

4th Sunday after Pentecost, 3rd Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 7/2 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/3 at 9:00

REALITY CHECK

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Part 2

Introduction

Dear Friend: In part 1 of this series, we heard that **65%** of Americans *claim* to be Christians, *BUT* only **6%** match what *the Bible says about being a Christian*. What is YOUR reality?

Part 1 focused on important facts about God:

- He is ▶Good, ▶eternal, ▶tireless, and ▶all-knowing!
- He ▶created, then He ▶promised and ▶sent His Son!
- He is now ▶controlling, ▶sustaining, and ▶providing!

Therefore: It is right for everyone to ▶respect Him, ▶trust Him, and ▶obey Him!

So, what has God commanded?

- **Part 1:** Two purposes for the Ten Commandments: **(1)** We keep them to show our love for God; *when we fall short*, **(2)** they show our need for Jesus.
- **Part 2:** ▶human life, ▶marriage, and ▶family.

1. **Human Life:** *It is precious!*
 - a. God made each person: *The Psalmist prayed:* ^{NIV} **Psalm 139:13** “...you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” // Since God’s creation of Adam and Eve, He has acted, one by one, *to knit each person together in his mother’s womb!*
 - b. Jesus died for each person: ^{NAU} **1 Peter 3:18** *...Christ also died for sins once for all... // Regarding every person who ever lived or ever would live, Jesus – on Good Friday – received each sin and God’s eternal wrath for each sin. His finished work opened the way to heaven – for all who **repent** and **believe** (Mark 1:15)!*
 - c. God commanded the death penalty: ^{NAU} **Num. 35:30** “If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death...” *God’s penalty is designed to prevent murder; in the USA, the average penalty for murder is only 13.4 years. Let us pray...* (life, Jesus, justice, abortion)
2. **Marriage:** It’s for a man and a woman: The first marriage began when God the Father brought *the first woman to the first man*. Then God said: ^{NAU} **Gen. 2:24** “...a **man** shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his **wife**; and they shall become one flesh.” **Let us pray...** (established by God, one flesh)
3. **Divorce:** The LORD said: ^{NAU} **Malachi 2:16** “...I hate divorce...” The overall USA rate is 33%; much **lower** for *churchgoers*; much **higher** for *non-churchgoers*. **Let us pray...** (forgiveness, reconciliation, faithfulness)

4. **Family:**

- a. Wives submit: ^{NAU} **Eph. 5:22** *Wives, be subject [voluntarily submit] to your own husbands, as to the Lord. // God is a God of order. Paul wrote: **God** is the head of Christ, **Christ** is the head of man, and **man** is the head of woman (1 Cor. 11:3). How are women to submit? As *believers submit to the Lord!* **Let us pray...** (God's plan is best)*
- b. Husbands love: ^{NAU} **Ephesians 5:25** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... // That means: ▶Pay attention to her, ▶see her needs, and ▶act to supply those needs – just as Jesus saw our great need for forgiveness; then He lived, died, and was raised for our salvation!* **Let us pray...** (strive for 100%)
- c. Parents teach: *Moses to Parents:* ^{NIV} **Deut. 6:6-9** *“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts [known and lived]. Impress them on your children. [How?] ▶Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ▶Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ▶Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” // **Let us pray...** (parents – know, live, and teach; children – learn and live)*
- d. Children obey: ^{NIV} **Colossians 3:20** *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. // Since parents are the visible representatives of God in the lives of*

their children (4th Comm.), *it is vital for children to honor and obey their parents!* **Let us pray...** (children – obey to God’s glory and your good)

- e. Children to parents: ^{NIV} **1 Timothy 5:4** ...if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. // For all grandparents and parents, *think about your investment into your children.* According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the average cost of raising a child through the age of 17 is **\$233,610**. In the verse above, children are called to be aware that they would not exist or would not have remained alive beyond birth apart from tremendous effort on the part of their parents and/or grandparents. So, *it is right and pleasing to God for children to take time and effort to care for their parents and grandparents when they are in need!* **Let us pray...** (grant an attitude of gratitude and compassion)

Part 3: Learn what God said about appearance and sex.

Let Us Pray: Dear F, S, and HS, though we have made a mess of Your perfect creation, You have ✦shown us mercy, ✦rescued us from condemnation, and ✦instructed us in the ways that are pleasing to You and best for us. *Help us to follow to Your glory!*

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230