

Misled
(A book survey of Allen Parr's "Misled")
Cross Brand 9.23.25
Part 2

CHAPTER 5
WHAT DOES PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY TEACH?

IV. RESPONDING TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

A. A Biblical Response to the Low View of Christ

The essence of progressive Christianity's stance on Jesus: "Jesus' life, death and resurrection provide the inspiration and challenge for us to live as followers of Jesus today."¹

"It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

"I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind." John 9:39

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them. 1 Timothy 1:15

Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Otherwise, he would have had to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:26

Because Jesus came and experienced what we experience, He is able to understand our weaknesses and advocate on our behalf to the Father – but His sinlessness sets Him apart from every other human and lays the foundation for his vital atoning work on our behalf.

Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8

B. A Biblical Response to Inclusivism

Jesus' purpose when engaging any group was to expose them to the truth and radically change their lives so they could find freedom from their sinful lifestyles and grow in sanctification.

Rather, its proponents not only accept members who openly identify as gay, bisexual, homosexual, or transexual but they accept their lifestyles as well! It is a "come as you are, stay as you are" mentality.

The Sexually Immoral Woman

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." Luke 7:47-50

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much." Luke 19:8

2. The Rich Young Ruler

Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Mark 10:21

But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions. Mark 10:22

The Pharisees

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity.” Matthew 23:27

Clearly, Christlike inclusivism does not mean welcoming everyone into our churches or groups with no loving intention of challenging them to change.

C. A Biblical Response to the Low View of Scripture

A mistake that many well-meaning Christians make is picking and choosing which parts of the Bible they want to accept or reject. They may embrace the high biblical ideal of loving others but reject passages about sexual sin or repentance.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16

D. A Biblical Response to the Relaxed View of Moral Issues

The two angels entered Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in Sodom's gateway. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them. He bowed with his face to the ground ² and said, “My lords, turn aside to your servant's house, wash your feet, and spend the night. Then you can get up early and go on your way.”

“No,” they said. “We would rather spend the night in the square.” ³ But he urged them so strongly that they followed him and went into his house. He prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread for them, and they ate.

⁴ Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, the whole population, surrounded the house. ⁵ They called out to Lot and said, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!"

⁶ Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him. ⁷ He said, "Don't do this evil, my brothers. ⁸ Look, I've got two daughters who haven't been intimate with a man. I'll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don't do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof."

⁹ "Get out of the way!" they said, adding, "This one came here as an alien, but he's acting like a judge! Now we'll do more harm to you than to them." They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door. ¹⁰ But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹ They struck the men who were at the entrance of the house, both young and old, with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance. Genesis 19:1-11

The Levitical laws condemning same-sex relationships:

You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.
Leviticus 18:22

If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed a detestable act. They must be put to death; their death is their own fault. Leviticus 20:13

Two words in two New Testament lists of sins:

Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, ¹⁰ no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

for the sexually immoral and males who have sex with males, for slave traders, liars, perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching. 1 Timothy 1:10

For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ The men in the same way also left natural relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error. Romans 1:26-27

LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. ³ You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD. ⁵ You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me. ⁶ This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.

⁷ Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I fly on the wings of the dawn and settle down on the western horizon ¹⁰ even there your hand will lead me; your right hand will hold on to me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night"— ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to you.

¹³ For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. ¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began. ¹⁷ God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is! ¹⁸ If I counted them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; when I wake up, I am still with you.

¹⁹ God, if only you would kill the wicked—you bloodthirsty men, stay away from me—²⁰ who invoke you deceitfully. Your enemies swear by you falsely. ²¹ LORD, don't I hate those who hate you, and detest those who rebel against you? ²² I hate them with extreme hatred; I consider them my enemies.

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way. Psalm 139:1-24

I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:41

E. A Biblical Response to Rejection of the Atonement

Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3

He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him. 1 John 3:5

V. A HEALTHY BALANCE

Progressive Christianity diverts from historical, biblical Christianity to such an extent that it's fair to question whether it can even be called Christian.

- They claim Jesus isn't the divine Son of God, only a good moral example we should emulate.
- They promote an inclusive gospel in which other religions are viewed as equally valid paths to salvation.
- They seek to undermine the authority and inspiration of God's Word.
- They try to water down God's view of moral issues, thus conforming the Bible to culture or their own personal preferences.
- They deny the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

But we shouldn't forget these biblical reminders:

- We should express genuine love toward people of all groups. It means treating every individual with dignity and respect as an image bearer of God.
- We shouldn't hate, bash, or express bigotry toward those in the LGBTQ+ community, but we should stand firm on what the Bible says about such issues.
- We shouldn't be afraid to affirm Emergent or progressive critiques of modernism. Be bold in your convictions, but don't forget to remain humble

and teachable, recognizing that we're all finite. And, in our zeal for doctrinal correctness, may we never forget the importance of compassion and justice.