

THE BLUEPRINT FOR SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

BY: BRAD CULLEN – APRIL 13, 2004

INTRODUCTION

When I set out to write *Blueprint* it was with the purpose in mind to clearly delineate the distinct differences between what Jesus is recorded as having said by four different authors of six different books of the New Testament on one side of the ledger against those things promulgated by the three major branches of Christianity on the other.

My purpose was to attempt to show as clearly as possible the religious traditions that influence what is referred to as “the church” and demonstrate that what the namesake of Christianity, that is, the one whom the western culture of the world refers to as *Jesus Christ, or perhaps more correctly, Jesus “the Christ,” had to say goes largely ignored and in some very clear instances, Jesus’ words have even been refuted in favor of tradition.

* A growing number of readers are beginning to refer to him as Yashua or Yeshua – I honor and respect the choice of either. Both are transliterations from Hebrew to English so after reading many comments and going to suggested websites I have simply not felt the need to impose either name on others.

On the face of it, the foregoing (prior to the above note) is an amazing statement! I’ll say it in a different way: If we are going to believe what the red letter editions of the Bible reveal as the words of Jesus in the above referenced six books, that is, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts and The Revelation of Jesus Christ – then it is clear that Christianity, as we know it today, is NOT based upon what Jesus said!

I’ll stick my neck out even a bit further than that – if we are going to believe the words in these six books purported to be out of the mouth of Jesus– it becomes quite clear that from the very beginning of Christianity, as recorded in the book of Acts, the men and women that had been closest to Jesus, during what many refer to as the three years of his ministry, either forgot much of what he said – or perhaps for the expediency of dealing with practical human problems of the moment – ignored what he said. Either way it is a rather startling picture.

Think about something: Almost any dictionary or encyclopedia that lists the word “Christianity” will include the following two definitions. One, *the religion founded by Jesus Christ*. Two, *the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ*. Isn’t it just a bit ludicrous, considering these two definitions, that it is easily proven that any church that refers to itself as believing in Jesus Christ ignores and refutes (if not in word, certainly in deed) some of what Jesus Christ said?

If, in a mystical sense, Jesus Christ were the head of the religion he purportedly established, wouldn’t it be reasonable to assume that what he said would be given some key importance? Well, as we compare what Jesus said in *Blueprint* with the actions and the traditions of Christianity we are going to discover something quite startling: The words of Jesus Christ, if referred to at all, are given secondary importance!

From a practical point of view, just how important are the words of Jesus Christ? In the article that led up to *Blueprint* -- “**Did You Ever Hear This In ‘Church’?**” we examined the fact that Mohandas K. Gandhi turned the world of his day upside down by following the words of Jesus Christ – and neither he, nor anyone else would refer to him as being a “Christian!”

A different way to approach this whole subject is to say as candidly and openly as I am able – I have found, by experience, that the words of Jesus *when personally applied* are life giving and the source of absolute spiritual power. I believe with every fiber of my being (just because I believe it certainly doesn’t necessarily make it true) that the reason that Christianity for the most part is a mere shadow of reality; a mere ghost of what Jesus said *his* church could and would be, is due to the replacing of his words with religious traditions of the organized “church,”

One of the key traditions of a large segment of Protestant Christianity that has supplanted the Leadership of Jesus Christ is the insistence that the Bible and not Jesus Christ is the “Word of God.” The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ is **THE WORD**, the *logos* (logos) *i.e.* the complete or total expression of God. To repeat, many Christians refer to the Bible as “The Word” and have placed it in the position of extreme leadership instead of the “Word,” (HIM). Some even insist that the Bible and Jesus Christ are inseparable and should be considered together as the complete Word of God.

