

Worth Dying For Lesson 1

-MJYG Auction: How much would you be willing to spend of your own money for the item that I put up on the screen?

First item up for bid: How much would you be willing to pay for an ice cold sweet tea, and a monster cookie from Cheddars right now?

-How much would you be willing to pay to bring back Opryland?

-How much would you be willing to pay if you begin your summer break tomorrow without any consequences?

You know, I couldn't help but notice that nobody in the room said, "I'd die for that!"

I mean, can you imagine? I ask you how much you'd be willing to pay for a monster cookie and one of you says, "That's worth dying for!"

Dying for? Why would you die for that? That makes no sense at all. Besides, if you're dead you're not going to be able to eat the cookie, you're not going to be able to go to Opryland, you're not going to be able to have a summer break.

We're going to come back to that thought in just a minute, but I want you to consider something and I want you to be completely honest: **how important is the idea of church to you?** How do you feel about the church? Not a building, but the idea of God's people. The idea of coming together with God's people. The idea of coming together to worship with God's people.

Is it really that important? Is it something you do from time to time? Is it a social thing where you get together with some friends? Is it something you only do because your parents make you?

Is it something you're into when something fun is happening? The church is going to the beach? Well, I haven't been in four months, but you better believe I'm going to the beach! I love the beach! Church is okay I guess, but I love the beach!

How important is the church to you? And I hope we can all be humble enough to ask an even more important question: how important *should* the church be to you?

I want us to look tonight at *Ephesians 5:25-32* **25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,**

Ok, there we go. Did you catch that? Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

How important was the church to Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of all humanity? How important was the church to Him?

God took the gavel and opened the auction floor up for bidding.

I've got a church here. It's a group of people that don't always get along. They're a bunch of sinners. Sometimes they gossip. Sometimes they are selfish. They can be downright mean. They'll sing my praises on Sunday morning, but they'll complain on Monday when one or two things don't go the way they want. Let's start the bidding...

And without hesitation Jesus says "I'll give my life. That's worth dying for. I'll pay for that."

Why would Jesus give himself up for the church? Verse 26.

26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in

splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Why Jesus? Why would you die for a bunch of sinners?

He says, "Because I wanted to wash their sins away. I have sanctified them (that means set apart) In other words, I have set those sinners apart. I have saved them. They are cleansed by my Word. And now the church before me is beautiful. It's been made holy. It's my beautiful bride.

Ok, so let's review!

How important is the church to you? Really think hard on this one.

How important is the church to Christ? It was worth dying for.

Why? Because Christ is willing to wash away the sins of those willing to be joined to him.

Listen, when you become a Christian, and you're baptized into Christ in the waters of baptism, your sins are washed away.

I've just never been into church. It's just not my thing. My faith in Jesus is more important than church. I don't need the church. Just give me Jesus.

Let me show you what that looks like to Jesus Christ.

I'm not lying to you. I'm not making this up. I'm trying to show you exactly what God says about this. I hope this is something that really sinks in with you tonight if it never has before.

Ephesians 5:25-32 Remember this passage that we just read? I'm going to read it again and the verses that come after it, because I

want you to see the connection here that's being made between the husband/wife relationship and the Christ/church relationship.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.[a] 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Please don't miss this in the analogy I'm about to give. We're talking about the Christ/church relationship, and your relationship with the church!

Well, I've just never been into church. It's just not my thing. My faith in Jesus is more important than the idea of church. I don't need the church. Just give me Jesus.

I want you to imagine that you and I are talking. And what if in this particular conversation you started talking about how much you appreciate me. And how much you value our friendship, and how much you care about me. And how close we are. And you talk about how much you enjoy getting to spend time with me, and on and on and on...

And then at some point in the conversation I say, "Hey, you know my wife Laura? How do you feel about her?"

And your answer is, “Well, I’ve just never been into Laura. She’s just not for me. Besides *you’re* the one that’s more important. A lot more important than she is. I don’t need Laura. She doesn’t really matter. So long as you and I are close, that’s really all that’s important—not my relationship with Laura. I’ll take Philip. Just leave Laura out of it.

...How do you think that’s going to sit with me? How do you think?

First of all, you better believe that would offend me. You can’t say that about my bride. You know why? Cause she’s my bride.

