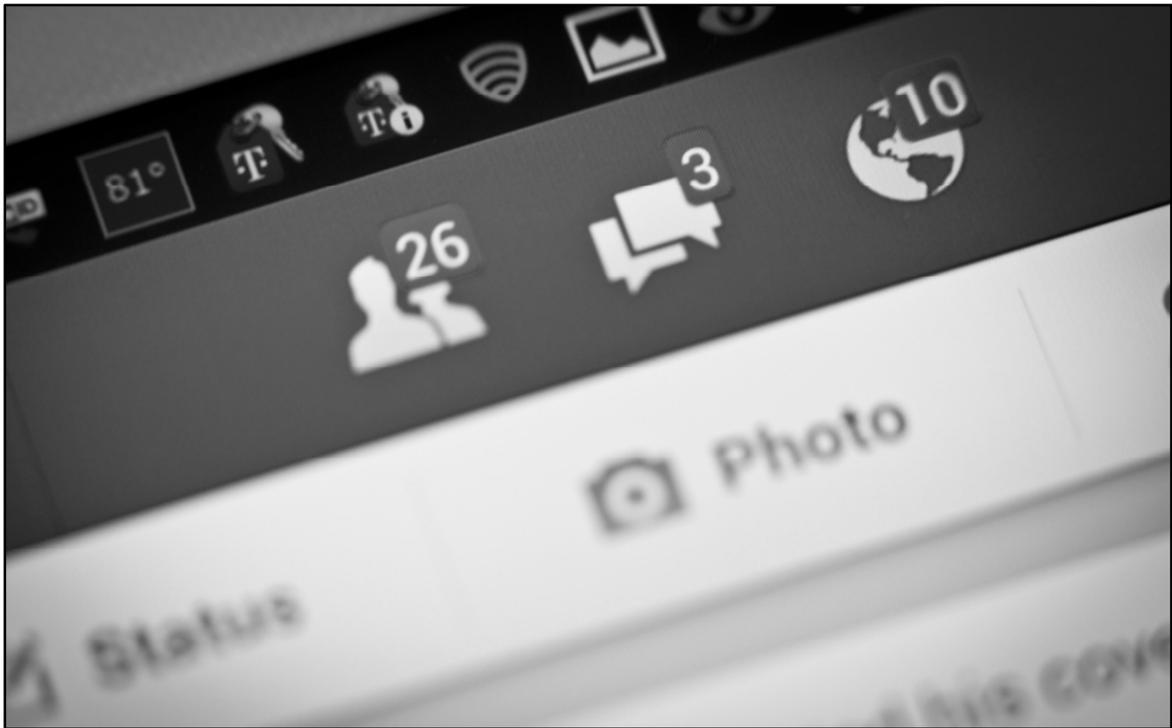
**COLOSSIANS 4:5-6**

This is ALL THE TIME.  
Not just some of the time...

It's what protects us from stupidity... And hypocrisy.



At work... Or with your friends...



On social media...



And at church...

**every ... always ... everyone.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:5-6**

This is ALL THE TIME.  
Not just some of the time...

It's what protects us from stupidity... And hypocrisy.

**every opportunity...  
answer everyone.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:5-6**

Notice this isn't a megaphone thing... It's about ANSWERING people's questions... And perhaps creating questions by how we walk...

