**Eastside Life Church**

**A World of Difference – Part 1**

*How we see things matters*

**Intro**

Childlike wonder or skepticism

Glass half empty or half full ***(With pictures)***

Nightly news: are we on different planets

**‘Bible Based’ Worldview**

* Is it possible to cut through the fog of differing viewpoints?

 -Absolutely yes.

**John 8:31-32**

***31****Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.****32****And you* ***shall know*** *the truth, and* ***the truth*** *shall make you free.”*

**Is this fashionable today?**

* Not really…the pressure is on to conform to the world’s way:

 -Morals / Sexuality / Politics / Economics / Culture

**Romans 12:1-2**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.****2****And* ***do not be conformed to this world****, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

* **How** does the world shape or mold our thinking? (even Christians)

 Family & Schooling Media Entertainment Politics

* If we don’t have a firm foundation in the Word we will suffer from a disorder called: **“Multiple Worldview Disorder”**

**The disorder involves:**

* A touch of **“secularism”** – where the material world is all that matters
* A pinch of **“socialism”** – where government establishes utopia
* A spoonful of **“new age spirituality”** – EG. add in aspects of Buddhism that seems good.
* A cup full of **“Post Modern skepticism”** – where we are suspicious of anyone who claims to know the absolute truth

**Jesus and the importance of truth**

**John 14:6**

***6****Jesus said to him, “I am* ***the*** *way,* ***the*** *truth, and* ***the*** *life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

* Kind of exclusive right?
* As God, in the flesh, He was supremely confident that He knew what he was saying and doing.
* So why not just say it.

**Earlier, He had challenged the people’s mindset to the core.**

**John 8:12-15**

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

***13****The Pharisees therefore said to Him, “You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.”*

***14****Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.****15****You judge according to the flesh…*

**How are we, as mere mortals, to judge anything then?**

 *(to discern or decide truth)*

* We need a **word grid or filter** established in our lives

 where the Word has integrity: it stands up to scrutiny.

**Doctrinal grid as a foundation to filter everything**

* Growth & mature fruitfulness depends on what we ‘believe’:

**Hebrews 6:1-2**

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection (maturity), not laying again the* ***foundation*** *of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,****2****of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

**There appears to be such turmoil in life**

* God’s refocusing on the basic foundational truths of grace & faith

produces…

* A reaction of persecution from the mainstream of society which sees Bible believing Christians as:

-Bigoted / Homophobic / Intolerant / Exclusive…

* The church is under pressure to conform to society’s drift.

**A quick excursion into the “world of weather”** *(or ‘climate’).*

* Take these terms:

 Science / Global warming / Carbon Footprint / Ice melt

 Greenhouse gasses / Facts / Alternative energy sources /

 Extreme weather events: hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts

 Corporate and Govt. funding for research

* Where you land on all of these depends on your mindset, agenda and who you have listened to:

 Bill Nye: ‘the science guy’, Al Gore etc., or

*- The ‘inconvenient truth’ is that the science is not settled -*

**Back to the Bible**

* Can we know for sure what God’s will is for us in a world with so many voices in society and even in the church:

-What with all the denominations and different doctrinal slants?

* The good news is yes!

**Some truth ‘serum’**

**John 17:17**

***17****Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

**John 1:14**

***14****And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Psalm 119:160-162**

***160****The* ***entirety*** *of Your word is truth,
And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

**Final Take Away & Communion**

**Ephesians 5:17**

*do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

* When you do it makes a world of difference.