



Sunday Teaching: 1st Nov 2020

“Putting God First” – Part 3

This is the final part of our short series looking at what it means to put God first in our lives. Ideally you should read through Part 1 and 2 first, you can find them on the church website for 18/10/20 and 25/10/20.

<https://www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk/covid-19/coronavirus--sunday-services.php>

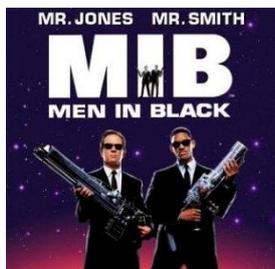
True or False

Take a look at these statements – are they true or false?

Answers at the end!

- Lightning never strikes in the same place twice
- Humans only use 10% of their brain
- A duck’s quack doesn’t echo
- You lose most of your body heat through your head
- The Great Wall of China is visible from space

In this post-modern world opinion becomes fact and fact becomes “truth”. Only this “truth” isn’t true, it’s actually a lie dressed up to look true. Furthermore, a lie told often enough or with enough enthusiasm can seem to become “truth” – look at fake news!



Do you remember when we watched *Men in Black* for our film night? Take a look at this short clip after Will Smith’s character has found out that humans are not the only living beings in the universe.

[“Imagine what you’ll know tomorrow”](#)

Part 3 - T is for Theology or Thinking

This session looks at how we should put God first in our thinking.

Watch to the YouTube clip (stop at 28m29s) and consider the **questions** below.



[Unleashed Discipleship 1 – Cris Rogers – Putting God First – Theology/Thinking 24m30s](#)

Questions

1. What do you think about this statement:

“We are far too influenced by culture than influenced by God”

Can you think of any examples, from your own experience, where this is true?

2. Why do you think it is important to put God first in our thinking? What practical difference does it make?



One way in which we can become “conformed” is by believing what the world tells us rather than what God tells us.

Remember in Part 1 when I said that the greatest lie in this world is “**you are missing out on something**”. Well this is an example of how the world and Satan tries to “conform” us.

The world says,

“You don’t have enough ‘things’.” “You need more!”

“Being a Christian isn’t fun.” “Think what you are missing out on!”

Let me tell you a story...

When I was about 14/15 years old I was invited to a friend’s house with a mixed group of friends. We had been invited to sleepover but my parents wouldn’t allow me to stay over with a group of girls and boys even if my friend’s parents were going to be there in the house. During the evening, everyone decided to watch an 18 rated horror film (very popular at that time!). I knew that watching a horror film, especially one rated above my age, was not what my parents nor God would want me to do. So I had to choose.

And I chose not to watch the film. I ended up sitting outside in the corridor playing computer games with my friend’s younger brother until my parents came to collect me at midnight.

Now on the face of it, it would seem that I was missing out on an important experience with my friends. Missing out on whispered

conversations, shared “in” jokes, missing out on being able to talk about the film or what went on at the sleepover the next day.

And in addition, I had to suffer the “why are you so weird” looks. It was pretty obvious to all that I wasn’t taking part – I wasn’t even in the room and I had to go home early!

As an adult I look back on that situation and I am so thankful to my parents and to God for the choices made that day. I’m thankful that I missed out on putting inappropriate and terrifying images into my mind for evermore. I am grateful that I missed out on a situation where things could have happened that I would have regretted for the rest of my life.



I am thankful to God that I “missed out”.

It is important for us as Christians to **know**, **believe** and **choose** to follow God’s truth FIRST and not to be influenced in our thinking and values by the world’s views and by popular culture. This means listening to God, reading his word (the Bible) and choosing to believe and act on the truth even if the world is telling you something different.

Jesus says,

“I have come to give life, and life to the full.” (John 10:10).

Reflect

We have looked at what it means to put God first in our lives.



It is only when we put God first in our lives that things will be transformed. When we put God first He will give us what we need to thrive.

Cris Rogers gives us some excellent tips for keeping God first in our lives:

1. **Re-imagine spontaneity:** Each moment is a God opportunity. Put God into your moments, and actively look to meet with Him.
2. **Reminisce:** Remember what God has done for you and say thank you.
3. **Regularly create time to be with God:** Create space for him in your day and don't let him become an afterthought.

NOW your turn

- What can you do to put God first in your life?
- What can you change?

If we were doing this session at Church, I would invite you to create a “spider diagram” in groups with your ideas.

Spend some time doing it for yourself at home. Why not contact others in YP and do a spider diagram of ideas together? – try to be specific.

This is what I came up with.

Pray/Worship
every day – first
part of the day?

Volunteer to help
at Church and
commit to it!

Memorise
Bible truths

Use a verse as
my phone
wallpaper

Look for ways
to help others

Give a tithe
of my money
to church

F.I.R.S.T

Practice an
“Attitude of
Gratitude” –
Thank God
throughout
the day

Download a
Bible App –
and use it!

Add worship
songs to my
daily playlist

Sign up to
a “verse for
the day”

Watch
Christians
videos on
YouTube

Closing Prayer and Worship



Father God, thank you that You are a faithful God, who has promised never to leave me. Thank you Jesus for coming into this world to give me a full life. Help me to remember and believe your truths.

Help me to put You first in my life. To trust You in all situations, to give back to You what You have given to me and to live in the way that You created me to live.

Lord, I will not get it right all the time, but I thank you that You always forgive me and will help me to do better. For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Amen.

[The Goodness of God – Bethel Music](#)

*“All my life you have been faithful,
All my life you have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I’m gonna sing of the goodness of God.”*



[You Say – Lauren Daigle](#)

*“The only thing that matters now
Is everything You think of me
In You I find my worth,
In You I find my identity”*

Take care all

Helen

P.S: Answer to questions page 1 - they are all false!