

08.16.15

Almost Christianity - Week 3

Unbelievable but Believable

### Small Group Questions

1. What reputation has Christianity had in this country for a while now? Why is it important to know the reputation Jesus gave his disciples to uphold?
2. Almost Christianity believes better policies make better people. What is the fault of this thinking?
3. God hates sin because of what it does to those he loves. Do you think most people believe this is the reason Christians in our culture hate sin? Explain...
4. What things about the Almost Christianity version of the good news don't come across as good things?
5. Peter, while under custody, encouraged respect and honor of the emperor's leadership. Do you find this difficult to do in your own life? Explain. Why is it important to do as Peter instructed?
6. What can make what we believe more believable (even though it seems unbelievable?)

1.

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”  
Matthew 10:16 NIV  
2.

Almost Christianity pursues a better world through better policies. Authentic Christianity pursues a better world through better people.  
3.

Authentic Christianity doesn't begin with an invitation to behave, but with an invitation to believe.  
4.

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the **good news** that Jesus is the Messiah.  
Acts 5:42 NIV  
5.

They were a magnetic minority known for how they loved others.  
6.

How we behave affects  
what others believe.

7.

**Dear friends**, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage **war** against your soul.

1Peter 2:11 NIV

8.

God hates sin because  
of what it does to  
those He loves.

9.

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1Peter 2:12 NIV

10.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,

1Peter 2:13 NIV

11.

or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

1Peter 2:14-15 NIV

12.

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

1Peter 2:16 NIV

13.

Show proper **respect** to everyone, **love** the family of believers, **fear** God, **honor** the emperor.

1Peter 2:17 NIV

14.

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an **example**, that you should follow in his steps.

1Peter 2:21 NIV

15.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

1Peter 2:22 NIV

16.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he **entrusted** himself to him who judges justly.

1Peter 2:23 NIV

17.

Jesus' death teaches Jesus followers how to live.

18.

Jesus reminds us  
that proving oneself  
right isn't as important  
as proving oneself loving.

19.

Finally, all of you, be like-  
minded, be sympathetic,  
**love one another**, be  
compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8 NIV

20.

If you love them  
God may change them.

21.

How we behave makes what  
we believe more believable.

22.