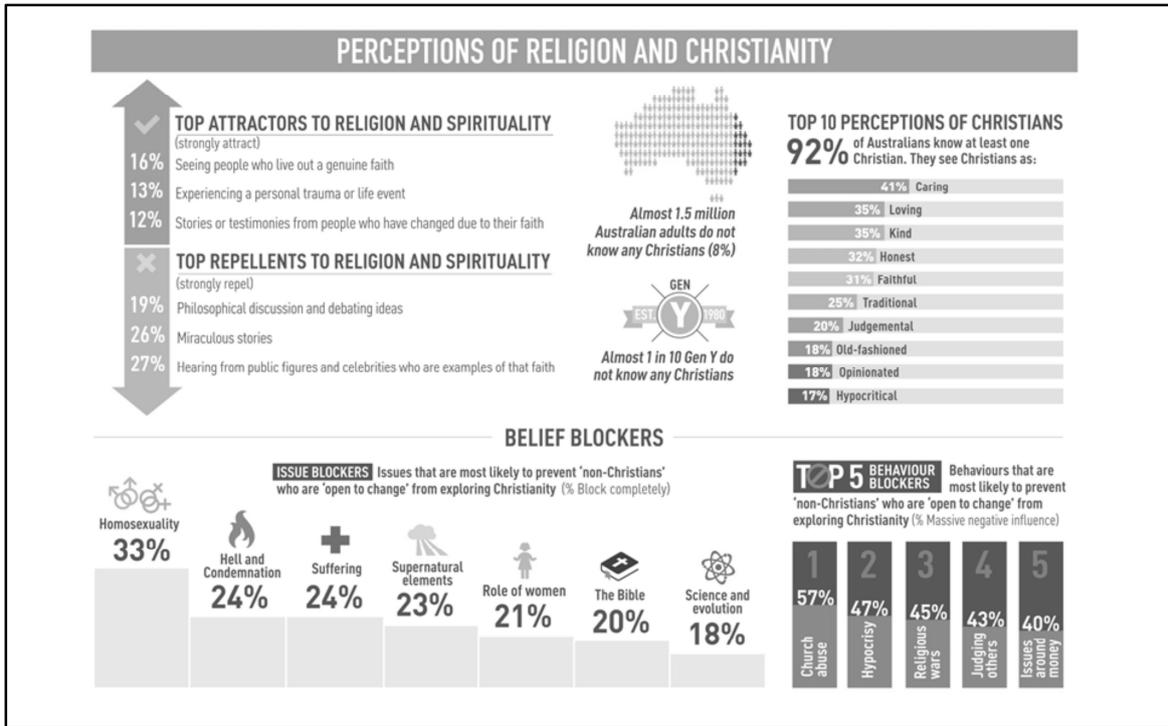


So how are we meant to do this?

What does it look like to live a life together that creates opportunities and questions?

What sort of life is compelling enough to be interesting to people so that they actually care what we think and why we live the way we do?

What do we carry with us?



### BELIEF BLOCKERS

#### ISSUE BLOCKERS

Issues that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Block completely)

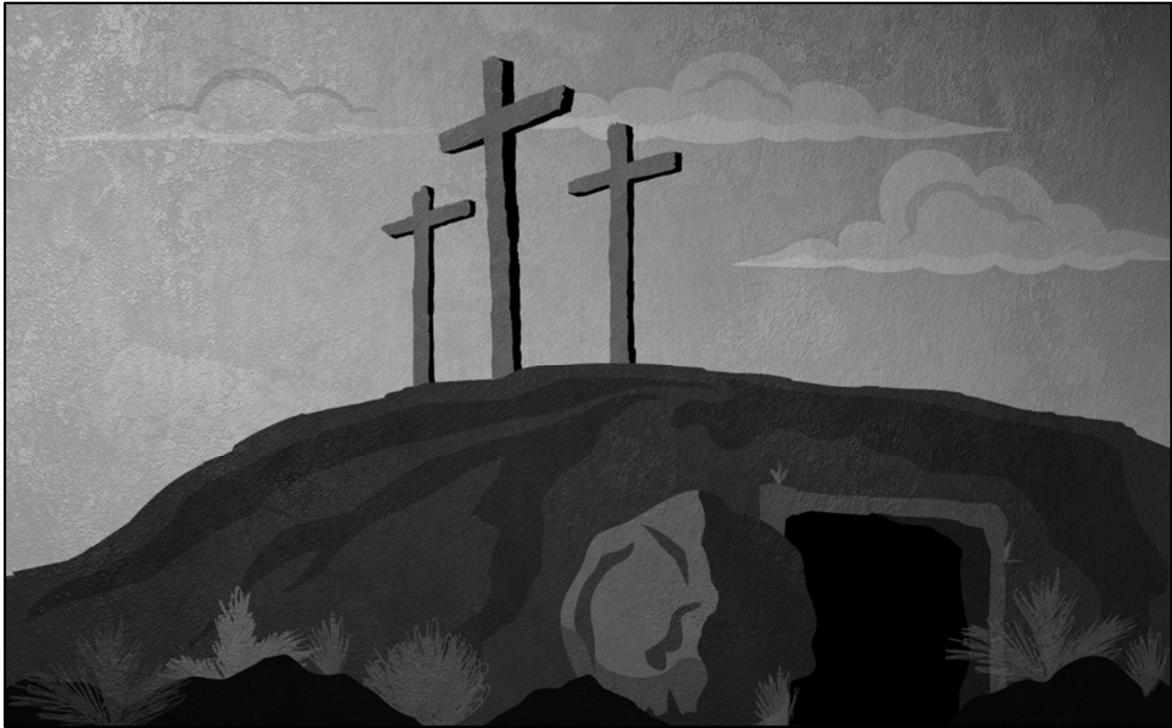
33%	Homosexuality
24%	Hell and Condemnation
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#### TOP 5 BEHAVIOUR BLOCKERS