But second of all, how in the world could you claim to know me, how could you claim to care so much about me, and fail to see how important my bride is? I would die for my bride. But you don’t think she matters?

Guys, when we say things, like “I’m just not *into church*. *It’s just not my thing*. *My faith in Jesus is more important than the idea of church*. *Just give me Jesus and leave the church out of it*,” **how do you think that sits with Jesus—the one who died for the church?**

I’m sure it’s offensive to Him. The fastest way to tick off a husband is to disrespect his bride.

A few life lessons as we close that I hope hit home with some of you.

1. **How can I claim to be close to Christ without making the church, His Bride, one of the highest priorities in my life?**

Christ and His Bride are not divorced or separated, but are joined together. Does it look that way in your life? We must not separate Christ and the church when it comes to our lives. They’re

connected. They’re married to one another. “And what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

2. **If you love the Groom you need to get to know His Bride.**

Think about your best friend getting married, but you didn’t take two seconds to get to know the person they were getting married to. You’d be a pretty terrible friend. If you love Christ, you ought to love His Bride.

Maybe there’s somebody in here tonight that knows a little bit about Jesus, and you love Him, but you haven’t made any connections to His church yet. That needs to change. Maybe you’re new, or maybe you’re shy, but we want to help you get connected and we can help if that’s what you need, so let me know if I can be of any help.

3. **If you love the Bride you need to get to know Her Groom.**

Maybe you love this church, but you haven’t begun your relationship with Christ yet. Maybe you’d like to know more about that. Maybe you’d like to learn more about baptism. Again, I want to help you, so let me know if I can help.

We live in a time where it’s become extremely, extremely acceptable for people to say “give me Jesus” but leave the church out. Jesus loves His Bride, and if you really want Jesus, you cannot treat His church that way.

...How important is the church? To Christ, and to early Christians, it was worth dying for. What about you?

Pray.

Worth Dying For Lesson 2

Worth Dying For:

-Video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9lopKL9mFI>

“It takes more than just saying you’re a Christian in order to become a Christian.”

According to a recent poll, as many as 77% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.

Wow! That’s awesome!!! 77% of all Americans are Christians! Wow! We’re doing great as a nation! One nation under God with liberty and justice for all! #Merica.

Waaaait a minute, how did we get that number? Did God look down on America and say, “Hey, look! 77% of those people are Christians!”

No. That number came by checking a box.

“It takes more than just saying you’re a Christian in order to become a Christian.” More than checking off a box.

Listen, a poll isn’t the one that decides if you’re a Christian. You’d better not look to a poll to find out whether or not you’re a Christian.

The only way to truly know if you’re a Christian is to look at the Word of God. **When you became a Christian, did you do what the Bible says?** Not what your parents said. Not what your preacher said. Did you become a Christian the way the Bible says?

That’s a HUGE question, guys.

...I hope this is a lesson you’ll **really** think about. I want us to have a prayer in just a minute, but before we pray, whether you’ve been coming to church here your entire life or whether it’s only been for the last few weeks or months, I want to really seriously consider and

think about that question: have you or did you become a Christian the way that the Bible says?

Your quick answer might be “Well, yeah! Of course! I know I did exactly what the Bible says to become a Christian!”

Ok, but still, I want you to really think about it. Because it doesn’t matter how you feel about what you did--it matters what you did. Kind of like my stupid doctor video. I might feel like I’m a doctor, I might believe I’m a doctor, but if I never do what it takes to become a doctor, it doesn’t really matter how I feel about that. I wouldn’t be a doctor.

Pray.

So what is God’s will. How do I obey God? How do I become a Christian? How can I be saved?

If I want to become a Christian the way the Bible says, I’d better look in the Bible to see what it says.

...I want you to do something for me. I want you to forget everything you know or you think you know about being saved. Maybe that’s hard to do, maybe it’s not hard to do. But I want you to do it. Imagine that you’ve never heard what you must do to be saved. You don’t know what to do to be saved. In fact, at first you don’t even know you need to be saved!

If you can imagine that, then you know as much as the people standing in the crowd in **Acts chapter 2**. I want us to look there. These people knew *nothing* about being saved. They didn’t even know they needed to be!

Stay with me here!!! I want to give you the background to this so you’ll know what we’re about to read. Jesus has risen from the dead

and he's ascended into heaven. He's gone. And his apostles are still on the earth. But before He ascended into heaven, He told his apostles He wanted them to stay put in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come.

