

Week 3

## **Is it bad to sleep in church?**

### **Acts 20:9**

**9** And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

The point of this scripture is to teach that if you fall asleep in church, you will die. Eutychus was lucky enough to be raised back to life by the power of God, but perhaps you won't be so lucky.

## **Why did the Sabbath move from Saturday to Sunday?**

It didn't. We no longer keep the Sabbath day because that is an Old Testament law.

However, the reason that Christians gather on Sunday is because that's the day Jesus rose. The early church used to gather on the first day of every week to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and it obviously stuck because we still do it today!

### **Acts 20:7**

**7** And **upon the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

## **What are some legit ways to convince someone God is real and the Bible is real without using the Bible as evidence?**

Here are some great apologetics Resources:

Darwin on Trial - Phillip E. Johnson

Reasonable Faith - William Craig

When Skeptics Ask - Norman Geisler

The Inspiration of the Scriptures Scientifically Demonstrated - Ivan Panin

The Star of Bethlehem: Documentary - On YouTube. Mind blowing!

Anything by Lee Strobel.

- The Case for Christ
- The Case for a Creator.
- The Case for Faith.

There is evidence out there. Some people can't see because they don't want to see. Don't waste your time with people like this.

## **Why don't we refer to Jesus as YHWH?**

YHWH is the Hebrew name for God. We would say Jehovah in English. So why Jesus instead of Jehovah?

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

**9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

**10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is the highest name and the most powerful revelation of the one true God.

All power is in the name of Jesus, demons flee at the name Jesus, so therefore it's not strange that Paul said:

### **Colossians 3:17a**

**17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**

God revealed Himself as YHWH to Israel in the OT, but has revealed Himself as Jesus in the NT. We call Him Jesus instead of Jehovah for the same reason the we live out the NT instead of the OT; progressive revelation. Jehovah is an older revelation of who God is to humanity.

## **Is it mandatory to listen to everything Matt says?**

It is mandatory to obey scripture and Bible principles, so if I am preaching the Bible, yes.

There were times when Paul, who was a leader of the early church, would mandate certain things that **WEREN'T** directly from God, but the people were still expected to be obedient.

### **1 Corinthians 7:6, 12a**

**6** But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

**12a** But to the rest **speak I, not the Lord:**

**Paraphrase:** “This isn’t a word from God, this is a word from your pastor.”

There are times when a Pastor has to draw a line on a certain issue for the congregation he has been entrusted with. They have to line up with biblical principles, but sometimes aren’t directly from scripture. These are sometimes referred to as “Church Standards.”

Sometimes your leaders have to set boundaries and they might even seem a bit stronger than what the Bible says. Some issues aren’t black and white in scripture, they are gray. Even though the Bible may not address an issue specifically, if your Pastors draw the line, God expects us to be submitted to their leadership. Your Pastors don’t set boundaries randomly to make you miserable or to lord over you, they set them in the fear of God to protect God’s people.

Remember, your pastors have been given the responsibility of keeping watch for your soul. (Hebrews 13:17)

Even in those cases it is important to listen to what your Pastor has to say.

For more information on the role of a Pastor in your life, check out “A Pastor’s Purpose” on our website.

## **DATING QUESTIONS**

### **What does the Bible say about dating?**

The main thing the Bible says is date a Christian.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

**14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- This is a farming reference. A yoke was a piece of equipment that would connect two oxen together. The two oxen would then have a plow or something hooked up to them and together they would pull it through a field to till the soil. If each ox wanted to go an opposite direction, they wouldn't get anything done.

#### **Amos 3:3**

**3** Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

You’ll find life very hard if the person you date or eventually are married to doesn’t love God and is going the opposite direction as you. Find a Christian!

I also have a few suggestions:

Go on lots of **CASUAL** dates with people (in groups and one-on-one). You learn lots about yourself and what you want in a spouse when you interact with lots of people of the opposite sex.

Only get in romantic relationships with people that you would consider marrying.

Focus on **being the one** rather than **finding the one**. Don't think that the right person will come along and fix all of your problems. For their sake, work on yourself now.

Before popping the question, fast and pray about it. A good seven day fast is a great idea. This is a decision that affects the rest of your life (and perhaps eternity).

Don't be in a rush.

Seek God's will for your life before seeking a spouse so that you can be sure they are moving the same direction as you.

**When is it a good time to break off a romantic relationship? What are good/bad reasons to do so?**

**Anytime** is a good time to break up, and **any reason** is a good reason ... with one exception: marriage. Marriage is the only bad reason to break up.

I'm not suggesting that you be cavalier about people's feelings or treat relationships like a joke, but if you are not feeling a relationship you're in, for your sake, their sake, and Heaven's sake, get out of it. Don't worry about their feelings being temporarily hurt. What would hurt their feelings more is getting married to you and then finding out that you don't really love them.

Don't ever feel stuck in a dating relationship. Regardless of how long you've been together or even whether or not you're engaged, if it isn't working be honest with yourself and them and seriously consider cutting ties.