Behaviours that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Massive negative influence)

57%	1 Church abuse
47%	2 Hypocrisy
45%	3 Religious wars
43%	4 Judging others
40%	5 Issues around money

It's interesting that when McCrindle Research asked these questions the responses said it's when we GENUINELY LIVE OUT OUR FAITH and share stories or real change that people are interested...  
 That positive perceptions of Christians are driven by the sense that we're CARING, LOVING, KIND, HONEST, and FAITHFUL...



Really these seem to be a picture of people **WISELY LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL**.  
The life that prompts these questions is the life where we, as a church, gather, and walk out into the world — always being shaped by **THIS MESSAGE**. Not some other story.

Knowing that this is what we have to offer.

This — the cross — is where value is found and where a wise life is shaped. Even if it looks dumb and ends up with us in chains...

This is why we bang on about the cross every week; it's the foundation of the wise life, and it's our message... That we the church should dwell on and proclaim.

Let your conversation be always **full of grace, seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**COLOSSIANS 4:6**

Paul says this approach to conversation is about being FULL OF GRACE and SEASONED WITH SALT...

Being FULL OF GRACE brings with it a certain sort of posture as we walk — being shaped by the message we proclaim — it's a way of approaching others, of thinking about ourselves, of thinking about power and worldly wisdom — the sort of way that leaves us choosing to be the opposite of the kings and rulers of the world...

Being SEASONED WITH SALT — means a degree of being '*interesting*' and *life preserving* — that's what salt does — it enhances flavour and preserves food —

This is the way we both get opportunities — the way we create questions... And the way we're to answer questions... Everyone... All the time...

We live and proclaim this message... In a way that is engaged with the people we're walking towards — listening to them — and in a way that shows that our lives are shaped by who we're saying Jesus is, and who we think we are...



**Movement 3. Getting concrete with Paul's example**

This seems abstract —let's put some flesh on it by looking at how Paul actually does this... How he practices what he preaches...

**Movement Summary**

What's this look like in Paul's life? Chains. Mystery of Christ. Where do we see this? In Acts. In Athens.



Paul heads to the home of worldly wisdom... Athens... and he models this approach...  
He gets an opportunity to speak to them and answer questions...  
He shows what it is to be wise and at the same time 'life preserving' and interesting...  
and connects his answers to their questions with their own wisdom... he understands...  
he is 'walking in wisdom' by showing that he understands the world he speaks to...

So he **reasoned** in the **synagogue** with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the **marketplace** day by day with those who happened to be there.

**ACTS 17:17**

He shows what it is to be wise and at the same time 'life preserving' and interesting... and connects his answers to their questions with their own wisdom... he understands... he is 'walking in wisdom' by showing that he understands the world he speaks to...

Let your  
**conversation** be  
always full of grace,  
**seasoned with salt,**  
so that you may  
know how to **answer**  
**everyone.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:6**

It seems the way he's doing this is interesting... Because it creates questions...

**“May we know** what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”

**ACTS 17:19-20**

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how **to answer everyone.**

**COLOSSIANS 4:6**

The people ask what he’s talking about... They want to know... He’s not badgering them. They’re asking...



