

June 2, 2019
GOD NEVER SAID THAT - Part 5
“Christianity is a Crutch”

Former pro wrestler and governor of Minnesota Jesse Ventura: “Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers.”

Those who make this claim are saying they are strong and don't need God to help them in their lives.

Freud accused Christianity of coming from some deep-seated desire for the loving protection of a heavenly father figure.

There's actually evidence that religious belief is helpful to mental and physical health.

Perhaps there are good reasons to see Christianity serving to some degree as a crutch, even if it's not the way our culture typically understands this.

St. Augustine compared the church to a hospital, because it's full of wounded and sick people in the process of being healed.

Jesus: “...‘Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do.’” (Matthew 9:12 NLT)

“The church is not a hotel for saints but a hospital for sinners.”

Romans 3:23 (NLT): “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.”

The mindset that says Christianity is a crutch for the weak-minded plays itself out in our lives as we fail to trust Christ and instead try to handle things on our own.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (ESV): “⁹But [the Lord] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Is it possible that the desire of some to *not* believe in God is because their pride doesn't want to admit they need help?

C.S. Lewis: “We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on

making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

It is when we know we are weak that God can best work in our lives, as we leave our pride behind.

Romans 5:6 (NLT): "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."

When we are at our weakest, God rescued us - this is the Gospel!

God's love allows us to acknowledge our weakness head-on, and we don't have to pretend we're strong or have all the answers, because our value and worth are no longer on the line.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV): "⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

The Gospel enables us to find all we need in Christ himself - which frees us to do good for the sake of loving others rather than having someone affirm us.

Former atheist Daniel Rodgers: "The truth of the matter is that Jesus never offered a crutch, only a cross; it wasn't a call to be a better person with high self-esteem or a plan to help us scrape through our existence. It was a call to acknowledge that the forgiveness we all seek is to be found in him by following him onto the cross... It's because Christianity is true that it has something to offer every person in every circumstance, regardless of their background or intellectual capabilities."

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 (NLT): "²⁷Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. ²⁹As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. ³⁰God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. ³¹Therefore, as the Scriptures say, 'If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD.'"

Next Week: Doubt Is A Sin

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