The writer of the New Testament book, Hebrews, said, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” That same writer said, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Please note that I am using the Bible to make my point here – consider that some say the Bible refers to itself as the “Word of God” and point to this same writer of Hebrews as providing the evidence. Let the reader be the judge:

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

ARE YOU WITH ME SO FAR? The author of Hebrews is NOT talking about the Bible – if he were making reference to the Bible he would be talking about the Old Testament Scriptures because, at the time Hebrews was written, the New Testament as we know it had not yet been compiled, *but that isn't even the issue*. The “Word of God,” to which the writer of Hebrews is making reference, is the very same “Word of God” to which the writer of the Gospel of John also made reference (John 1:1-3, 14) – A PERSON, The Creative part of God that later became a man! This “living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” is a PERSON, A “Him.” Here is the very next sentence from this same writer of Hebrews:

*“And there is no creature hidden from **HIS** sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of **HIM** to **WHOM** we must give account.” [EMPHASIS MINE]*

Anyone doing his or her own research among the huge glut of commentary available on this passage (Heb. 4:12,13) will find (surprise, surprise) that not everyone agrees with my conclusion, but some do. My suggestion, as always, is to go to the one Jesus said “will lead you and guide you into all truth” (not the Bible, by the way) – that Jesus referred to interchangeably as “Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth and God’s own Spirit” – take your pick and let everyone be convinced in his or her own mind. Finally I must add that if anyone thinks I am “knocking the Bible” here – consider the fact that I am using the Bible to illustrate the point. The title “Word of God,” however, I reserve for the Head of HIS church.

Something else needs to be addressed that will shed abundant light on a few things. It is generally agreed among scholars that the Gospels, Acts and the Revelation of Jesus Christ were not written until some thirty years after Jesus’ death and resurrection, beginning with Mark in about 65 A.D. and ending with John’s Gospel and his Revelation of Jesus Christ. Most scholars fix the date of John’s writings around 90 A.D. although a few ascribe a later date perhaps even after 100 A.D. The late dates for Jesus’ words to be remembered and transcribed are significant in my view for three very important reasons.

- 1) The events of Acts, written by the same author as that of the Gospel of Luke, have a span of about twenty years beginning shortly before Pentecost in roughly 31 A.D. (give or take a couple of years) and going out to the end of Paul’s ministry.
- 2) Some think that those that had been with Jesus felt the need to recall and write down his words as a deliberate corrective to certain doctrines and practices that had crept into the early church.
- 3) If we look at Jesus’ words in this light it gives us an enormous historical perspective of how tradition played a far greater role in the evolution of Christianity over its two thousand year history than we may have even considered.

If the above three points have any validity then it seems reasonable to assume that some of the correction that Matthew (Levi), Mark, Luke and John felt the need to provide might have been directed toward the writings of Paul, the earliest of which most scholars agree was about 50 A.D.

When we consider that most of the hierarchical traditions of the organized church have their foundational underpinnings in the “Pauline Epistles” it makes for an interesting backdrop. I for one love this statement of Paul:

“There have arisen arguments among you. Some saying that they are “of Paul,” or “of Apollos” or “of Peter” or “of Christ.” “How ridiculous!” He continued, “Do you think Christ is divided? Was I tortured and killed for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

In other words I am not discounting Paul or what he wrote. But it seems that even Paul, if the question were put to him, would put far more credence upon the words of Jesus than his own – and that conclusion drawn on the basis of his own writings.

I feel the need to end this introduction with a true story that is a painful part of my past. I walked away (I thought temporarily) from my marriage of twenty-five years for what I thought at the time were justifiable reasons. To let everyone know just how painful it was to me, after twenty-five more years since I left, I still emotionally want to justify my leaving on the basis of several factors. I have learned that there is no justifying it, I was wrong and I admit it, and by admitting it the door is opened to God’s love, mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Now comes the interesting part of the story. As I say, I realized at the time that I was wrong and I wanted to go back and make amends. I asked for wisdom about how to go back without perpetuating more of the same problems that caused the breakup in the first place.

I longed to go back. Yet I knew I wasn't supposed to go back! I shared this with my close friend and associate, a Christian psychiatrist, that I felt the Holy Spirit was telling me not to go back. I stated that I had been shown that I had left for the "wrong" reasons and of that I had little doubt, but that I was not supposed to go back. After we spent several hours over a span of a few days together discussing it, he supported me in my decision and concurred with me that I was "led" in the decision not to go back.

