

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 13 – June 20th

What is Christian Leadership?



the pandemic. The complexities involved with making sure church facilities are as safe as possible when we return to meeting together. A massive shout out has to go to the wardens for their efforts as they care for God's people and comply with government regulations in seeking to bring us back together. It is no easy task and stands in contrast to much of the world at the moment.

The year 2020 has been a surprising year and we have just passed the half-way mark. Given the massive changes wrought by COVID-19 and the way it has affected Christian lives, I have been reflecting quietly upon Christian leadership. The issue of Christian leadership comes to the surface as people wrestle with the various issues needing attention to bring us back together given

One of the passages that I constantly reflect upon as I think about Jesus' life and ministry is in Mark 10:45. Jesus says in that verse, 'I did not come to be served, but to serve and give my life as a ransom for many.' This verse demonstrated to the disciples Jesus' desire to be a servant and to die to forgive their sins. It is this very attitude the shows us what is different about being Christian. Jesus says in John's gospel, 'This is how

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Christian Basics

by Nicky Gangemi

different opinions about what a Christian is... someone who goes to church, a good person and/or someone who tells you that you can't have any fun. The actual definition of a Christian is someone who is a follower of Jesus Christ.

What is the Gospel?

The gospel explains the terrible reality of our world. God made our world, He is the creator and deserves to be worshipped.

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being."
(Revelation 4:11)

But none of us do that, not as we should. Instead, we reject Him. Most people go through life without God, we don't stop and thank Him for the good things He gives us. We ignore God and we do our own thing. Some people do shake their fists at God in anger, but most people just ignore Him. All of these positions are rebellion against the King of the world.

We often chose to live for other things –gaining knowledge, greed, family, career – if we live for any of these things over God we are living a

rebellious and idolatrous life.

As a result, we are under God's anger and condemnation. The consequences that the Bible speaks about are decay, then death, and ultimately judgment. We all deserve Hell – to be under God's curses for all eternity.

"There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no-one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away."
(Romans 3:10-11)

BUT... God loves us, and He made us to be in relationship with Him. But how can we possibly be reconciled when we have broken our relationship with Him. God has done something about this! The heart of the Christian message answers this! Jesus is the answer! Jesus is God became man. He came to earth to die to pay for our sins, to pay the punishment we deserve. There is a great swap that happens. Jesus didn't stay dead, he conquered death and rose to show that he had defeated death and sin.

"Christ died for sins one for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."
(1 Peter 3:18)

A Christian is forgiven for their rebellion. This doesn't mean they continue to sin because it doesn't

matter, no! Having been forgiven by God a Christian aims to live a life doing good out of their joy, love and thankfulness.

Things like going to church, getting baptised and doing good do not make someone a Christian. A Christian is

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only a Christian because they repent of their sin (turning away from their old life) and trust in Jesus for forgiveness of their sins.

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life..."
(John 3:36a)

Joe has begun a devotional series over the next few weeks online to help us think through some questions that non-Christians might have. Here is a summary of some of his videos from this week and some helpful points as you engage with friends of yours who might be asking; 'What is a Christian?' 'What is the Gospel?' 'Why does it matter anyway?'

What is a Christian?

A Christian is someone who has come into a personal relationship with God through the great message of the Bible. A Christian is someone who believes in the gospel, a message from God that revolves around Jesus Christ.

Whilst many people have lots of

Love one Another

they will know you are my disciples, that you love one another.' Real Christian leadership is about loving one another, caring for each other. Christian love is never separated from truth, as there never can be love without truth. Christians always seek to minister truth in love, and that marks true Christian leadership.

Can I suggest if you are able, that you find the time to watch Joe's series on what is a Christian. His videos will not only go over the basics of

Christianity, but also helps us understand and live lives as followers of Jesus.

In Christ, Adam.



John Mason asks...



A boy asked his father where he caem from. His father told him many thousands of years ago there was a couple called Adam and Eve. They had children and those children had others and so it continued down through the years and here you are.

He asked his mother the same question. She said millions and millions of years ago there were these creatures called Orangutans and although it took a very long time they gradually changed into human beings, so here you are.

He went back to his father and said he had lied to him because his mother said he had come from creatures called Orangutans. His father said he had not lied. He said, 'Your mother was talking about her side of the family.'

Looking on the bright side of life will never cause eye strain.

Worry is wasting today's time to clutter up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's troubles.



Find-A-Word

Another	Eternity	Love	Serve
Career	Fists	Million	Shake
Condemnation	Forgiveness	Position	Sins
Consequences	God	Punishment	Videos
Continue	Gospel	Relationship	Words
Curse	Jesus	Result	
Death	Judgment	Righteous	

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