



Small Group Study Guide  
Series: **NOT ANOTHER RELIGION**  
**Sermon 1: NAME WITHOUT NATURE**  
When Christianity Stops Looking Like Christ  
June 21, 2026 | CrossPointe Church  
Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

## ◆ INTRODUCTION

In this message, PT begins the NOT ANOTHER RELIGION series by calling CrossPointe to examine our own house before examining the claims of other religions. Christianity is not built on religious systems, political identity, cultural preference, personal opinion, or empty tradition. It is built on the risen Jesus, the written Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel preached by the apostles, and the Spirit-filled Church revealed in the book of Acts.

## ◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

- Ephesians 4:15 — *“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”*  
**Summary:** God calls believers to speak truth clearly, but to do it with the heart and love of Christ.
- Acts 1:1–3 — Jesus *“presented himself alive”* after His suffering and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God.  
**Summary:** The book of Acts begins with the resurrection. Christianity does not begin with a religious system; it begins with a risen Savior.
- Acts 4:12 — *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*  
**Summary:** Jesus is not one religious option among many. Salvation is found in Him alone.
- Acts 1:8 — *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”*  
**Summary:** The Holy Spirit gives believers power, not to impress people, but to witness, preach, endure, forgive, live holy, and tell the truth.
- Acts 2:14–41 — Peter preached Jesus, the cross, the resurrection, repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
**Summary:** New Testament preaching was Scripture-filled, Christ-centered, Gospel-driven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 2:42 — *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*  
**Summary:** The early church was not casual, consumer-driven, or disconnected. They were devoted to Scripture, community, prayer, worship, generosity, and mission.

## ◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. PT said this series starts *“in our own house.”* Why is it easier to point out what other religions get wrong than to admit where modern Christianity has drifted from Christ?
2. Read **Acts 1:1–3**. Acts begins with the risen Jesus, not a church program, political movement, worship style, building campaign, or leadership strategy. What are some things American Christians sometimes treat like they matter more than the resurrection?

3. PT asked, ***“Have we kept His name while drifting from His nature?”*** Where do you see Christians using the name of Jesus but not reflecting the nature of Jesus — online, in politics, in church culture, in family life, or in personal character?
4. Read **Acts 4:12**. In a culture that says all spiritual paths are basically the same, why does ***“no other name”*** sound offensive to some people? How can we hold that truth with courage, humility, and compassion?
5. PT said no nation’s flag outranks the cross. What happens when Christians confuse love of country with loyalty to the Kingdom of God? How can believers be grateful citizens without turning politics into an idol? Sorry! **THIS IS NOT A GREEN LIGHT TO DEFEND YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS IN OUR SMALL GROUPS!!! Stick to the topic.**
6. Read **Acts 1:8**. The Holy Spirit gives power to witness, not power to perform. Where do you think the modern church is most tempted to trade spiritual fire for talent, image, production, personality, or platform?
7. PT said we have drifted into ***“grace for us and judgment for them.”*** Why is hypocrisy so damaging to Gospel witness? How should the Church handle sin, failure, repentance, accountability, and restoration differently from the world?

#### ◆ PASTOR’S BEST QUOTES

- *“Christianity does not begin with a religious system. It begins with a risen Savior.”*
- *“New Testament Christianity does not bow to the right or the left. It bows to the risen Christ.”*
- *“No nation’s flag outranks the cross.”*
- *“A microphone is not a toy. A platform is not a trophy. A stage is not a place to be seen. It is a place to serve.”*
- *“New Testament Christianity was never built on celebrity. It was built on surrender.”*
- *“The world is not shocked that Christians fail. The world is shocked when Christians hide it.”*

#### ◆ APPLICATION / ACTION PROMPTS

- Ask God to show you one place where you may have drifted — from Jesus, Scripture, prayer, surrender, holiness, biblical community, or mission — and take one clear step of repentance and return this week.

#### ◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, call us back to the risen Jesus. Help us become a church that speaks truth with love, walks in the power of the Holy Spirit, lives under the authority of Scripture, and carries the Gospel with humility and boldness. Search our hearts and show us where we have drifted from You.

Lord, we also pray for PT as he leads us through this series. Help him silence the noise, the pressure, the distractions, and every attack the enemy is trying to create. Help him focus on Your will, Your Word, and Your voice. Give him clarity, courage, wisdom, protection, and fresh anointing.

We pray for everyone who attends CrossPointe to grow stronger in faith, find their small group community, and invite others to join them for Sunday services. Let this series have maximum impact in our church, our families, our city, and our hearts. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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