A week after our discussions he called me to make an appointment for lunch. He told me at the table that he had shared my statement with the pastor of a church he attended occasionally – that the Holy Spirit was telling me not to go back "home."

In response, the man had said to him, "I don't know what spirit he is listening to, but it is not the *Holy Spirit!*" I reacted to my friend's narrative with a simple, "wow." Then I asked him what he thought of what the man had said.

He looked at me and said, "I know that I can never go back there again – I am afraid for him." I asked him what he meant. He told me, "I know that you have been led by the Holy Spirit not to return to your wife. I don't understand it all, but I believe that is the truth. If it *is* the truth then the man has made a classic statement of 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.'"

About six weeks later, my friend called me and suggested we get together. I went by his office to pick him up to go to one of our favorite spots for lunch. As soon as we were in my car, without any preamble he launched into what he wanted to tell me:

"_____ (The aforementioned church pastor) "has just left his wife and kids and resigned the church." I had to immediately park the car to hear him out without distraction. As the story unfolded, told by the wife of the man to my friend's wife, "He just said he was through with the ministry" (he'd been a church pastor for almost twenty years and the pastor of that particular independent, "Community Bible Church" for over ten years) "and went to live by himself in another state, though she suspects he may be with another woman."

Then my friend said something that caused both of us to sit silently for several minutes. "All I know is when he made that statement about 'whatever spirit you were listening to, it wasn't the *Holy Spirit,*' I sensed that at that very moment he had opened himself to something he would regret for the rest of his life."

I finally broke the silence, "Do you think he is aware of the dynamics behind what may have happened?" His answer was a simple, whispered, "I don't know." We sat quietly for another several minutes. We agreed that we weren't hungry and drove to a nearby park and walked quietly together.

He stopped walking abruptly, turned to face me and said, "You know, I have often asked patients if they thought that God would give direct instructions to a man to marry a prostitute? And they always react with horror and say that God wouldn't do such a thing. I point them to the book of Hosea in which that is exactly what God told the prophet Hosea to do. Of course I do that to shake them from some of their doctrinal positions that are contributing to their own emotional problems – based on Christian tradition in total ignorance of what the Bible says."

Holy Spirit of God, Jesus promised that you would lead and guide us into all truth. I lay down my preconceived ideas in before you. I want to do only the will of the Father and I want you to guide me to write what will penetrate the veil of deception and bring us all to Your truth alone!

THE BLUEPRINT

One sure way to end bondage to religious doctrine is to hold it up to the light of the words of Jesus in the original languages. When I began to saturate myself with Jesus' words and began to actively apply them – and not merely to put them to memory – but to *do* what Jesus said to do I began to experience spiritual freedom and clarity.

When we see what Jesus intended for his church – and we compare it with what has been foisted upon us as "the church" we see some rather insidious forces at work under the direction of a spirit Principality, the "spirit of Religion."

"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." – a voice John heard from heaven in his Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 18:4).

The Leader and Teacher of Jesus' church – compare that to the leadership of “the church” that has been foisted upon us. What's the difference?

BLUEPRINT #1

“Do not allow others to refer to you by any title that assumes a position of spiritual authority or superiority. You have but one Teacher and Leader, the Christ. You are all to minister to one another in the same equality that brothers and sisters are equal. Don't refer to any human being as your spiritual father either. You have one Father and He is in the unseen realm of spirit.” -Jesus-

The presence and power of God upon each individual ministering to one another in equality and giving all glory to God. The foregoing is what signifies the church Jesus established -- as opposed to “the church” with men having no *dunamis* (miracle working power, but ecclesiastic authority conferred upon them by men also having no *dunamis*. These men with ecclesiastic authority and no power presiding over powerless spectators sitting in pews in the manner traditions dictate “the church” is conducted.

As I attempted to apply these words of Jesus, the first thing I did was to ask people to please stop referring to me as “pastor” and I refused to refer to anyone else except by their given name or “brother” or “sister.” I tried to do this while I was *in* the organized “church.” I found it impossible. When I finally came “out of her” it was simple. This religious tradition of human hierarchy of the “church” is an *insidious force that is impossible to recognize from the inside.