Paul walks around... in the world. He looks for connections. He looks for opportunities. He models a trust in the wisdom of the Gospel...

For as I walked around and **looked carefully** at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:  
to an unknown god.

**ACTS 17:23**

He pays attention, he looks. He listens. He reads their philosophers. He learns...

And pray for us,  
too, that God  
may open a door  
for our **message**,  
so that **we may**  
**proclaim** the  
**mystery of**  
**Christ**, for which  
I am in chains.

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

In Colossians, Paul asks the church to pray for an open door for him to PROCLAIM his message — Jesus...

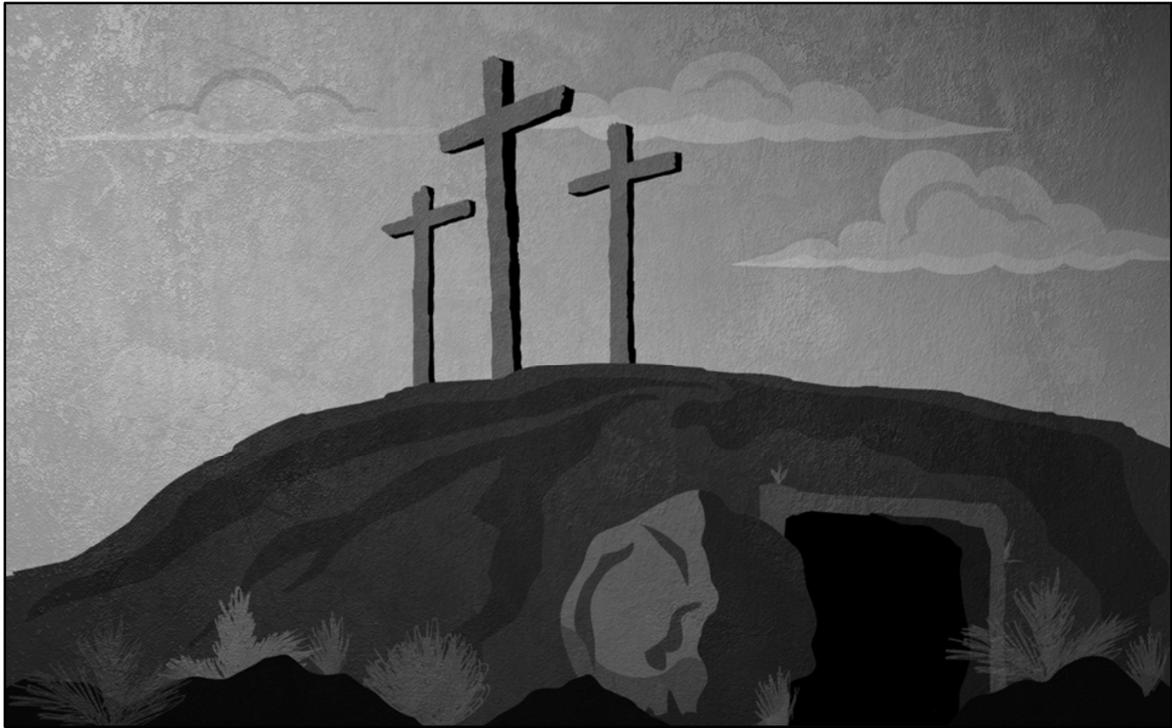
So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to **proclaim to you.**

**ACTS 17:23**

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our **message**, so that **we may proclaim** the **mystery of Christ**, for which I am in chains.

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

In Athens, he walks through this door as it opens — to proclaim this message to them...



And it's this message he proclaims. The death and resurrection of Jesus. The mystery and wisdom of God.

Australia might be 'spiritual but not religious' — Athens was both spiritual and religious... Paul says: *You've got all these idols... You're very religious... I'm going to show you how my message answers your longings...*

He does it in a way that comes totally out of his knowledge and observations of how they work... He's looked and listened. He's engaged. He's *salty*... *He* shows he understands their stories — he quotes their poets and philosophers. He uses his observations of the city. He shows that in Jesus — and in the God of the Bible — they find the real answer to their longings for wisdom and particularly for their *spirituality* — *and a real connection to the God who made them, in whom they live and breathe and have their being.*

When they heard about **the resurrection** of the dead, **some of them sneered**, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

**ACTS 17:32**

Even then, we'll still be treated as fools by those caught up in 'worldly' wisdom...

