

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness Why Unbelief in the Face of Credible Evidence, John 5:41-47

Christianity Today survey of Evangelicals Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God. 73% Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God. 43%

Conclusion about Failure to Receive these credible testimonies about Christ.

Friend who was the foreman for jury on an attempted murder case.

The cause of unbelief always resides with the person. The sinner's decision about Jesus Christ is with individual.

It is not the problem with culture, even though culture tends to not be very helpful on this matter. But culture is not the reason for unbelief.

It is not the problem with the parents, even though we as parents often fail in our responsibilities to parent the way we should. Parents are not the reason for unbelief.

The problem is not with science or philosophy, even though often times the academy or the academic world seems to be at war with the knowledge of God. Neither science or philosophy are the reason for the failure to believe.

What is the cause of the rejection of Jesus Christ as He really is? What is the cause of unbelief in the face of such evidence?

Jesus identifies three main stumbling blocks for the religious leaders of His day to receive Him as He really is.

1. No love for God

John 5:41-42 I do not receive glory from people; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

2. Seeking Personal Glory

John 5:43-44 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you accept glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless many, even of the rulers, believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, so that they would not be excommunicated from the synagogue; for they loved the approval of people rather than the approval of God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 11:43-44 Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the seat of honor in the synagogues and personal greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you! For you are like unseen tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.”

Romans 9:30-33 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, but the righteousness that is by faith; however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.

Romans 9:32-33 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

Philippians 3:7-9 But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favor of people, or of God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

3. Rejecting Moses

John 5:45-47 Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

The Old Testament is about Jesus. Luke 24 quote on Emmaus. Jesus Himself refers to 20 Old Testament people and quotes from 19 Old Testament books.

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures.

Stephen in Acts 7 is an entire sermon, the longest sermon in the book of Acts, on the Old Testament.

II Timothy 4:1-2 I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be

ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction.

II Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

Three basic questions in conclusion: 1. Do you love God? 2. Do you seek the glory of God through His Son, Jesus Christ? 3. Do you submit to the Scripture?