* Insidious: A sinister, dangerous force working at the *inside* or core of a system.

If we think that what he said here isn't important we might want to remember what Jesus said rather than what the system teaches or our own value system dictates: **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”** And, **“What's the point of calling me ‘Lord,’ if you don't do what I tell you to do?”**

Was I being too legalistic here? Perhaps – and the pressure not to follow Jesus' words literally was certainly intense. One example of just how intense the pressure was: The pastor of an affiliated church in another town suggested that if I kept insisting on following Jesus' words literally I would wind up a bloody stub. He pointed to Matthew 5:29-30:

“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

He told me that I needed to regain a sense of balance.

I recalled during a series of “deliverance” meetings in Alaska about eighteen months before, at which I'd been the featured speaker, a woman coming up to me asking if I could help her son who about ten years previously had chopped off his own penis with a hatchet by using this same passage. That story had a marvelously and excitingly happy ending, but the issue raised by the recollection of that rather appalling legalistic application of Jesus' words was right there staring me in the face.

Was I carrying this too far? Following Jesus' relatively more easy to follow directive about not calling or being called by any title that implied spiritual authority or superiority was causing me all kinds of difficulties – not just within church circles, but also within my own family. It certainly would be a lot easier to not follow what Jesus said literally as my friend suggested. Then Jesus words hit me full in the face:

“If anyone comes to me and does not turn his back as if in hatred on his own family including his wife and children and yes, mother, father, brothers and sisters as well, he cannot be my disciple.”

As I prayed and fasted over what to do, the picture became clearer and clearer. That in order to walk in His presence and power I needed to follow His words – and when confronted with my own many failures I was to apply something else he had taught, that is, not to get caught up in the trap of trying to prove how “good” I was, but to simply acknowledge my failure to the point of dramatically beating on my chest and crying out, “Oh God, be merciful to such a sinner as I.”

What freedom I have found that simple act brings – the righteousness of God! That's the promise! I never would have realized the simple power of it had I not made a commitment to follow Jesus' words and FAILED, then experienced his complete forgiveness and the impetus to keep on doing what he said to do no matter how much friends and family and my own religious proclivities were telling me to do otherwise!

The building containing Jesus' church – compare it to the “church” that has been foisted upon us. What’s the difference?

BLUEPRINT #2

“Whenever two or three of you gather together and operate in my character and in my authority, you may know with a certainty that I am right there with you.” -Jesus-

“Going to church” by sitting in rows of seats or pews facing a pulpit in a building with a traditional Christian cross either mounted or depicted on it and claiming to be gathering together in the “name of Jesus” is meaningless. The words in the original language translated in English as “gathering in my name” refer to each individual having the same character and authority as Jesus.

What is the character of Jesus Christ? He continually wanted only the will of his Father.

What is the authority of Jesus Christ? In his pre-existence, that is, before becoming a man, he created the universe and everything in it.

When we are in the same character and authority as Jesus Christ we don’t “go to church” we ARE the church! Doing the very same kinds of things he did.

“The very same miracles you have seen me do, anyone that believes in me will do also, in fact even greater miracles.” -Jesus-

How did Jesus perform miracles? **HE DIDN'T!** This is by his own admission: **“The Father who lives within me, He performs the miracles.”** It is the same with us. “I” can do nothing; my Dad who lives within me performs the miracles and gets all the glory.

The difference between Jesus' church and “the church” of the world is that “the church” hides behind doctrines that have nothing to do with what Jesus said and did. The members of the *real* church are not afraid to ask, “How come we couldn't get rid of that evil spirit?”

I have found in my own life that when I am unable to do what should be possible, according to the sayings of Jesus, that if I go to whom Jesus referred interchangeably as the “Spirit of truth, God's own Spirit and Holy Spirit” and about whom he said **“will lead you into all truth”** and ask openly, “how come I am not able to do what Jesus said I would be able to do?” I am relatively quickly given the answer. It is a far easier lesson in my view to find out what I am lacking and correct it than to make excuses based on a doctrines of the “church.” The latter leads only to bondage to lukewarm religious practices.