And so just like he ultimately ends up in chains... this time he gets sneered at... people think he's a fool. But it's not because of how he lives — it's because he believes in the resurrection of the dead...

There are some non-negotiably weird bits involved in being a Christian...

**Some of the people** became followers of Paul and **believed**. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

**ACTS 17:34**

But some people believe... Some people join the dots. Some people move from death to life. From hopelessness to hope...



#### **Movement 4. For us?**

That's all well and good for Paul in *spiritual and religious Athens...*

#### **Movement summary**

Us in Brisbane

Merge universes.

Understand the world.

Walk towards people in 'interesting' ways that create questions (or understand the questions people already have about life, the universe, and everything) not ways that shut questions down.



*But what about us in Spiritual but not religious Brisbane?*

Census

## Australian census: religious affiliation falls as population changes rapidly

- First results show 29.6% of people say they have 'no religion'
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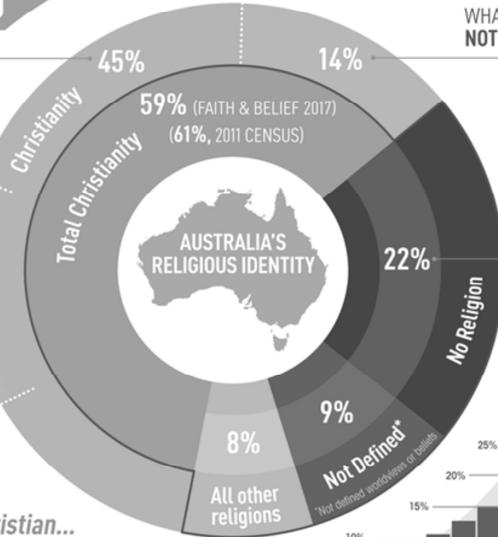
What about for us when people are abandoning Christianity in droves because they feel like they've tried it and found it wanting... Or like they've given us a fair hearing?

# FAITH AND BELIEF IN AUSTRALIA DEFINED

## CHRISTIANITY LESS SPIRITUALITY

Church-goer  
At least monthly  
15%

Active practisers  
Extremely involved  
7%



## WHAT DO THE SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS\* BELIEVE? (TOP 3)

- 1 'There is an ultimate purpose and meaning' **36%**
- 2 Inward journey of self-discovery **26%**
- 3 Mixture of religious beliefs **22%**

## WHY NO RELIGION? (TOP 3)

- 1 Prefer science and evidence based **49%**
- 2 'Religion is a crutch for the weak' **18%**
- 3 'Religion is outdated and traditional' **14%**

**“I was brought up Christian... I just don't identify with a religion anymore.”**

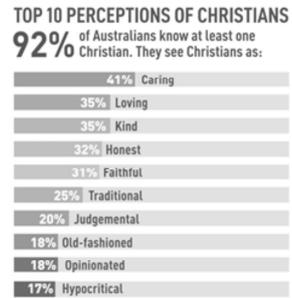


## AUSTRALIANS IDENTIFYING WITH NO RELIGION IS GROWING

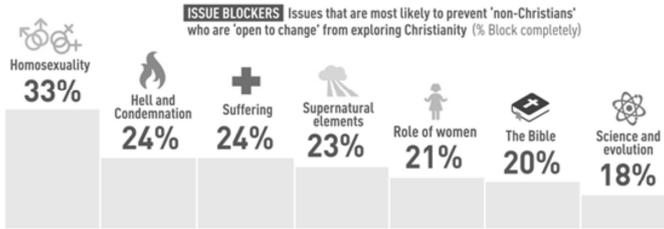
From 0.4% in 1911 to 22% in 2011

\*When given a 'spiritual but not religious' option, 14% of 'Total Christianity' moves to this new category.

