

## MidWeek - Problems with Christianity

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### Week 7 - The Problem of Christians

#### Intro Matters

- How are WE the problem?
- How does it hurt our apologetic defense?

#### Brief Historical Summary of American Evangelicalism

- Roots in the First and Second Great **Awakenings**.
- In the 20th century evangelicalism became increasingly **political**.
- The mega-church culture bred a **consumeristic** faith.
  - “**Seeker-friendly**” model prevailed.
- Pros:
  - Fervent **evangelism**
  - Good **works**
  - Brought **emotion** into the church, instead of lifeless religion.
- Cons:
  - Too much focus on emotion and conversion experience at the expense of **doctrine**.
  - Planted seeds for:
    - Anti-**intellectualism**
    - **Individualistic** faith
    - **Celebrity** pastors
  - **Misguided** political reform

## How We Made Apologetics More Difficult

- **Privatization** of faith
  - Faith became more individualistic and less **church** centered.
  - Net Effects:
    - **Lone** ranger Christianity
    - **Downplaying** of church membership and responsibilities
- **Hypocrisy**
  - Church **Leaders**
  - **Individuals**
  - Net Effect:
    - The world sees an unbiblical version of Christianity
- **Disconnect** from historic, Apostolic, orthodox Christian **doctrine**.
  - Net Effects:
    - We are less **effective** at the Great Commission
      - “When the church has gone wrong in doctrine, she has ceased to be a converting influence.” Martin Lloyd Jones
    - **False** ideas gain a foothold
    - **Theological** pendulum swings
      - Too strict = needless division
      - Too loose = dangerous liberalism
    - Dangerous **Errors**
      - Ex. Slavery

## What We Can Do:

- **Prioritize** the local church above individualistic faith
- Seriously pursue **holiness**.
  - “A verbal presentation of a Christian worldview message loses its power if not validated by the quality of our lives.”<sup>1</sup>
  - JC Ryle wrote “Sound Protestant and evangelical doctrine is useless if it is not accompanied by a holy life. It is worse than useless: it does positive harm.”<sup>2</sup>
- **Reconnect** with historical, Apostolic, orthodox faith
  - “A man who has no respect for history is a fool, and he will soon discover that, when he finds himself repeating the errors of those who have gone before him.”<sup>3</sup>
- **Engage** with humility
  - “I **don’t** know” is sometimes the best answer. (But track down the answer)

## Big Idea: Be apologetically intentional in how you live.

### Schedule:

Week 1 6/29/22: Introduction – What is a Worldview

Week 2 7/6/22: Problem of Truth

Week 3: 7/13/22: Problem of Scripture

Week 4: 7/20/22: Problem of Jesus

Week 5: 7/27/22: Problem of Evil

Week 6: 8/3/22: Problem of Science

Week 7: 8/10/22: Problem of Christians

Week 8: 8/17/22: Problem of Exclusivity

8/24/22: VACATION WEEK - NO MIDWEEK

Week 9: 8/31/22: Problem of Sexuality

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<sup>1</sup> Nancy Pearcey, Total Truth, Crossway Books, 355.

<sup>2</sup> JC Ryle, Holiness

<sup>3</sup> Martin Lloyd Jones, What is an Evangelical?

