



THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH & HATE

*“If My people, who are called by My name,
will humble themselves and pray and seek My face
and turn from their wicked ways, then
will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin
and will heal their land.”*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

How did the early Christians change the world?

2 GREAT EXAMPLES Jesus and Paul

1. Built bridges to people they _____!

¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” MARK 2:1-5

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting ... and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious ²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else ACTS 17:16-33

2. Constantly at odds with the religious people they _____!

¹³Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. ¹⁴They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? ¹⁵Should we pay or shouldn't we?" But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." ¹⁶They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. ¹⁷Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." **MARK 12:13-17**

⁶Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead." ⁷When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided ⁹There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong with this man," they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" **ACTS 23:6-9**

3. Didn't try to _____ of people outside the faith.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **JOHN 3:17**

¹²What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³God will judge those outside. **1 CORINTHIANS 5:12**

4. Committed to more than just being _____.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **MATTHEW 5:14-16**

⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. **COLOSSIANS 4:6**

FINAL THOUGHT

What's for breakfast Wednesday morning?

Jesus is the _____.

²¹Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. **LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23**

THE POWER OF PRAYER

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and **pray and seek my face** and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." **2 CHRONICLES 7:14**