If you see things that you don't like in your significant other, don't just assume they will change over time because they love you. They probably won't. (Prayer, Word, Church, Faithfulness, etc.)

**Why can't I date girls that aren't in church? I find worldly girls more attractive.**

I've already answered the first part, but let me address the second.

That's because a lot of worldly women show off their bodies. I'm thankful for Godly girls because their modest attire allows you to get to know them as a person *before* you get to know them as a body.

The world gets it backwards.

They connect physically, then maybe emotionally, and rarely spiritually.

God desires that we connect spiritually first, emotionally second, and finally physically when we are committed in marriage.

The way our apostolic young women dress helps men keep that in order.

The clothing that some girls wear today is unbelievable. Some is little more than a second skin that shows every curve and crevice of their bodies.

That might catch your eye, but it's probably caught the eye of a lot of other guys too. If you want a girl that is eye candy for every guy that walks by, and has been an item of lust for many young men, that's your choice, but I think it's silly.

### **Proverbs 31:30**

**30** Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

### **HOLINESS QUESTIONS**

**In this section we will be talking about certain Christian behaviors and lifestyles that we believe and live here at CCC. We don't live these things because we are "Pentecostal" but because they are in the Bible. I am addressing these subjects because I was asked to and because they are scriptural, not because I'm aiming at anybody. If these are things that you don't understand yet and if you are new to church, I am in no way trying to make you feel uncomfortable or out of place. I think you deserve the right to know what the Bible says and why we live the way we do. Take these principles and pray about them and God will help you.**

### **Hebrews 12:14**

**14** Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord:

### **1 Peter 1:15-16**

**15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so **be ye holy** in all manner of conversation;

**16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

### **Romans 12:1**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

### 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Holiness is not just something that happens on the inside, it happens on the outside; in our bodies.

### Are holiness standards a Heaven or Hell issue?

I believe holiness standards **aren't** a salvation issue but a **maturity** issue. As we grow in Christ, there are certain behaviors that should become present.

### Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We don't obey certain standards to get saved, we obey them because we are saved and because we know they please God. Verse 10 says we are saved **UNTO GOOD WORKS**, so in other words, true salvation will always impact our actions and how we live.

Though I don't believe holiness standards are initially a salvation issue, I believe they can become salvation issues when they are ignored out of rebellion.

### James 4:17

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

What is your reason for not living these convictions? Is it that you understand but just don't want to? Or is it because this is new to you and you don't understand the scripture yet? There is a big difference between the two.

## Why don't go to the theatre?

We interact with media on **OUR TERMS** and on **OUR TURF**.

Overall, the film industry is not a Godly one. Movie theaters show all kinds of filth, and although you might be watching Winnie the Pooh (or something else G-rated), it doesn't change that fact that the institution is not Godly.

The main reason we don't go to theaters is the same reason why we, as Christians, don't go to bars. You might be able to order a steak and no alcohol, but the appearance is not appropriate. It looks as if you are drinking.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:22

**22** Abstain from all **appearance** of evil.

- Not just evil, but the **appearance of evil**.

The bottom line is that Hollywood releases a lot of garbage. There are definitely a lot of films that are appropriate in theaters, but there are just as many, if not more, inappropriate films. The atmosphere, setting, and appearance is not good.

One question that you always need to ask yourself is, "How will this impact my effectiveness in ministering to others?" It's not that we as leaders don't trust you to make wise movie-going decisions, it's that some people will assume you watch R-rated ungodly movies, which will hinder your effectiveness in ministry. Despite the fact that those assumptions might not be accurate, it still affects you. Billy Cole used to say, "You can't minister to people beyond their level of respect for you."

It's the same reason that couples shouldn't hang out alone at a house or apartment. Even if you're 35 and still single ... DON'T do it! You might not be sleeping together, but the appearance is that you are. People automatically assume certain things when we associate ourselves with certain settings. You might say, "Well I don't care what people think." I would say, then you don't care about your effectiveness in God's Kingdom and ministry, because it does impact people's perception of you.

It's just not wise, so we draw a line.

## How do you feel about jewelry? Makeup?

A GREAT resource for these questions is "Because we are His" by our Pastor, Raymond Woodward. Go to his website ([raymondwoodward.com](http://raymondwoodward.com)) and it is the first item on the "sermon series" page. It is organized very well. There are 10 pages on the subject of "Adornment" alone, which jewelry and makeup fall under.

### 1 Timothy 2:9

**9** In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

### **1 Peter 3:3**

**3** Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

These verses clearly come against jewelry that is worn for the purpose of drawing attention to yourself.

Jewelry worn for a purpose is permissible. (Kings wore crowns to signify royalty, priests wore a breast piece covered in precious stones because it had a purpose in worship, etc.) Wearing a wedding ring has a purpose, wearing a watch serves a purpose, therefore they are permissible. Jewelry that is simply for the purpose of drawing attention to your body is where God draws the line and is what these scriptures speak against.

Makeup falls under the umbrella of adornment. All through scripture, makeup was used by harlots and prostitutes because they, more than most women, needed to draw attention to their bodies. Jezebel put on makeup and jewelry when she tried to seduce King Jehu in 2 Kings 9:30.

