

Being a

**WITNESS**

to a Cultural Christian

## Understanding CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY

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Perhaps one of the largest groups of unsaved “religious” people in the world are many of those who actually sit in churches.

Cultural Christians are people who profess to be born again, but have never truly repented of their sins and put their faith in Christ alone for salvation; i.e. they are “false converts”. They evidently lack “the things that accompany salvation” and there is no fruit in their lives to confirm that they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. They casually sit among Christians but they are not part of the true Church.

It’s very common to meet people who say they are Christians, yet you find yourself suspecting that something isn’t quite right. That’s why it’s critical that we encourage these loved ones to look seriously at whether their beliefs are true,

to humbly examine themselves to see if they are in the faith, and to be diligent to make their calling and election sure (1 Cor. 15:1-2; 2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Pt. 1:10).

# Understanding THEIR BELIEFS

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## CONCEPT OF GOD

One preacher said that idolatry is the fertile soil upon which a false profession of faith grows. Most cultural Christians (false converts) don't fear the holy, righteous, and just God of the Bible. Rather, they worship a god in their own image and hold to a very low view of God's holiness and a very high view of man's supposed "goodness".

## SOURCE OF WRITTEN REVELATION

A cultural Christian may believe that the Scriptures are God's Word, but he usually doesn't see them as his life's sustenance. Because he doesn't soak himself in the Word, he also likely doesn't understand the Gospel and what he needs to be saved from.

## JESUS CHRIST

The cultural Christian may say he believes that Jesus died for his sins, but his thoughts, words,

and actions prove that he is not trusting solely in Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

## SIN & SALVATION

A cultural Christian thinks lightly of sin. This is why he believes that he can be a Christian and still have habitual, unrepentant sin in his life. Further, if he is truly not born again, he may believe that good works are somehow necessary for earning salvation.

## AFTERLIFE

A cultural Christian usually lacks any depth of sound doctrine. He couldn't explain the basics of how we are justified or sanctified. He may say that Jesus is the only way to God, and yet with a little probing you will find that he usually ascribes to a form of universalism; i.e. the belief that everyone goes to Heaven. Further, he likely believes that Hell is a place only for those he thinks are worthy of punishment.

## Referencing BIBLICAL PASSAGES

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PROVERBS 16:6

By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

PSALM 7:11

God is angry with the wicked every day.

JOHN 3:16-21

Whoever trusts in Jesus is not condemned, but those who do not trust in Jesus are condemned already.

MATTHEW 7:15-27

“You will recognize them by their fruit.” A cultural Christian is recognizable by the “fruit” of their lives—is there an increased love for God and people? Is there an increased hatred of sin?

ROMANS 2:5-9

Every time they sin, they are storing up God’s wrath that will come up on them on the Day of Wrath.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Paul the Apostle’s explanation of the biblical Gospel by which we are being saved.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Paul the Apostle’s warning to examine ourselves to see if we’re in the faith.

JAMES 4:4

To be friends with the world is to be enemies with God.

2 PETER 1:1-11

A biblical exhortation for true converts to grow in godliness and to make their calling and election sure.

1 JOHN 2:1-17

Whoever claims to know Jesus but does not obey Him is a liar who is still in darkness.

## Being a WITNESS

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Since a spurious convert may say all the right things and “play the church game” well, how can we help awaken these people to their terrible condition? There are two critical questions you can ask to help expose his true state. The first is to ask him when was the last time he read his Bible. The second (and more revealing) question is, does he think that he’s a good person?

You can then use the moral Law (like a mirror) to show him his true state before a holy God. However, once you have shown the seriousness of sin, explain that seeing sin in its true light has been what has been lacking in his life. This will help him understand why he has never truly repented. Why should he repent if his sin isn’t too bad? Ignorance of the Law and the standard of God’s holiness has left

him seeing himself as basically a good person. Without the light of the Law, he has never seen the character of a holy God, known the fear of God, or understood the sacrifice of the cross.

Think of yourself as a good doctor. His patient is sure that he is healthy, but the doctor sees a number of serious symptoms on his flesh that alarm him. So he merely keeps asking questions of his patient, until the patient too is concerned for his own well-being.

Be bold and very thorough in your examination. You can do this if you are motivated by love and concern. Make sure both of those virtues are very evident in your tone.

## Additional RESOURCES

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### PRINT

*The School of Biblical Evangelism* by

Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort

(Available at the Harvest London Resource Centre and online at [livingwaterscanada.com](http://livingwaterscanada.com))

### WEB

[www.livingwaters.com/helps/TrueAndFalseConversion.pdf](http://www.livingwaters.com/helps/TrueAndFalseConversion.pdf)

For more information on evangelism training with The Cross Current, visit:

[www.thecrosscurrent.com](http://www.thecrosscurrent.com)

## About THE CROSS CURRENT

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The Cross Current is a local missions ministry and outreach broadcast bringing glory to God's Name by unifying His Church in His Gospel and helping pastors equip all Christians under their care to be Christ's witnesses everyday, everywhere, to everyone, as one body serving in accordance with the various gifts He has given each.



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