Ok, so here we are. It's the Day of Pentecost. It's a special day if you're a Jew. There were three festivals that required you to make a special trip to Jerusalem if you were a faithful Jewish man. One of those times was the Feast of Tabernacles, another time was the Passover feast, and the other day was the Day of Pentecost.

You get that? I promise that's important. Very cool stuff. Stay with me.

So, Acts chapter 2:1 is occurring on what day? The Day of Pentecost. You know anything about Pentecost? This is a pretty cool day to study. It is a day that occurred 50 days after the Passover feast.

Remember the Passover in the Old Testament? This was a time set aside every year for the Jews to remember the day in Egypt when the blood of an unblemished lamb (there couldn't be anything wrong with it) was placed onto the doorpost. On that night, the Israelites who put the blood on the doorpost were spared from death, and the angel of the Lord would pass over. But if you didn't have the blood on your doorpost death would come to your household, and every firstborn in Egypt was put to death. It was the plague that finally broke Pharaoh's stubborn will.

But God's people were saved by the blood of the lamb.

Hmmm... isn't that interesting? Today God's people are saved by the blood of the Lamb. Jesus is often called the Lamb of God. He was a lamb without blemish; He was nothing wrong with him. He no fault, no sin. And remember, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, a new feast for his disciples during the Passover. That's really cool. And did you know that Jesus was killed during the Passover feast?

It's just amazing. Only God come up with that kind of thing.

Ok, so why is that important? Well, for a lot of reasons, but I want you to notice that these guys who are here for the Day of Pentecost are the same dudes who were in Jerusalem 50 days ago for the Passover feast. Why? Because, again, if you are a faithful Jewish man, you are in Jerusalem for the Passover and you are in Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost.

According to rabbinic tradition Pentecost was also the day where the Jews celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Why is that cool? Well, the Day of Pentecost represented the giving of the Old Law, the Old Testament, the Old Covenant from God. And now, how cool is this, on this Day of Pentecost, God would choose this day to reveal the giving of a New Law, a New Testament, a New Covenant.

So here we go. *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord[a] in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own

tongues the wonderful works of God.”¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

Verse 5 everybody in Jerusalem is like “Whaaaaaat is happening?” These guys are from Galilee. How come they’re able to speak Latin and Egyptian and all these different languages? What is going on?

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Watch for this phrase, guys. God says “I will pour out My Spirit.”

¹⁷ ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

²¹ And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’^[b]

Alright, where are you going with this Peter? He is answering their question in verse 12. What could this mean?

He says what you guys are seeing the fulfillment of a prophecy from the book of Joel. God said, “In the last days I will pour out My Spirit, and all of these amazing things are gonna start happening, and eventually the Lord is going to come back. But whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What? Be saved? Why? Why would we need to be saved, Peter? We’re Jews! God’s chosen people! Peter is going to tell them in 22, but for time’s sake let’s skip down to verse 32.

³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

You know what a thesis statement is? Here’s the main idea of everything Peter has said up to this point! Verse ³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

And this is the first time these guys have heard it put this way. The guy that they killed during the Passover? He wasn’t just some crazy guy. He was the Christ! And they crucified the Son of God. They nailed Him to a tree.

How do you think they’re going to react to Peter’s words?

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Timeout! What’s their question? In your own words? What do we have to do to make this right? How do we fix this? How can we be saved?

What does Peter tell them?

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

When I was saved, when I became a Christian, did I do what the Bible says?

First he says **repent**. It's a word that means to turn. How were these guys going to do that? Well, they needed to change their minds and their actions. They couldn't undo what they had done to Jesus. They couldn't uncrucify Him. But what could they do? Well, they could live for Him every day from that day forward. It was a turn, a change.

Listen, if you are baptized and repentance is not something you do, all you did was get put under water. That'd be like getting dunked in the swimming pool. If your heart isn't in it, that's all it amounts to. And then Peter says what? What's the second thing? "Be baptized."

Guys, I'm not making this up. I'm showing you the very first Christians in the Bible. What did they do to become Christians? They heard the truth about Jesus, they repented of their sins and then they were baptized.

