

Unpopular Opinion March 5, 2023

Abundant Life in a Broken World

We believe the Bible is our foundation, absolute truth; that Jesus is Truth

John 14:6 AMP Jesus said to him, “I am the only Way to God & the real Truth, & the real Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

*God is who He is. He's not who you want Him to be. Or how you feel like He should be. We're called to be ambassadors, messengers of the Truth, not editors. God's Word is His perfect, ultimate, external authority. His absolute Truth is not internal, “I don't feel like Jesus is the only way or there's only one way to heaven; I don't feel like being married or being pregnant, I don't feel like that identify now; I don't feel like you or some old book should tell me what to do or how to live.” That's all internal authority; **the Word is our external authority.***

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God & is useful to teach us what is true & to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong & teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare & equip His people to do every good work.

Many Christians don't believe the Bible - fear of being counter-cultural: God & satan; heaven & hell; right & wrong; male & female; good & evil; truth & lies...There is absolute Truth & His name is Jesus.

***If we allow human philosophy to infiltrate our Biblical truth,
then we'll live in compromise & corruption.***

Let's continually seek the Holy Spirit's help to stand against contradictory human philosophy.

FAMILY VALUES

Joshua 24:15b ...But as for me & my family, we will serve the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5 You must love the Lord your God w/ all your heart, all your soul & all your strength 6 You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I'm giving you today. 7 Repeat them again & again to your children. Talk about them when you're at **home** & when you are on the road, when you're going to bed & when you're getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands & wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your **house** & on your gates.

Many families are broken, hurt, fearful, lost, empty, restless, aimless, hopeless...Families must be built on the absolute Truth of Jesus & His Word

When God builds your house, it is built to last.

God's vision for manhood *Where did you get your vision of a man?

1 Timothy 6:11 AMP As for you, O man of God, flee from these things; aim at & pursue righteousness, true goodness, moral conformity to the character of God, godliness [*the fear of*

God], faith, love, steadfastness, & gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith in the conflict w/ evil; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called...

Men, we have to see ourselves the way God sees us!

Your identity is in God. You're not an orphan, you're a son...You are family. Stand w/ confidence knowing you're adopted in Jesus.

You're more important, valuable, & significant than you think you are!

God sees you as a PROVIDER, PROTECTOR, AND A PRIEST

He loves you w/ a Father's heart. God has a purpose for you as His son. God has things to be done by you, that only you can do. Your life matters. Your mission matters, Your decisions matter. Your marriage matter. Your children matter. Your church matters. Your legacy matters.

Titus 1:6 An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, & his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. 7 A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest w/ money. 8 Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, & he must love what is good. He must live wisely & be just. He must live a devout & disciplined life.

Being a Jesus loving, Holy Spirit filled, church attending, responsible, dependable, moving forward, grown man - is a God-given dignified life!

1 Corinthians 13:11 AMP When I was a child, I talked like a child (*me*) I thought like a child (*myself*) I reasoned like a child (*selfish*); when I became a man, I did away w/ childish things. (*love God & others*)

When you're a boy, someone takes care of you. When you're a man, you take care of yourself. When you're a grown man, you take care of others: your wife, your children, your church, your business, your community...

Titus 2:6 ...encourage the young men to live wisely. 7 And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity & seriousness of your teaching.

A good man sets the example for his family, church, & community. If you didn't have a dad to emulate, the church is here to fill the gap.

1 Corinthians 16:13 AMP Be on guard; stand firm in your faith in God, respecting His precepts & keeping your doctrine sound. Act like mature men & be courageous; be strong. 14 Let everything you do be done in love [*motivated & inspired by God's love for us*].

God made us as men. We're God's men. You belong to your Father. Our masculinity is a sacred blessing; an identity that we share w/ Jesus.

You're tougher than you think you are. You're stronger than you think you are. Learn to endure more pain. When adversity comes, figure out how to fight through it & outlast the devil. Get healthy, get active, get in the fight & make a difference in the lives of those around you, for the glory of the Father... We're loved & adopted by & called by our Father.

John 5:3 Crowds of sick people-blind, lame, or paralyzed-lay on the porches... **5** One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him & knew he had been ill for a long time, He asked him, **“Would you like to get well?”** **7** “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.” **8** Jesus told him, **“Stand up, pick up your mat, & walk!”** **9** Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat & began walking!

Matthew 9:2 They brought to Him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a stretcher. Seeing their active faith springing from confidence in Him, Jesus said to the paralytic, **“Don’t be afraid son; your sins are forgiven, the penalty is paid, the guilt removed, & you’re declared to be in right standing w/ God”** **3** Some of the scribes said, “This man blasphemes by claiming the rights & prerogatives of God!” **4** But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, **“Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5** For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven & the penalty paid’ or to say, **‘Get up & walk’? Both are possible for God; both are impossible for man. 6** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority & the power on earth to forgive sins”- then He said to the paralytic, **“Get up, pick up your stretcher & go home.”** **7** He got up & went home healed & forgiven. **8** When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, & glorified God & praised Him who had given such **authority & power to men.**

Acts 3:1 Peter & John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the 3:00pm prayer service. **2** As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. **3** When he saw Peter & John about to enter, he asked them for some money. **4** Peter & John looked at him intently, & Peter said, “Look at us!” **5** The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. **6** But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, **get up & walk!”** **7** Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand & helped him up. As he did, the man’s feet & ankles were instantly healed & strengthened. **8** He jumped up, stood on his feet & began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, & praising God, he went into the Temple w/ them. **9** All the people saw him walking & heard him praising God.

Get w/ your Heavenly Father through prayer & His Word. Get His Spirit, get His courage, get His confidence, get His calling. And get going!

When you know the Truth, you are free. You’re made in the likeness of God. There is one race, the human race. We are all sinners by nature & choice. God sees what we do externally, & knows how we feel internally. We’ve all sinned & fallen short of the glory of God. He came to earth & fixed our problem. He lived the perfect life. He came to love us. His name is Jesus. He was judged for us. He went to the cross to substitute Himself & die for us. If you want freedom & liberty, you need Jesus. We’re not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus. It is the power of God for

salvation for all people. He transforms lives. He reconciles relationships. He's the only hope for our world. His name is Jesus!