

12 MYTHS

July 27, 2017

12 Myths that Christians Believe That Aren't in the Bible

A myth is a widely held but false belief or idea, a misrepresentation of the truth. Not everything believed as biblical truth is truly biblical. This series will seek to unravel 12 commonly accepted beliefs that cause bondage rather than liberty. Men need to be aware of how nuggets of truth become cornerstones for error when wrongly understood. We need help to build solid scriptural foundations that produce emotional freedom. Christian men have taken so much scripture out of context and made a whole religion out of it. This has caused so many problems for men who need help and instead of being thrown a lifeline; they are left to drown hanging on to a Bible verse thrown from the shoreline. This series looks at the adjustments that need to be made to help men who need solid direction in how to grow to full maturity.

A Man knows that action without relationship will not work.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

Myth: "Just Doing the Right Thing is More Important Than Why I Do It!"
John 15:1-15 and Hebrews 5:11-14 – We learn by practice!

Bible Verses John 15:1-15; Hebrews 5:11-14;
Exodus 24:7; Isaiah 42:3-4; Deut. 6:4-8; Psalm 4:1;
Psalm 34:17; Matthew 7:24; II Cor. 9:6-7

Videos: World Trade Center (6/9) Movie CLIP - Found
Resources: 12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy – Relief
from False Assumptions by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Music: Kirk Franklin – Are You Listening

Responsive Obedience: We hear what God wants for us, then we respond.

1. _____ > In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated "to obey" mean "to hear, to attend to." The Hebrew word *shema* is translated "to hear" more than 800 times in the Old Testament; the Greek work *akouo* is translated "to hear" some 400 times in the New Testament.
2. _____ > The biblical idea of obedience is when we hear, we respond (Exodus 24:7). A lack of obedience is seen in Isaiah 42:34.
3. _____ > This is what the Jews call Deut. 6:4-8. The Jews recited it daily.
4. _____ > Not only do we shema God, but he shemas us (Ps. 4:1; 34:17). We don't see in the Bible the idea of hearing without doing (Matthew 7:24). Here's the point:
 - a) Obedience always has a purpose. Obedience is a structure to train us in maturity, not an end in itself (Deut. 5:33; 6:24; 10:13).
 - b) Obedience is our response to the fathering of God.
 - c) Obedience changes as we mature. The more we mature, the less specific instruction we need.

Why "Just Do the Right Thing" does not work.

1. _____ > Too responsible is a problem and can lead to depression, addiction, and anxiety. The reasons behind the responsibility are the problem. A truly responsible lifestyle is the product of being loved just as we are—with our sinfulness, our imperfections, our wounds, and our weaknesses. When we do the right thing reluctantly or under compulsion, not freely (II Cor. 9:6,7), we live in fear. Jesus says he desires mercy, not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13).
2. _____ > We become split on the inside. Your heart becomes fragmented and disconnected from God (Isaiah 29:13). Going through the motions is hell! This splitting brings a lukewarmness to the relationship that prevents true intimacy. We were created to be whole, integrated in body and soul. We are to connect with each other and God this way.
3. _____ > You stop taking responsibility for your own actions and attitudes. You become so focused on pleasing the feared authority—God, parent, boss, spouse—you aren't able to deal with differences. You become a people pleaser (Gal. 1:10). One of the marks of maturity is moving from unconscious to conscious choices. Men who are under the burden of the "just do it" myth aren't free to ask "*Why*". Asking questions is considered rebellious, defiant, and insubordinate. Obedience, they feel, should be automatic and unquestioned.
4. _____ > Advocates of "just do it" must lie about their true feelings. They often feel resentment, resistance, or rebellion about doing the right thing. When we must comply on the outside, our rebellion moves from light and openness to hiding, where it is much more difficult to resolve (Matthew 21:28-32). We need to be free to say yes or no and express whatever struggle we have.
5. _____ > Over and over again we hear Christian teachers, preachers, and counselors make the mistaken assumption that once we are believers, we can do anything. The biblical truth is the opposite. The Bible is full of hope for those who realize the we can't live perfect lives (I John 1:8-10; Romans 7:15; Matthew 5:3). Sometimes we can't do what we know to do!
6. _____ > Trying to live up to demands that you could never satisfy does not work. When you have no safe place to struggle or work out your brokenness, "just do it" will lead to more failure. What works is the Grace and Acceptance that Jesus offers through his death and resurrection. We need the grace to make mistakes, with no anxiety, condemnation, or guilt. The resurrection power of the Cross redeems our sinful disobedience and enables us to live lives of peace and joy by trusting God.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Why are you here?
2. Why do you hate being told that you ought to do something?
3. Why don't you quit?