Lots more information in Pastor's study!

### **Is it mandatory or obligation for women to wear skirts?**

#### **Deuteronomy 22:5**

**5** The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

God desires that there be distinction between the sexes. This is in behavior as well as apparel.

"Because we are His" has lots of additional information on distinction, but let's address specifically why our women wear **skirts**:

Firstly, the priests wore "breeches" under their robes in Bible times. This word does not occur very often in Scripture, but in every case it is men's apparel (Exodus 28:42, Exodus 39:28, Leviticus 6:10, Leviticus 16:4, Ezekiel 44:18) – women were not allowed to wear "breeches." According to Hebrew lexicons, "breeches" means "trousers that extend below the knee." The later English word "britches" developed from this term, as did our modern concept of "pants."

Women in Bible times did not wear “crotched garments” (pants) because of God’s disapproval. Thus, pants were worn exclusively by men for the first 5900 years of human history. It is only in the past century that women’s apparel has suddenly become “impractical” for women to wear!

Secondly, men in Bible times were permitted to “gird up their loins” while women were not. A man could transform his robe into a closer-fitting, less cumbersome garment by bringing the back hem of his robe between his legs and tucking it into his waistband (girdle). This created a trouser-like effect, and was a distinctively masculine appearance. Women were allowed to lift up the hem of their robe to help carry something, but to raise it above their knees or to “gird up their loins” like a man was considered grossly immodest by God and by Biblical society.

### **Job 38:3**

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

### **Job 40:7**

Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

### **Jeremiah 1:17**

Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

The “girding of the loins” was allowed in alignment with masculine roles and responsibilities. When God wanted Jeremiah to “be a man” and not be afraid of people as he delivered his prophetic message, He commanded him to “gird up [his] loins.” Notice also that when God wanted Job to face Him in a masculine posture of accountability, he commanded him twice to “gird up [his] loins LIKE A MAN.” God associated Job’s acceptance of manly responsibility with the state of his apparel!

A GARMENT THAT SHOWS A SEPARATION OF THE LEGS ABOVE THE KNEE IS WHERE SCRIPTURE DRAWS THE LINE, AND THAT'S WHY OUR WOMEN WEAR SKIRTS.

### **What does THE BIBLE actually say about tattoos?**

Tattooing was something God commanded Israel in the OT not to do. There are a few references to making “cuttings in your flesh,” but the main one that most people go to is:

### **Leviticus 19:28**

**28** Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, **nor print any marks upon you:** I am the Lord.

In this same chapter, however, there are laws about not shaving your beard and not eating meat with blood in it, which we do both. We cannot be inconsistent in our approach to scripture. We can't say verse 28 is a requirement, but the rest of the chapter isn't. When addressing the issue of tattooing, we must find NT precedent.

The New Testament does not directly address tattooing. The main NT scripture used against tattoos today would probably be:

### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

**16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**17** If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Does marking your body fall under the category of defilement of your body? This is an ongoing debate.

In my mind, tattoos fall under the category of adornment, which we already addressed. If makeup is something that scripturally is not pleasing to God, wouldn't permanent makeup be displeasing as well?

This is one of those areas that are slightly gray, so your Pastors have drawn a line and we teach that it is wrong, which from the context of scripture, I think is fairly easy to see.

Furthermore, the reason that God didn't want tattooing in the OT was because it was a Pagan worship practice and He didn't want Israel to be associated with that. Tattooing and piercing is still the practice of different pagan religions of the world such as Hinduism, which we definitely don't associate with.

Recently, Horizon Health Network, in NB, released a dress code document that mandated that all tattoos be covered. Policemen in different parts of NA are required to have tattoos covered. These are just two secular establishments that want tattoos covered on their employees due to the stigma attached to tattooing and public appearance. Is it strange that the church takes the stance that it does in light of this?

When an issue is gray, I would rather err on the side of caution than risk being in rebellion. If someone wants to go and get a tattoo and feel they are scripturally justified, that is their prerogative.

**How can you be used of God?**

God is not looking for ability, but rather availability. That being said, there is nothing wrong with bettering yourself. Study the Word, learn a foreign language, practice an instrument, etc. Perhaps it will lead into a ministry.

The main thing is availability. There are a lot of people with a lot of talent and smarts, but they are too busy to be used by God.

**If you feel that God has called you to a particular ministry (evangelist, missionary, pastor, etc.) what do you do until you reach that point in your life?**

Get involved in ministry where God currently has you. Don't get destination disease and ignore what opportunity God has put right under your nose.

Support your local church and Pastors with everything you have. Ministry is serving, so learn to serve. Volunteer at the church or a food bank.

Also, if you feel like you are in a slow season of life and nothing is happening, take advantage of that extra time and study God's Word. Make preparations now for where God wants to take you later.

And finally, if you feel called to missions (for example), support a missionary. If you feel called to be a missionary but don't give to missions ... \*shake my head\*. Support your area of calling the same way you would want to be supported when you get there.