Now, let's think back to our question that we've kept coming back to tonight. When you were saved, what did you do? To become a Christian, how did that happen? Did someone hand you a survey and

you decide, "Yeah, I'm a Christian. Check." Or did you do exactly what the Bible says you had to do to become a Christian?

These guys in Acts 2. Heard the truth about Jesus, believed it, they repented of their sins and then they were baptized.

It's not my intention to make you mad, it's my intention to show you exactly what the Bible says and take my opinion out of it.

In the passage that we just read, did the people in the crowd say a prayer?

Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said to them, "Ok, if you want to be saved, if you want to fix this, bow your heads and pray this prayer with me: Lord, Jesus, I am sorry for the sins I have committed. And now Lord, I'm accepting you into my heart. In Jesus name, amen."

Is that what Peter said? No. It is super popular to believe that. You go to a lot of "Christian concerts" and the crowd will be asked to participate in that prayer and they'll be told that if they were sincere in that prayer then congratulations you have become a Christian and your sins have been washed away.

I'm telling you. I'm not making this up. You go to just about any huge religious gathering and you'll be told that that's all you have to do. What I'm asking you to think about is this: where is that in the Bible? You show me one time, where somebody prays that prayer in the Bible and they're saved. It's not in there.

In the passage that we just read, how many people got saved one day and got baptized on another day?

Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said to them, “Ok, look. There’s a lot of people here who wanna be saved. So I tell you what. Today you guys just come to the front when I finish my message and we’ll call you guys back and we’ll schedule a time when we can baptize you. After all, baptism isn’t what will save you. It’s your confession of faith.

No! Look at what the Bible says. It comes straight out of Peter’s mouth.

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And when were they baptized?

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

And we have people today that don’t think baptism is important? Here are guys saying “What do we need to do?” And Peter turns around and says “You need to be baptized,” and we’re arguing about whether or not it’s important?

Listen, if the Bible says it, it’s important. Period. End of discussion.

So Peter baptized the babies and about that day 3000 souls were added to them.

No. Those who received his word. Those in the audience who understood that they needed to be saved.

Listen, maybe you heard something tonight that you’ve never heard before. Maybe nobody has ever told you that the sinner’s prayer is not found in the Word of God. Maybe it’s the first time that you’ve ever thought, “Whoa. I was taught that I was supposed to be saved first and then I got baptized later.”

Maybe you think about that question that I asked you at the beginning of the night: what did you do to become a Christian and as you’ve looked inside of the Word of God you’ve thought, I didn’t do that.

I’m not coming after you. I’m not pointing the finger at you. I just want you to consider what we’ve talked about tonight. I think you guys know me well enough to know that I’m not here to beat you up. I just want to do what the Bible says.

If you’re like, “Man, I’ve never been taught this, and I don’t have any idea what to do with it,” I’d love to sit down and listen and study the Word of God to help you try to sort through that.

Guys, there’s nothing more important than your soul, and so I hope you’ll take these things to heart tonight as we get ready to wrap up. Please let me know if I can be of any help. I promise to listen. I’m not here to judge. I just want to do the very best that I can to teach you what the Bible says.

Pray.

Worth Dying For: Lesson 3 (31 Flavors)

Tonight we are closing out our three week miniseries called on the church called “Worth Dying For.” *Ephesians 5:25 says Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

How important was the church to Christ? This verse says that to Him it was worth everything. It was worth dying for.

I hope this been a series that’s challenged you to think about that way you think about the church. We live in a world where a lot of people don’t think their relationship with Jesus has anything to do with church.

And so we hear people say things like “Well, I’ve just never been into church. It’s just not my thing. My faith in Jesus is more important than the idea of church. Leave the church out of it—just give me Jesus.

I asked you to imagine saying this to me about my wife Laura: “Well, I’ve just never been into Laura. She’s just not for me. Besides you’re the one that’s more important. I don’t need Laura. She doesn’t really matter. I’ll take Philip. Just leave Laura out of it.

That wouldn’t sit well with me. You can’t talk about my bride like that. And how in the world could you claim to know me and fail to see how important my bride is?

How do you think it makes Christ feel when we start thinking about or talking about the church in this way?

We said “*If you love the Groom you need to get to know His Bride.*”

Maybe you like the idea of Jesus but you’ve never been connected or committed to the church like you need to be.

