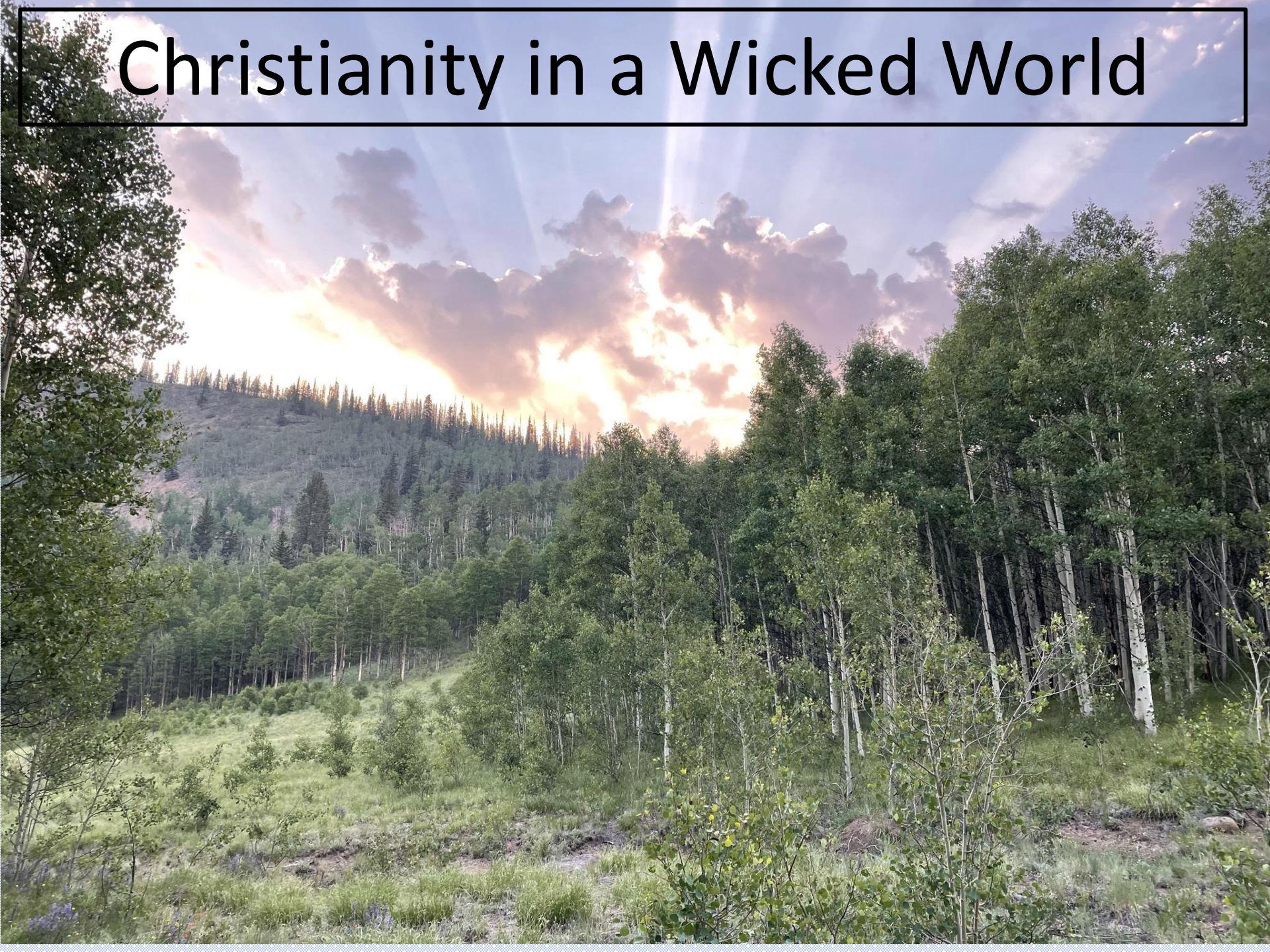


Christianity in a Wicked World



Mankind has been wicked in every generation

- **Adam and Eve:** Disobedience
- **Cain:** Murder
- **Mankind in Noah's Age:** Violence
- **Sodom and Gomorrah:** Homosexuality
- **Nations of Canaan:** Idolatry
- **Religious and Civil Leaders:** False teaching

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

⁹ That which has been *is* what will be, That which *is* done is what will be done, And *there is* nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this *is* new"? It has already been in ancient times before us.

Wickedness today

- **Moral relativism**
 - Redefining moral standards
 - Justifying sinful behavior
 - Punishment for rejecting mankind's ideals
- **Gender Identity (Transgenderism)**
 - Choosing gender
 - Changing gender (“Gender Affirming Care”)
 - “Misgendering”
- **Homosexuality**
 - Leadership roles in governments, corporations, etc.
 - Numerous “Pride” events
 - Expected acceptance
 - Indoctrination of children

Wickedness today

- **Social Media**
 - “A lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth can get its boots on”
 - Presenting false impressions of success, failure, etc.
 - Can artificially boost or destroy self-esteem
 - Algorithms driving behavior and shaping ideology
- **Artificial Intelligence**
 - Deep fakes
 - Societal control
 - Shaping ideology
- **Political Climate**
 - Threats, hateful rhetoric, etc.
 - Unwillingness to discuss important topics
 - Conflicting visions for society, acceptable beliefs, etc.

