

## ***Go Ahead, Ask Me Anything! – Emotional Reactions to Life Circumstances***

### **1. What should a Christian and a non-Christian look like? Where should they differ and where is it OK to be the same?**

Matthew 7:15-23; John 13:34-35

- Not all people who say they are Christians actually are (Matthew 7:21-23).
- Some people who look like they are Christians actually aren't (Matthew 23:1-39).
- Jesus saves bad people (1 Timothy 3:15).
- Transformation is sometimes very slow (Galatians 1-2).

### **2. How do you explain to Christians in other countries that American Christians are no better or no less than them?**

In the Spirit of Romans 1:11-12 American Christians . . .

- can lead the way in confession and repentance (Matthew 7:1-5).
- can learn from others and not just expect them to learn from us (Proverbs 19:20).
- can be a blessing to others because we have been blessed by God (2 Corinthians 8-9).

### **3. Jesus says people should be able to see our good deeds in one place (Matthew 5:14-16) and that we should do them in secret in another (Matthew 6:1-18). How do I balance these two teachings?**

- Letting your light shine is all about giving glory to God, not you!
- When people see our spiritual practices they should see God, not us!

### **4. How should we deal with groups like Black Lives Matter?**

Proverbs 21:3; Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 5:38-42

- Whenever there is injustice anywhere in the world it should matter to the people of God.
- Just because there isn't a perfect solution doesn't mean Christians can't work for a better solution.
- We must call for justice by the values of Jesus and the Gospel and not by the values of the world.

### **5. How will I deal with the idea that I may never get married and have kids?**

1 Corinthians 7:8 & 38 – Being single is not a DISEASE or a PUNISHMENT from God.

- If you're single (or married) you need to find your ultimate identity in Christ!
- Seek the ONE while you prepare for your TWO.
- But you do need deep and lasting relationships because we were made for community.
- And just because marriage may not be in your future doesn't mean children are out of the picture.

### **6. Is it a sin to worry? When I worry am I meeting God's holy standard?**

Matthew 6:25-34

- INNAPPROPRIATE worry puts the problem (usually an idol) at the center of our lives.
- APPROPRIATE worry keeps Jesus at the center, not the problem.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden . . . let your light shine before others, so **that they may see your good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:14, 16

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people **in order to be seen by them**, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 6:1

To do righteousness and **justice** is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. – Proverbs 21:3

Chart 2

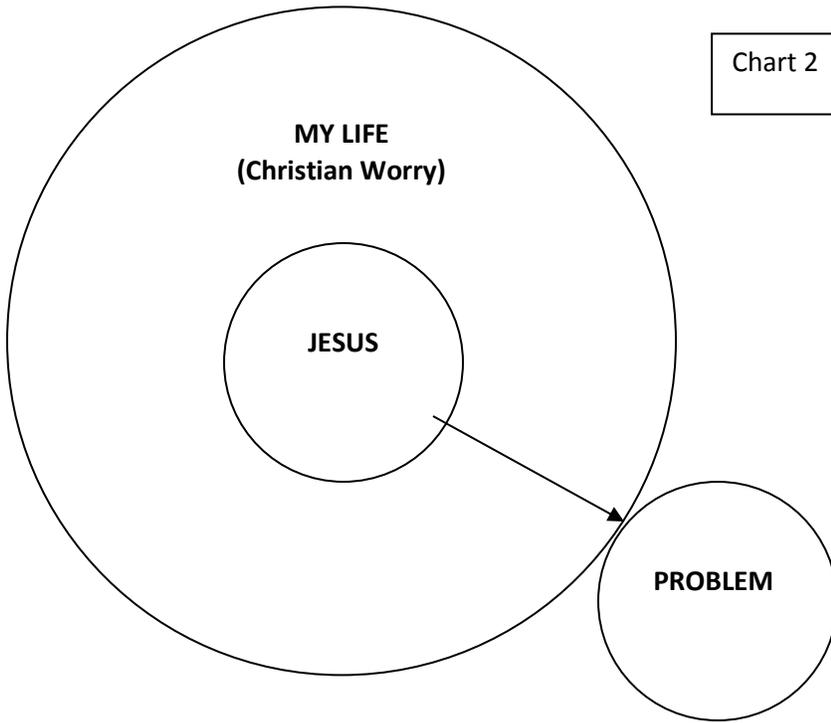


Chart 1