Bible Verses

John 15:1-15 - 1 "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. 2 He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. 3 You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. 4 "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. 5 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. 6 Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. 7 But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. 8 This is how my Father shows who he is - when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. 9 "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. 11 "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. 12 This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. 13 This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. 14 You are my friends when you do the things I command you. 15 I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

Hebrews 5:11-14 - 11 I have a lot more to say about this, but it is hard to get it across to you since you've picked up this bad habit of not listening. 12 By this time you ought to be teachers yourselves, yet here I find you need someone to sit down with you and go over the basics on God again, starting from square one - baby's milk, when you should have been on solid food long ago! 13 Milk is for beginners, inexperienced in God's ways; 14 solid food is for the mature, who have some practice in telling right from wrong.

Exodus 24:7 - 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it as the people listened. They said, "Everything God said, we'll do. Yes, we'll obey."

Isaiah 42:34 - 3 He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right. 4 He won't tire out and quit. He won't be stopped until he's finished his work - to set things right on earth. Far-flung ocean islands wait expectantly for his teaching." The God Who Makes Us Alive with His Own Life

Deut. 6:4-8 - 4 Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! 5 Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! 6 Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you 7 and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. 8 Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder;

Psalms 4:1 - 1 When I call, give me answers. God, take my side! Once, in a tight place, you gave me room; Now I'm in trouble again: grace me! hear me!

Psalms 34:17 - 17 Is anyone crying for help? God is listening, ready to rescue you.

Matthew 7:24 - 24 "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock.

II Cor. 9:6-7 - 6 "Don't be flip with the sacred. Banter and silliness give no honor to God. Don't reduce holy mysteries to slogans. In trying to be relevant, you're only being cute and inviting sacrilege. 7 "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need

Are You Listening

Kirk Franklin

<p>(I was hungry...You fed me. Naked...you clothed me. They will know us by our love.)</p> <p>Can't image how it felt as you lay there Through the dark, through the heat, through the cold. With your friend, by your side Held his hand and watched him die And you cried as you prayed for his soul.</p> <p>I can't imagine how it felt as you stood there Through the winds that would just not go away. Kiss my wife. Tell my son, 'My work on Earth is done.' You're the One that can still hear them say...</p> <p>Is there anybody out there listening? And does anybody know my name? No, my friend we were not there, But we're here and we care... And yes, we feel your pain. And yes, we feel your pain.</p> <p>I can't image how you felt as you sat there, Trying to hide the fear upon your face.</p>	<p>As the Earth begins to cry And you ask the preacher, 'Why?' Tonight, we can hear the children say... Hear them say...</p> <p>Is there anybody out there listening? And does anybody know my name? No, my friend we were not there But we're here and we care And yes, we feel your pain.</p> <p>And does anybody out there know me? (Do you know me?) Can you stop the clock, make this go away? (Make it go away) No, that cross you cannot bare But God can and He cares And yes, HE feels your pain. And yes, HE feels your pain.</p> <p>Please can anybody see, Because my faith is getting weak Don't know how much more I can take Hear my heart and please don't desert me</p>	<p>Is there anybody out there listening? (Does anybody know?) Does anybody know my name? (Does anyone know my name?) Oh, my friend we were not there But I'm right here and I care And yes, (yes) we feel (i feel) your pain.</p> <p>Does anybody out there know me? (Do you know me?) Then stop the clock and make this go away. (You can make this go away) No, that cross I cannot bare But He can and He cares. Yes, He feels your pain. Ooo...and yes, He feels your pain. Yes, He feels your pain. (Thank you, Jesus)</p> <p>(The clock is ticking. We hear you. Oh my, oh my. We see you.)</p> <p>He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands. (You and me sister. You and me brother. My, my...)</p>
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Myth: “Just Doing the Right Thing is More Important Than Why I Do It!”

