

SEEK FIRST – PART 4

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.” ([Isaiah 5:20-21 NIV](#))

Jesus said that wickedness would increase and love would grow cold ([Matthew 24:12 NIV](#))

The whole world is under the control of the evil one ([1 John 5:19 NIV](#)), we should not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind ([Romans 12:2 NIV](#)), and our struggle is not against flesh and blood ([Ephesians 6:12 NIV](#)).

An upside-down world requires an upside-down response.

1. God is God

Relativism is the idea that there is no absolute truth. Knowledge, truth, and morality exist only in relation to culture, society or historical context. Whatever is widely accepted is what determines right and wrong, and even that is not absolute.

[1 Corinthians 8:5-6 NIV](#) “For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”

2. Lower is Higher

Jesus was at the top, but He left it all to make Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ([Philippians 2:5-8 NIV](#))

[Luke 9:23 NIV](#), “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

The Parable of the Lowly Seats: [Luke 14:9-11 NIV](#)

3. Others are First

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others” [Philippians 2:3-4 NIV](#).

The Good Samaritan: [Luke 10:30-37 NIV](#)

4. Weak is Strong

Kingdom strength looks different from worldly strength because it is in the absence of *our* strength that God shows off *His* strength the most.

The Beatitudes: [Matthew 5:3-10 NIV](#)

5. Inside is Out

If you don't like the way you were born, then you must be born again.

Be born again: [John 3:3-7 NIV](#)

Be *transformed* by the renewing of our mind ([Romans 12:2 NIV](#)), and with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit ([2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV](#))

6. Enemies are Loved

[Matthew 5:43-45 NIV](#), “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son ([Romans 5:10 NIV](#))

The Parable of the Two Sons: [Matthew 21:28-31 NIV](#)

[Matthew 5:46-47 NIV](#)

7. Grace is Enough

[Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV](#), “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard: Matthew 20:1-16

Loving someone doesn't mean agreeing with them. And disagreeing with someone is not the same as hating them.