Awareness and making the right choices

Social Media

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in touch with family and friends• Follow important/interesting sources of information• Get information out to a global audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pressured to look as good as everyone else• Can be swayed by false/misleading information• Can be persuaded by an ideology or false information

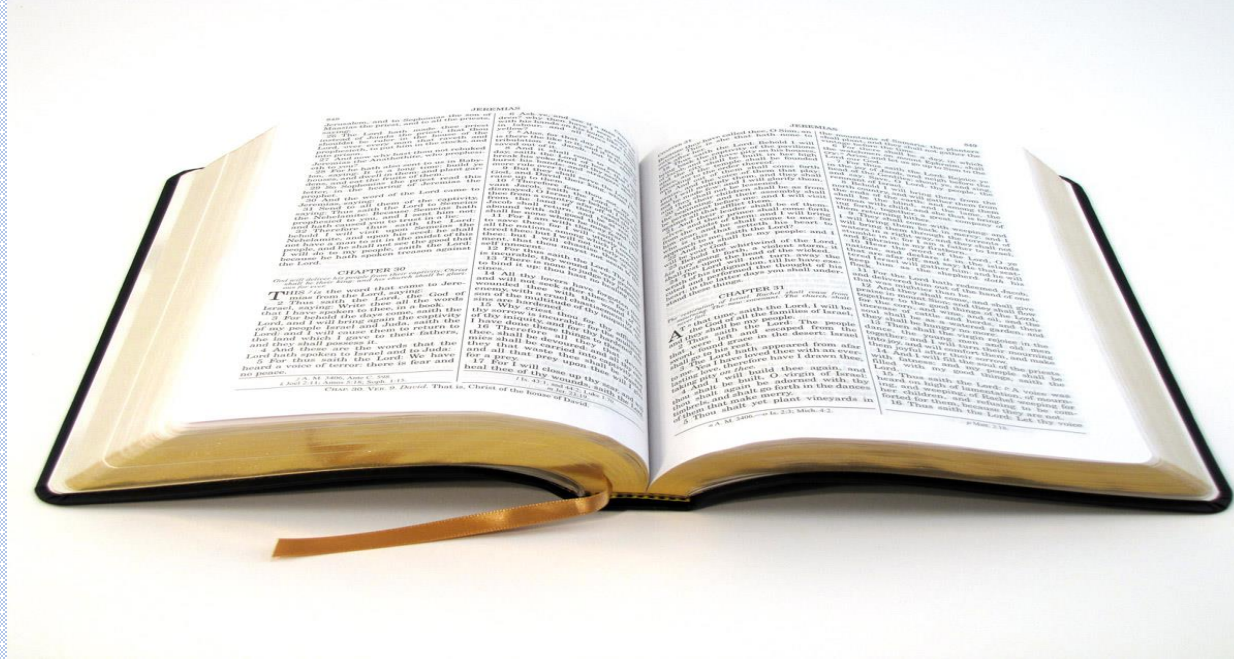
2 Timothy 2:15-17

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings (NASB-avoid worldly *and* empty chatter), for it will lead to further ungodliness, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer...

The Truth restores our minds to God's standards



- If we have the right attitude toward the Truth:
 - It sharpens, shapes and overhauls our thinking based on principles from God
 - It teaches us what is proper and righteous from God's viewpoint

The Truth restores our minds to God's standards

Colossians 3:1-11

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him

Heavenly versus earthly wisdom

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist,* confusion and every evil thing are there.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Submit to God

- Recognize how the world and our sin has changed us and allow the Lord to renovate our lives
- **James 4:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- **1 John 3:1-3**
 - ¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 - ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
 - ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Seek to understand why someone thinks the way they do

- **Idioms:** “Until you walk a mile in my shoes” or “You don’t understand where I am coming from”
 - Before we draw conclusions about someone, we need to try and understand their experiences, challenges, thought processes, etc.
- We often do not completely know someone’s background
- Easy to make assumptions based on our past experiences when theirs is likely to be different
- Spiritually some may have spent years in a false religion or with no spiritual teaching. They often want to hold on to engrained beliefs. We must show patience and love.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise. Love “believes all things” 1 Cor 13:7

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Show empathy

- **Empathy:** The action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another
(Merriam-Webster)

Remember we were once dead in “trespasses and sins”

- **Ephesians 2:1-13**

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

¹¹ Therefore remember that you...¹² were without Christ... having no hope and without God in the world.

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Reflect Christ in our lives

- **1 Peter 3:8-9** Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.
- **Most who are in the world**
 - Are used to people mistreating each other
 - Have been indoctrinated in human wisdom
 - Have to learn what it means to give up worldly thoughts and practices.
- **Christians have an opportunity to reflect spiritual qualities to show there is a better way to live**

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Serve others: Be all things to all people

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

²¹ to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Take notice of those whom the world often ignores

- **Luke 14:12-14**

¹² Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.

¹³ But when you give a feast, invite *the* poor, *the* maimed, *the* lame, *the* blind.

¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

- When people see that we genuinely care about them, they are more receptive to allowing the gospel to change their lives

How should Christians conduct themselves?

Make an impression on the impressionable

- Be a “pattern of good works” and teach the “young”
 - **Titus 2:1-8**
 - Brothers and sisters helping younger children
 - Teenagers helping pre-teens
- The young can be an example to those who are older
 - **1 Timothy 4:12** Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
- We can make an impression on anyone
 - **1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

How should Christians not conduct themselves?

Speak evil of others, complain and dispute

Titus 3:1-3

¹ Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Philippians 2:14-15

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing,

¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

How can Christians help change the world?

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

How can Christians help change the world?



Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.