## PERCEPTIONS OF RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY



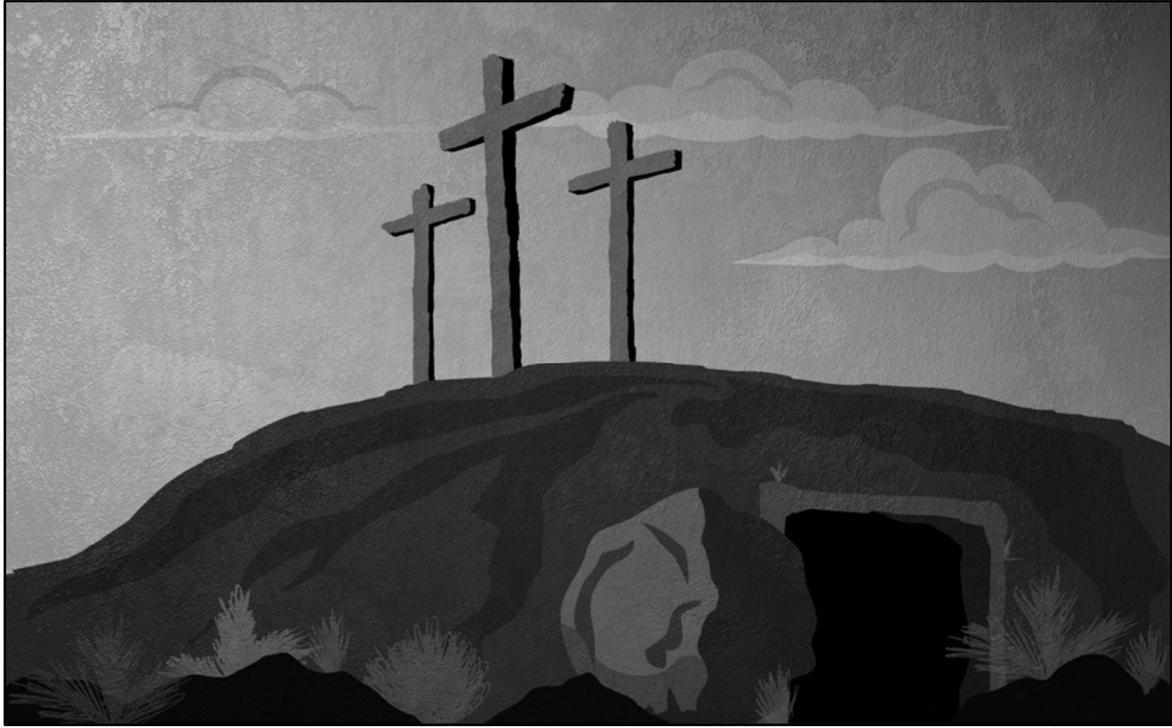
## BELIEF BLOCKERS





Behind our desire to run away is a desire to be seen to be wise in the eyes of the world... and we need to be careful not to be hooked by hollow philosophies...

But we also need to be careful that when we look foolish it's because of belief in the resurrection of Jesus and its implications, not in other weird stuff.



How confident are you that this is what wisdom looks like? That'll shape how you walk...

...in order that they  
may know the  
**mystery of God**,  
namely, Christ, in  
whom are hidden  
all the treasures of  
**wisdom** and  
knowledge.

**COLOSSIANS 2:2-3**

And pray for us,  
too, that God may  
open a door for our  
**message**, so that  
we may proclaim  
the **mystery of**  
**Christ**, for which I  
am in chains.

**COLOSSIANS 4:3**

Wants to proclaim the 'mysterious wisdom' of Jesus...



What might 'wise walking' look like if this is wisdom? Let's imagine we're Paul in Athens...



It's not shouting at people to tell them they're wrong... That's not what Paul does in Athens.  
It's listening.



It's not being the weird grandpa. It's getting amongst the culture and understanding what's driving people...

Our stories. Our poets. Our philosophers. What are people living for?



It's not shouting...



Or protesting...



Or being the weird super-spiritual type...



It's not jumping at every opportunity to proclaim God's way of doing things without Jesus...