The people gathering in Jesus' church – compare the activity to self-satisfied, powerless spectators of a ritual in the “church” foisted upon us. What’s the difference?

BLUEPRINT #3

“You couldn't do it because your belief was not at a high enough level. I'm telling you that if you have enough faith nothing will be impossible to you. But regarding spirits like this – you need the kind of faith that comes only as a result of much fasting and prayer.” -Jesus-

Everyone I know that goes through periods of much fasting and prayer while EXPECTING an increase in faith gets it! “Expectancy is the breeding ground of miracles” (that from a sister in Las Vegas, Nevada – she uses it as a slogan on all her printed business materials).

But how do we acquire the character and the authority of Jesus Christ so that we ARE the church and not “going to church” (“as is the manner of some”)?

The people in Jesus' church are operating in power, BEING something – compare that to “the church” that has been foisted upon us where the people sitting there are being urged week after week that they should do something.

BLUEPRINT #4

“John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit in just a few days and when He comes upon you, you will be miracle workers in the same way you have seen me work miracles -- because you shall no longer have your own identity; when people look upon you they will witness me!” -Jesus-

The foregoing is literally what Jesus said in the original language – amazing how diluted it has gotten through mistranslation, religious tradition and doctrinal argument over non-essentials.

The people in Jesus’ church are looking to Jesus to be their model – compare that to the “church” that has been foisted upon us where people are led to participate in a powerless, religious ritual.

BLUEPRINT #5 ****

This morning while proof-reading what I have written so far, preparing to put the finishing touches on *Blueprint* I decided to take a break to check my e-mail. This one from a man in Halifax, Nova Scotia was in my inbox:

Dear Brad:

you never stop amazing me. Your article on Gandhi was wonderful. My wife printed it out and is right now taking it over to our daughter and son-in-law to deliver it. We rented the video movie “Gandhi” a couple of months ago and watched it with them. Please send Blueprint for spiritual freedom to us.

I have to tell you something. Our introduction to your writings was the book *Unlocking the Treasure* that we saw on the Sigler website. Since then we have read many of your articles on your own website. God is using them to change our lives. What I didn’t realize is that a second and third reading of *Unlocking the Treasure* would be like seeing it for the first time! A few days ago I read *Living Excited* the second time and I saw things in there that to tell you the truth I didn’t believe I had ever seen them before. My wife had the very same experience.

Please don’t stop what you are doing you are being used by God. Please keep sending us all the articles and we are looking forward to this one called the blue print.

(end)

What is interesting about this e-mail is that after proofreading *Blueprint* I felt that I needed to provide more “back up” to several things that I had written. I had a feeling of deep unrest and felt that it was going to take several more days to finish it. Yet I also had the nagging feeling that it needed to go out soon.

When in doubt pray! What do I do with this? I asked out loud, should I just trash it and start all over again? The idea came to just take a break and answer e-mails. BANG! There was the answer from Nova Scotia, Canada. *Living Excited* has been the catalyst for so many people to break out of religion into Holy Spirit generated power and here was this e-mail from Nova Scotia, Canada. I Clicked onto the website and read part one of *Living Excited* – and knew I had my answer. PLEASE finish reading to the end and then go to “**LIVING EXCITED**” – trust me, it will make *Blueprint* come ALIVE!

I had planned to insert two more “blueprints” (#5 & #6)

Instead I’m excited about stopping here and hoping you read *Living Excited* (again, if you’ve already read it before. I just read it again – and it’s dynamite!) I’m not boasting because, as you know, “I” don’t take credit for writing anything!

One last note about Blueprint #5 (****) above:

This was intended to demonstrate the difference between how Jesus prayed and “the church” teaches and practices “prayer.” It is thoroughly amazing because the words he used in prayer in the original language are an indication of just how much religious doctrine about Jesus is just plain false. Check out his prayer in the original language in *Living Excited*.

Blessings, Brad

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