

August 17th, 2025
-ISH - Week 3

Question: How many have some “ISH” in your life? The suffix "-ish" is used in English to indicate a degree of approximation or a sense of "somewhat" or "kind of".

Today, lots of people identify as Christians—in fact, about one-third of the world! But how many know calling ourselves Christians, and actually following Jesus and His truth, can be two different things?!

What is Christian-ISH? It's having a half-hearted faith, wearing the label of Christianity, without truly following Jesus. It's where you have enough of Jesus that it makes you feel better, but not so much of Jesus that it changes anything in your life!

I. MAKING DEALS WITH A GOD WHO DOESN'T MAKE DEALS!

Question: How many are familiar with the concept of a Vending Machine?

A. Here's the problem, many of us are guilty of treating God like a vending machine! But we have to understand that God ISN'T a vending machine and our Faith isn't a Contract.

I want to expose one of the most dangerous lies that keeps so many of us from real faith (crossing the line). It's what I call Transactional Faith.

What is Transactional Faith? The belief that God owes us. If I do my part, then God has to do His part.

True Faith is RELATIONAL, not Transactional. True faith is about knowing and loving God for who He is, not just for what He does!

Let me show you FOUR different examples of Biblical characters who got this wrong:

- 1.) *Exodus 16:3*
- 2.) *Jonah 4*
- 3.) *John 11*
- 4.) *Luke 15*

I would suggest that for most of us, we think the more that we seek God, and the more that we serve God, and the more that we're faithful to God, and the more that we obey Him, most of us, without really knowing it, we tend to expect a little preferential treatment.

Our relationship with God is actually based on a Covenant, and it's Relational, not Transactional!

Who knows what a Covenant is? A Covenant is a divine agreement between God and us. And here's the deal. He initiated it.

There is a HUGE difference between a Covenant and a Contract! A Contract is transactional, temporary, and enforceable by law. A Covenant is relational, eternal, and sustained by love.

God loves us with a relational, covenant love that is not temporary, it's unconditional.

Question: So how do we know if we actually have a transactional faith in God?

Here's three questions to ask yourself:

1.) Do I follow God because of what He does for me, or because of who He is?

2.) Do I still trust God when He doesn't answer my prayer the way I want, or do I feel betrayed?

3.) Do I serve God because I love Him or because I'm hoping for something in return?

Our God is not a tool we use, He's not a Vending Machine doing our bidding. He's a KING that is worthy of our Worship, Love, and Obedience.