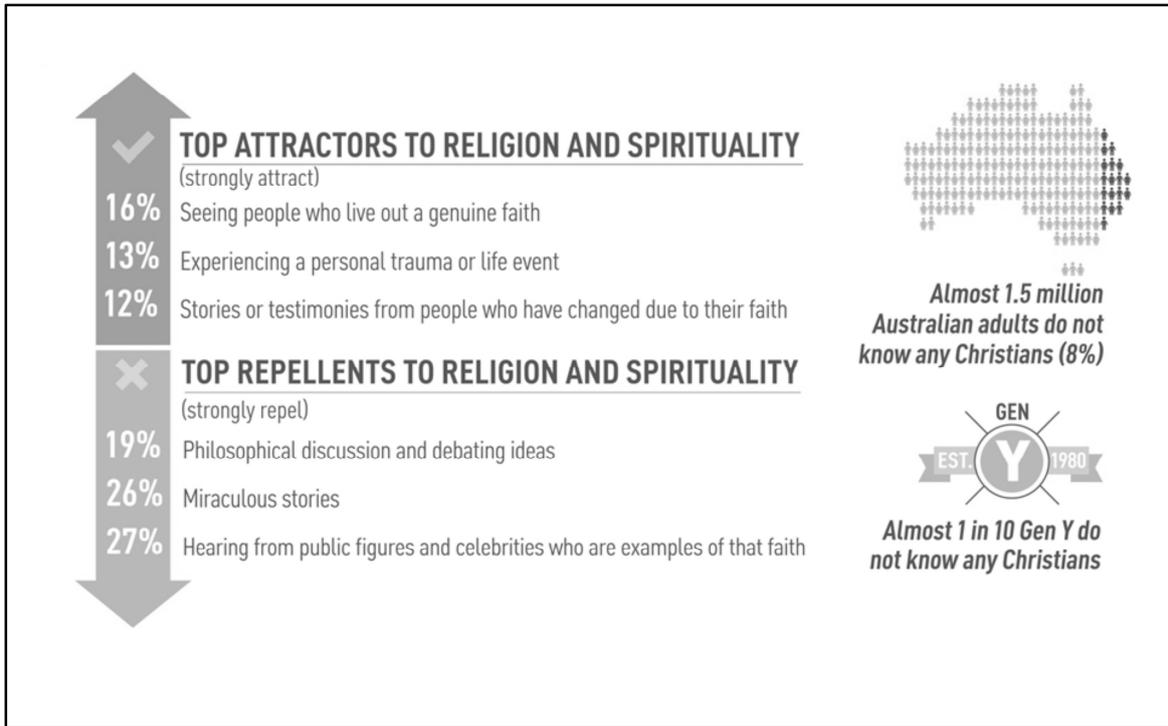
It's not arguing online with each other about weird stuff in front of our non-Christian friends...



It's being a team. A body. Walking together in wisdom. Living out the message of Christ together as it dwells in us richly...

Bring your church friends into your 'community' of outsider friends.  
And your outsider friends into contact with your church community. We are 'one body'... on this mission together...

Not all of us read philosophy etc... but we are a team... We do this together



And the research suggests this is our best bet anyway... It's when people see us living out a genuine faith that they feel attracted to belief in God...

The problem is that lots of people don't know any Christians at all — and somehow we're to be 'walking in wisdom towards them'... So that they see how we live and ask questions...



This is my friend Sam Chan. He travels the country teaching churches how to share the Gospel and I reckon he's just about the best thinker on this stuff out there... He talks about the problem with how we often tackle evangelism...

Normally  
Christians, when  
we evangelise, we  
go solo.



Merging universes... you might not be able to do X, but the person sitting next to you might be...

Build plausibility for the Gospel by showing it lived. Giving people experience of the 'one body' etc. Be wise, like Paul, but together as we proclaim the Gospel clearly.

Pray together.

Look for opportunities together.

Have conversations together that are interesting and make people curious... but also show that we understand the world...

