

Half-Truth Christianity (Part 2)

Series: Sustainable Faith: The Word

2 Corinthians 11:14 (0937)

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MYRON BOYD *A half-truth is a dangerous thing, especially if you have got hold of the wrong half. 2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV ... Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

I. Half-truths regarding our sense of personal security in life

a. "It will all work out"

Hebrews 11:32-35a NIV ³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Hebrews 11:35b-38 NIV Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. ³⁷They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Holman Those who belong to God will not be immune from suffering; they will not be spared the brokenness which life brings to all persons. The people of God may, however, find spiritual resources and strength to persevere in time of trouble. The sovereign God of the universe chose to identify with His creation in the cross of Christ. There is no greater example of his care for His creation.

Romans 8:28 NIV We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose

TM We can be sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

b. "God has a plan"

Philippians 1:27 NIV ²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Philippians 4:11-13 NIV I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

II. Half-truths regarding our perception of our right to privacy in life

a. "It's none of your business"

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Romans 12:5 NLT ...And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

Matthew 18:15-17 NIV ¹⁵*If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.* ¹⁶*But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony*

of two or three witnesses.’¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Galatians 6:1-5 NIV ¹Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵for each one should carry his own load.

b. “You have no right to judge me”

Holman As is frequently the case with biblical truths, the Christian’s role in exercising judgment on others is found in a tension between warnings to avoid judging others and admonitions concerning how best to judge others.

Matthew 7:1-5 NIV ¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Romans 14:4 NIV ⁴Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

1 Corinthians 6:1-2 NIV ¹If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

Matthew 7:15-20 NLT ¹⁵“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart. ¹⁶You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. ²⁰Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.

III. Half-truths regarding our brokenness in life

a. “I have been wounded by the church”

Matthew 18:7 NIV ⁷“Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

b. “You just need to forgive and forget”

Matthew 6:14-15 NLT ¹⁴“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Hebrews 8:12 NLT I will forgive their wrongdoings, and I will never again remember their sins.

Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.