John 15:1-15

Hebrews 5:11-14 – We learn by practice!

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- 1. TO HEAR** > In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “to obey” mean “to hear, to attend to.” The Hebrew word *shema* is translated “to hear” more than 800 times in the Old Testament; the Greek work *akouo* is translated “to hear” some 400 times in the New Testament.
- 2. TO RESPOND** > The biblical idea of obedience is when we hear, we respond (Exodus 24:7). A lack of obedience is seen in Isaiah 42:34.
- 3. THE GREAT SHEMA** > This is what the Jews call Deut. 6:4-8. The Jews recited it daily.
- 4. GOD SHEMAS US** > Not only do we shema God, but he shemas us (Ps. 4:1; 34:17). We don't see in the Bible the idea of hearing without doing (Matthew 7:24). Here's the point:
 - Obedience always has a purpose. Obedience is a structure to train us in maturity, not an end in itself (Deut. 5:33; 6:24; 10:13).
 - Obedience is our response to the fathering of God.
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Why “Just Do the Right Thing” does not work.

1. **Sacrifice vs. Relationship** > Too responsible is a problem and can lead to depression, addiction, and anxiety. The reasons behind the responsibility are the problem. A truly responsible lifestyle is the product of being loved just as we are—with our sinfulness, our imperfections, our wounds, and our weaknesses. When we do the right thing reluctantly or under compulsion, not freely (II Cor. 9:6,7), we live in fear. Jesus says he desires mercy, not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13).
2. **Wholeness or Integrity of a Person is Ignored** > We become split on the inside. Your heart becomes fragmented and disconnected from God (Isaiah 29:13). Going through the motions is hell! This splitting brings a lukewarmness to the relationship that prevents true intimacy. We were created to be whole, integrated in body and soul. We are to connect with each other and God this way.

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- 3. Discourages a Sense of Responsibility** > You stop taking responsibility for your own actions and attitudes. You become so focused on pleasing the feared authority—God, parent, boss, spouse—you aren’t able to deal with differences. You become a people pleaser (Gal. 1:10-12). One of the marks of maturity is moving from unconscious to conscious choices. Men who are under the burden of the “just do it” myth aren’t free to ask “*Why*”. Asking questions is considered rebellious, defiant, and insubordinate. Obedience, they feel, should be automatic and unquestioned.
- 4. Promotes Lying** > Advocates of “just do it” must lie about their true feelings. They often feel resentment, resistance, or rebellion about doing the right thing. When we must comply on the outside, our rebellion moves from light and openness to hiding, where it is much more difficult to resolve (Matthew 21:28-32). We need to be free to say yes or no and express whatever struggle we have.

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5. **Denies Our Fallenness** > Over and over again we hear Christian teachers, preachers, and counselors make the mistaken assumption that once we are believers, we can do anything. The biblical truth is the opposite. The Bible is full of hope for those who realize that we can't live perfect lives (1 John 1:8-10; Romans 7:15; Matthew 5:3). Sometimes we can't do what we know to do!
6. **Devalues the Power of the Cross** > Trying to live up to demands that you could never satisfy does not work. When you have no safe place to struggle or work out your brokenness, “just do it” will lead to more failure. What works is the Grace and Acceptance that Jesus offers through his death and resurrection. We need the grace to make mistakes, with no anxiety, condemnation, or guilt. The resurrection power of the Cross redeems our sinful disobedience and enables us to live lives of peace and joy by trusting God.

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