



**SOCIETY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME**

This Changes Everything - Part 1

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“Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about Him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of western culture for almost 20 centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super-magnet, to pull up out of that history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of His name, how much would be left?” - Jaroslav Pelikan

***1. HOW MIGHT THIS WORLD BE DIFFERENT WITHOUT JESUS?***

- Compassion

“The heathen behaved in the very opposite way. At the first onset of the disease, they pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treated unburied corpses as dirt, hoping thereby to avert the spread and contagion of the fatal disease...” - Dionysius



"If you ask what is Jesus' influence on medicine and compassion, I would suggest that wherever you have an institution of self-giving for the lonely, (and for practical welfare of the lonely), schools, hospitals, hospices, orphanages for those who will never be able to repay, this probably has its roots in the movement of Jesus." - Dr. Mark Nelson, Monroe Professor of Philosophy

"We drown children at birth when they are weak and abnormal." - Seneca

"...nursed, supported, and protected a number of deformed and crippled children that had been saved from death after failed abortions and exposures..." - Beningus of Dijon

"Christians would minister to the sick and disabled and build hospitals, pursue universal education, spread teaching through universities, and lift up the poor in faraway places, 'for they would inherit the earth.'" - Condoleezza Rice

"Humanists don't run leprosariums." - Malcolm Muggeridge

"...for should he happen to be cast ashore on some uncharted island, he would devoutly pray that the lesson of the missionary had preceded him!" - Charles Darwin

❑ Education



## The Old Deluder Satan Act

"Every school you see – public or private, religious or secular – is a visible reminder of the religion of Jesus Christ. So is every college and university." - Dr. James Kennedy

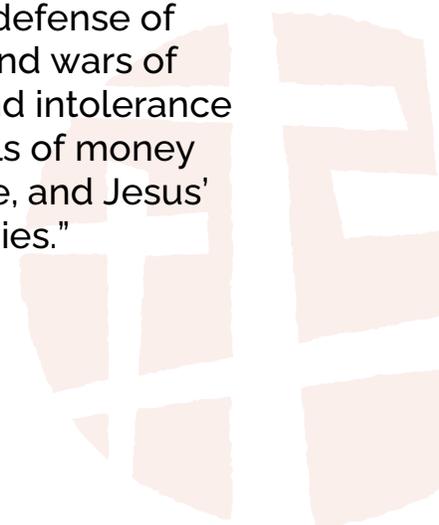
## Science versus Scripture: Aren't They Fundamentally Incompatible?

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3.28*

"I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history." – H.G. Wells

## **2. HAS ALL OF CHRIST'S LEGACY BEEN GOOD?**

"The Inquisition and witch hunts and Crusades and defense of slavery and imperialism and resistance to science and wars of religion come and go and return. Judgmentalism and intolerance and bigotry infect continents and centuries, scandals of money and sex among church leaders never seem to cease, and Jesus' followers cause him far more trouble than his enemies."  
– John Ortberg



*The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you. Romans 2.24*

### **3. WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS SAY TO US TODAY?**

- To the church

“What is the church? A community of people who present living proof of a loving God to a watching world.” - Robert Lewis, Fellowship Bible Church (Little Rock)

“Their most dominant association with the term evangelical was a political activist.”

- David Kinnaman, UnChristian: What A New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity. . .And Why It Matters

***We are called to be a gospel people, proclaiming and living a gospel message in a gospel famished world.***

- To those outside the church

“...if you were giving out a 'Most likely to post-humously succeed award' to history's most influential, Jesus would have come in dead last.” – John Ortberg

Will you let Him?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compassion, education, the value of children and women (two groups that have been marginalized in many societies for thousands of years), art, literature, music, civil rights, the slave trade, community transformation and many other sectors of life. Take some time to discuss or reflect on some of the ways Jesus changed the world whether they were examples given in the message or others that you have thought about and considered.
2. There has been truly evil things done in the name of Christianity, like the crusades, the inquisition, witch trials and slavery. Pastor Keith talked about the difference between those who call themselves Christians and those who are genuine Christ followers. People who've done evil in the name of Christianity have done so not because of what it teaches but in spite of what it teaches. Take some time to discuss or reflect on these evils perpetuated in the name of Christianity, the thinking that was used to justify such atrocities and your own critique as to why it was absolutely incongruent with Christ's teaching and example.
3. A church is community of people who present living proof of a loving God to a watching world - living proof of a loving God to a watching world. Is that what we are? Does the world see

evidence of a loving church when He looks at your life and mine? In all the ways Jesus has left an indelible mark on history, those are all the ways we continue to shine His light into a dark world. The last thing we would ever want as Christ followers is to eclipse the teaching of Christ by our failure to live out His love at work, home and in our community. Yet it's likely we all have failed from time to time to do just that. Share with the group times when God has used you to be an example of His love and at least once when it did not happen. When we fail at this, why do we fail? What do we do with that failure? How do we redeem those failures that have happened?

