

12 MYTHS

August 10, 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 maturity involves more than Bible knowledge.

Myth: "If I Know the Truth, I Will Grow!" – PART II

- II Corinthians 3:18 > Character Change—Transformation is the Goal.
- Colossians 1:26-29 > Become Fully Mature – Whole!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

Bible Verses II Cor. 3:18; Colossians 1:26-29

Videos: Derek Carr - My Story

Music: Nikita - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Resources: 12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy – Relief from False Assumptions by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Myth: "If I Know God's Truth, I Will Grow!" – Four Models of Christians Growth

Helping men grow is more than telling them "God loves you!" Growing and moving toward Christian maturity is hard. In Christian circles there are basically four popular ways of thinking about personal growth:

1. _____ > All problems are result of one's sin. If you struggled in your marriage or with an emotional problem such as depression, the objective is to find the sin and confront it, then confess your sin, repent, and sin no more. See Job
2. _____ > "The truth will set you FREE!" If you are not "free," if some area of your life is not working, it must be because you lacked "truth" in your life. You need more Bible verses, memorize more Scripture, or learn more doctrine. Then, all of this truth would make its way from your head to your heart and ultimately into your behavior and emotions. Focus on passages the emphasize knowing truth, renewing your mind, and how you "think in your heart" becomes a new theology of "thinking truth to gain emotional health."
3. _____ > You must get to the pain in your life—find the abuse or the hurt—and then somehow "get it out." Proponents of the more spiritual version of this model either took the pain to Jesus or took Jesus to the pain. In a kind of emotional archaeology, people would dig up hurts from the past and then seek healing through prayer or imagery or just clearing out the pain. Proponents of this model emphasize Jesus' ability to transcend time; he could be "there" with you in pain or abuse and could change it.
4. _____ > There are many variations to this model. Some sought instant healing and deliverance; others depended on the Holy Spirit to make the change happen as he lived his life through them.

The Truth—Reality: There is more to your problems and the solution because of:

1. _____ don't solve all problems.
2. _____ are often "helped" but not "cured"; spiritual interventions often only help people to cope better.
3. Sincere, righteous, diligent, and mature _____ hit a ceiling in some area of life growth.
4. _____ grounded in good theology should be helping to solve problems a lot more than it does.

Summary: Sincere Christian men who have been very diligent about spiritual growth often hit an area of life that has not given way to their best spiritual efforts, whether that was prayer, Bible study, Christian service, or just "being good." Often these are very high-functioning men—pastors and others in ministry, or business leaders, professionals of all types who have followed Christian methods of growth as best they could, but without success.

Major Christian Doctrines and How Each Applies to Personal Growth:

1. The Bible = _____!
2. The Theology of God = _____!
3. The Person of Christ = _____!
4. The Holy Spirit = _____.
5. The Role of Truth = _____.
6. The Role of Grace = _____.
7. The Role of Sin & Temptation = _____.
8. The Created Order = _____.
9. Church = _____.
10. Brokenness = _____.
11. Guilt = _____.
12. Confession = _____!
13. Discipline & Correction = _____.
14. Obedience & Repentance = _____.
15. Suffering & Grief = _____.
16. The Role of Time = _____.

ALL GROWTH IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In order to grow well, we must link the great doctrines of the Bible with how men grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. Three Questions to ask:

1. What helps people grow?
2. How do these processes fit into an orthodox understanding of spiritual growth and theology?
3. What are the responsibilities of the person helping others grow, and what are the responsibilities of the ones who are growing?

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What issue are you working on? "I want you to know that the issue you are working on is not a growth issue or a counseling issue, but a spiritual growth issue."
2. What relational and emotional issue are you working on? "Spiritual growth should affect relational problems, emotional problems, and all other problems of life."
3. How is your spiritual life being lived out relationally? "I want you to know how your spiritual life and your practical, every day live are linked."
4. What has changed your life? "I want men to be aware of the things that God has provided that truly changes men's lives."
5. What role does the Bible play in your growth? "I want every man to not only know how to grow, but how the Bible is critical to the growth process."

Bible Verses

II Cor. 3:18 - 18 All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.	Colossians 1:26-29 - 26 This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. 27 God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. 28 We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. 29 That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.
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When I Survey The Wonderful Cross

Nikita

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

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Myth: “If I Know God’s Truth, I Will Grow!”

– Four Models of Christians Growth

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1. **The Sin Model** > All problems are result of one’s sin. If you struggled in your marriage or with an emotional problem such as depression, the objective is to find the sin and confront it, then confess your sin, repent, and sin no more. See Job
2. **The Truth Model** > “The truth will set you FREE!” If you are not “free,” if some area of your life is not working, it must be because you lacked “truth” in your life. You need more Bible verses, memorize more Scripture, or learn more doctrine. Then, all of this truth would make its way from your head to your heart and ultimately into your behavior and emotions. Focus on passages the emphasize knowing truth, renewing your mind, and how you “think in your heart” becomes a new theology of “thinking truth to gain emotional health.”
3. **The Experiential Model** > You must get to the pain in your life—find the abuse or the hurt—and then somehow “get it out.” Proponents of the more spiritual version of this model either took the pain to Jesus or took Jesus to the pain. In a kind of emotional archaeology, people would dig up hurts from the past and then seek healing through prayer or imagery or just clearing out the pain. Proponents of this model emphasize Jesus’ ability to transcend time; he could be “there” with you in pain or abuse and could change it.
4. **The Supernatural Model** > There are many variations to this model. Some sought instant healing and deliverance; others depended on the Holy Spirit to make the change happen as he lived his life through them.

The Truth—Reality: There is more to your problems and the solution because of:

1. Spiritual methods don't solve all problems.
2. Life problems are often “helped” but not “cured”; spiritual interventions often only help people to cope better.
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2. The Theology of God = **YOU BELONG TO ME!**
3. The Person of Christ = **I am WITH YOU!**
4. The Holy Spirit = **HELPER & COUNSELOR.**
5. The Role of Truth = **REALITY.**
6. The Role of Grace = **ACCEPTANCE.**
7. The Role of Sin & Temptation = **CHAOS & OPPOSITION.**
8. The Created Order = **STRUCTURE.**
9. Church = **COMMUNITY.**
10. Brokenness = **NEED.**
11. Guilt = **FORGIVENESS.**
12. Confession = **TELL YOUR STORY!**
13. Discipline & Correction = **FEEDBACK & DIRECTION.**
14. Obedience & Repentance = **CHANGE.**
15. Suffering & Grief = **DEAL WITH LOSS.**
16. The Role of Time = **PROCESS & JOURNEY.**

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