And we also said “*If you love the Bride you need to get to know Her Groom.*”

Maybe you love this church, but you haven’t begun your relationship with Jesus yet. You might not understand this just yet, but if you love this church, you’re already beginning to love Jesus, because we are trying to copy Him.

Last week’s lesson we talked about the fact that “*77% of Americans would identify themselves as Christians.*”

Remember the “*I’m a Doctor*” video from last week? We said becoming a doctor is about more than just saying, “Hey, I’m a doctor.” Becoming a Christian is about more than just saying, “Hey, I’m a Christian.” If God never recognizes you as a Christian, if you never become a Christian the way that God says you become a Christian, then you’re not a Christian. Not if God wouldn’t call you one.

And so we looked at a pretty tough question. I hope it challenged you. I hope that some of you went home and went, “Wow. I’ve never studied baptism like that before.”

Maybe it made you feel really uncomfortable to question what you’ve always been taught or maybe even what you did when you decided that you wanted to become a Christian.

Listen, it’s not my intention to make you feel uncomfortable. My intentions are to present you with the truth and then let you do with it whatever you need to do with it. Because the fact is sometimes, guys, the truth makes us uncomfortable.

I've been praying about this series, and I truly mean this, that if there's anybody in here tonight that's even a little bit unsure about what they were taught about being saved I'd love to listen if you'd like to talk about that. I'm here.

Tonight, is our **final lesson** in this series. And what I want to do tonight is challenge you one more time to consider a teaching that's very, very popular, very, very popular when it comes to the idea of the church.

Watch this. (minimized YouTube video)

When you buy it, you own it. So if you can follow my thought process here. Christ bought the church with His blood. When you buy it, you own it. It's His church, and He makes the rules.

See if you can follow me here. Last week, we took a good look at that idea of just saying, "Yeah, I'm a Christian." Well, what did you do to become one? Well, I just closed my eyes and decided to become one, so hey, here I am!

So see if you can follow me here.

77% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.

Now going back to what we talked about last week, there are people who claim to be Christians, who have never obeyed the Gospel as it is taught in the Scriptures.

When we obey the Gospel as it's taught in the Word of God, God adds us to His church. You following me here?

Let me ask you to consider this: if you never became a Christian the way that the Bible says, how can you be added to His church? If you never do what God tells you you must do in order for him to add you to His church, how can you be a part of His church?

You can't. If God doesn't add you to His church, you're not a part of His church.

The **word in the Bible that means church is a word that means, "community of the saved."** In other words, it's a place where saved people have community. But what if you never do what you have to do to become a part of that community? If you never do what it takes to be saved?

If you never do what it takes to be saved, you're not part of the community of the saved?

Are you following me here?

How does that tie into what we're talking about tonight?

What if there are communities of people that truly believe with all of their heart that they are part of the community of the saved (the church) but they never did what the Bible said they had to do to be saved?

...I'm going to let that sink in. Because that's a sobering thought...

After that thought sinks in I want to show you exactly what that looks like in the Word of God. Because we don't have to imagine it. Jesus lays it out for us pretty clearly.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

These guys are standing before Jesus on the Day of Judgment and they're saying, "Lord! It's us! It's great to finally meet you! We know you've seen the great things we've been doing! We've been casting out demons in your name, we've been doing some amazing things together you and I, Lord! And it's all for you, Jesus.

And Jesus says, "No. I don't know you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness."

You see, lawlessness means, they didn't follow the laws, the commands, the will of God.

I want to close with a word of caution. (What is my job?)

I didn't write that video with the idea that I'm the one who is going to judge whether or not a church was faithful. God hasn't asked me to do that. I think He's big enough to handle those things by Himself, and He hasn't asked me to be the Judge. He is the Judge.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE HEAR THIS: it is not your job to go into your school tomorrow and pronounce judgment upon all of your friends that go to a different church than you. It's not your job to make jokes about this religious group or that religious group and why you're going to heaven and why they're going to hell.

Not only is it not your job, it would be wrong. So what is your job? What is my job?

We must love God, we must love people, we must love truth, and we must love people enough to tell them the truth lovingly.

.....When you buy it, you own it. And when Christ says, "This is what my people must do, and this is how my people behave, and this is how my people worship me," I'm going to have to decide whether or not I'm going to listen to the one who owns me.