



- **THE ODDS ARE...** in the future your choices will indicate that you typically “go with the flow” of the cultural norm. **Odds are...** given the choice, you will try to fit in as opposed to stand out in the crowd. **Odds are...** defying the odds when it comes to expressing your worldview will be much more difficult than you first thought. **Odds are...** you’re not quite sure what a “biblical worldview” actually is...
- **BARNA’S RESEARCH SHOWS** that 91% of American born-again believers DO NOT have a **biblical worldview**.
 - “A **biblical worldview** was defined as believing that absolute moral truths exist; that such truth is defined by the Bible; and firm belief in six specific religious views. Those views were that...
 1. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life
 2. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today
 3. Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned
 4. Satan is real
 5. A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people
 6. The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.” ~ The Barna Report, 2003
 - 2. According to George Barna, “A biblical worldview is a way of dealing with the world such that **we act like Jesus twenty-four hours a day because we think like Jesus.**” ~ George Barna, *Think Like Jesus*
- **A DAY IN THE LIFE**
 - “How many times do you, at the end of your day, look back and think, “*Why did I spend so much of my time doing, saying and thinking about things that seem like such a **waste of time** right now?*”
 - We really need to begin to see things through much more of an eternal filter. That’s the way Jesus looked at life, short term and long term. By the power of the spirit **He saw the end from the beginning and lived his life accordingly.**
 - So, will you **defy the odds**? Will your life **look different**? How does one **stand out** in this culture?
 - It’s quite simple really. All you have to do to capture the attention of the masses is to **believe** in something... anything. Pagans don’t have a problem with you having strong beliefs. What they abhor is you making them feel bad for what they **don’t** believe in!
 - **Floating downstream** with the unbelieving takes very little effort at all on our part. **Tolerance** abounds if you just **stay in your lane.** “*Don’t ruffle anyone’s feathers, don’t rock the boat and we’ll be just fine.*”

- **Just don't take a stand.** And never, ever let the stand you take rest on the Holy Bible. Never mention the name of Jesus. If you do, you will immediately be labeled a religious zealot, bigot, racist, or homophobe. You can talk about anything...as long as what you have to say is in no way "offensive" to people. Which people, you ask. **All of the people!**
- People will let you believe in and say anything, as long as you are not making them or someone else feel bad for what **they** believe in or what **they** are saying. Oh, and one more thing...**it doesn't work both ways!** Welcome to the "**Cancel Culture.**"

- **SO, YOU ARE A JESUS FOLLOWER?**

- That means, your **discipleship** as a Jesus follower has taken you on a journey of discovery. What you have discovered is that the goal of a being Jesus follower is to become like the person you are following, Jesus.
- You read the Bible and are **compelled to want to do what he did.** Something inside you wants to impact the world the way he did and the scriptures encourage you to that end.
- **Your goal is now to influence the world for the sake of the gospel,** opening the door for you to desire that every person you run into have a face-to-face encounter with God and after having had this encounter, to give their life to him and make him the Lord of their life, **just like you.** Simple, right?

- **NOT SO FAST...**

- As easy as it sounds, you can't really do the things Jesus did, without thinking the way Jesus thought. **He did what He did, because He thought the way He thought.** Is the answer to train your brain to think like Jesus? Not exactly.



And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. ~ Romans 12:1–2 NLT-S

- **WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE LIFE OF JESUS...** it is clear that he understood these three things with **complete confidence:**

- **He knew who he was...Identity**

- Jesus knew who he was. **Eighteen times** Jesus defined who he was to other people. Here are a few:
 - John 6:32 I AM the Bread of Life
 - John 8:12 I AM the Light of the World
 - John 10:11 I AM the Good Shepherd
 - John 11:25 I AM the Resurrection and the Life

- John 14:6 I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
- John 15:1 I AM the True Vine
- Mark 14:61-62 I AM the Son of God
- **Jesus was never confused about who he was.** His life was defined by what the Father had to say about him, not what the world said. Jesus was not defined by his actions, but by the way he thought, which led him to act.
- **He knew where he was going...Eternity**
 - *I know where I came from and where I am going.* (John 8:14 NLT-SE)
 - *Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?* (Luke 2:49 NKJV)
 - *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* (John 10:10 NIV)
 - *Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place.* (John 12:27 MESSAGE)
- **He knew that he was to do on his way there...Ministry**
 - I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. (John 5:19 NLT-SE)
 - I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. (John 10:14–15 NLT-SE)
 - I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. (John 6:38 NLT-SE)
 - I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. (John 14:31 NLT-SE)
 - "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (Mark 14:36 NLT-SE)
- **THE WORLD IS INDIFFERENT TO THE IDEA OF GOD AND HIS LORDSHIP OVER THEIR LIVES...** Most people are not necessarily **against** the idea that God exists, they just really don't care. *"Believe what you want to believe, just don't insist that I have to agree with your beliefs,"* they say.

- *Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? **Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him?*** (Is. 40:13 NLT-SE)
- *The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But **we have the mind of Christ.*** (1 Cor. 2:10–16 NIV)



- **Self-deception is the enemy of wholeness** because it prevents us from seeing ourselves as we really are. It covers up our lack of growth in the Spirit of the truthful One and keeps us from coming to terms with our real personalities...For the majority of us, what is most real is the world of our material existence; what is most unreal is the world of God. ~ Brennen Manning