

## Talk 2: Christianity in the World

- Active not passive
  - Christianity cannot be reduced to just saying we believe in God
    - Even the demons believe in God
      - James 2:19 “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”
      - Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works... Faith without works is dead (James 2:18-20)
      - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10
  - Jesus and the disciples were not idle, they went around and spread the good news
    - Jesus sent the disciples to go spread the word (Luke 10:3 “I am sending you out like lambs among wolves”)
    - The Great Commission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)
- How do we situate ourselves in modern society
  - What the world wants from us is different from what God wants from us.
    - “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” John 15:19
    - We do not belong to the world, we need to prioritise Jesus Christ and stay away from the temptations of the devil
      - “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)
  - Life is a race, we need to choose the right race to run
    - Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that pick up the sword shall perish with the sword (Matthew 26: 52)
    - We choose which race we run, we choose what standards we are judged by
    - If we live by the standards of the world, we will be judged and condemned by them.
  - There are a lot of dangerous and unholy messages in the world today, we need to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16)
- How do we interact with other ideas:
  - Growing access to the internet/ social media exposes us to different ideas, some good and some bad

- We need to check them against scripture
  - No one is infallible, we all can make mistakes
  - The pastor, teacher, or celebrity is wrong if they say something in contradiction to scripture
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- People can present things very persuasively, even can use scriptural evidence, but if we look in depth into what they are saying, they could be incorrect
  - The devil’s temptations were all with scripture
- We should be open to discussions with other people
  - By talking to people and learning about their viewpoints, you could build relationships with them and be a witness to them about the love of Jesus Christ
- Christian community
  - We are the body of Christ, we all play a certain role in the Church body to make it function
    - Romans 12:4-5 “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”
    - 1 Corinthians 12:12 “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”
    - There are no “lone wolf” Christians, we need each other
  - The community of Christians is here to support each other
    - It is important to find a close group of Christian friends
      - At your weakest moments, Satan would take advantage to take you away from God
        - You need your Christian friends to give you good advice
      - “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

#### **Discussion questions:**

- What are some ways which you have actively pursued and done what God has been calling you this week?
- What are some examples about misleading teachings in popular culture?
- What are examples of how scripture can be used to correct or rebuke certain popular teachings that you can find in Christian circles?
- How are some ways that you plan to actively follow God in the upcoming month?