Maybe we sign up  
for a book club, a  
tennis club, or a  
cooking club, and  
“I’ll be the  
Christian there  
who can tell the  
whole place about  
Jesus”



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...but now we're  
the one schmuck  
in a class of 20  
who believe in the  
Jesus story, and it  
might be true, but  
it comes across as  
unbelievable.



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As Christians we need to merge our universes. Typically we have two universes. The universe where we have our Christian friends, and the universe where we have our non-Christian friends.





Being wise in the way we act towards outsiders and creating opportunities to share the Gospel is a team game. It includes Sundays — church is a great chance to ‘merge universes’ — but it’s a big step.

It’s really about what we do during the week — when we play — where we live — who we invite into our homes.

You might not feel like the wisest question answerer, or the best cook, or the funniest and most normal person around — but there are plenty of people to throw into the mix with your friends sitting right here with you today.

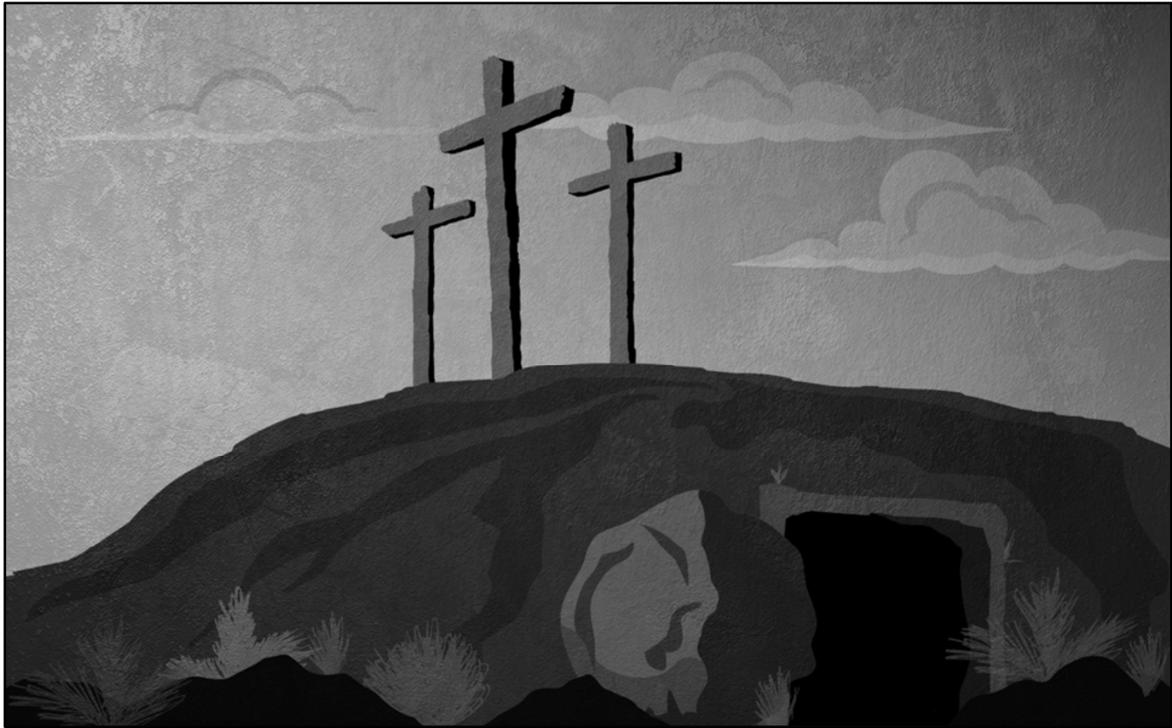
But people don’t want that sort of wisdom anyway. They want authentic, non-hypocritical, religion put into practice.

Our challenge in Australia as it is today is to build plausibility for the Gospel by showing it lived by real people — people whose only *foolishness* is belief in the resurrection; but who show just how wise that is when it comes to real world situations.

# CONNECT



That's what we mean when we talk about Connect... helping people connect with God — and with us as a church — and often people will connect with church before they connect with God. They'll belong before they believe...



Be prepared to be laughed at... cause this is a mystery... But let's be laughed at for being wise... not being dumb. For understanding people and offering the Gospel as the solution to their needs, and being rejected...