



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Volunteers for Thrift Store...THANK YOU!!!
- Volunteers for Hope flyer distribution
- FASTING & PRAYING
- Security concerns after shooting in Texas church (Philip & Marcia Johnson; Brian Shoop; ushers)

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

Mark 9:23–24 ²³ And Jesus said to him, " **'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes.**" ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

John 20:31 ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 7:24 ²⁴ "Do not judge (evaluate, discern, perceive, critique, conclude, believe) according to appearance, **but judge** (evaluate, discern, perceive, critique, conclude, believe) with righteous judgment (Jesus, The Word)."

The Thanksgiving holiday is a perfect illustration in how we Christians should view thankfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ **in everything give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2 Kings 6:15–17 ¹⁵ Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

1 Chronicles 11:22 ²² Benaiah (*Jehovah builds*) the son of Jehoiada (*Jehovah knows*), the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, mighty in deeds, struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion inside a pit on a snowy day. (*worst possible enemy, worst possible place, worst possible conditions*)

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Isaiah 11:3 ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

1. Belief's focus is always God Himself (vs 1-5)
2. Belief's power is always in God's Word (vs. 6-9)
3. Belief's path is always self-denial (vs 10)
4. Belief always causes division (vs 11-16)
 1. Division always based on God's Word (vs 16)
5. Belief always results in a willing heart (vs 17)
6. Belief always results in God's glory (18)
 - Rom. 4:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23
 - 1 Peter 4:11

Romans 4:20–21 ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

1 Corinthians 10:31 ³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:23 ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

1 Peter 4:11 ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

1. We live by the law of love (vs. 19-23)

- Romans 13:8-10; James 1:25; 2:8-13
- 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-12
- Matthew 5:43-48

Romans 13:8–10 ⁸ Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

James 1:25 ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 2:8–13 ⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

1 John 3:16–18 ¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 4:7–12 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Test:

Matthew 5:43–48 ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

1. We live by the law of love (vs. 19-23)
2. We 'judge' with righteous judgment (vs. 24)
 - Isaiah 11:1-5; 1 Peter 2:21-23
 - 2 Critical questions:
 - Is the person a believer or unbeliever?
 - Matthew 18:15-17 or 1 Cor. 5:9-13
 - Is the issue an essential or non-essential?
 - Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8, 10:23-33

Isaiah 11:1-5 ¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ **But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;** And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

1 Peter 2:21-23 ²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 ⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

-Romans 14

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

• Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)

– *Psalms 139:23-24; Jeremiah 17:9-10*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)

– *1 Cor. 4:5; Psalms 19:14; Proverbs 16:2*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)
- Check your guidelines (*Is my perspective Biblical?*)

– *1 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalms 19:7-11*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)
- Check your guidelines (*Is my perspective Biblical?*)
- Check your process (*What did Jesus do?*)

– *Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15; James 5:19-20*

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– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)
- Check your guidelines (*Is my perspective Biblical?*)
- Check your process (*What did Jesus do?*)
- Check your power (*Am I 'filled' with God's Spirit?*)

– *Luke 4:1, 14; Ephesians 5:18*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What does 'belief' look like...

– Critical Criteria:

- Check your heart (*Is there sin in my life?*)
- Check your motives (*Why am I doing this?*)
- Check your guidelines (*Is my perspective Biblical?*)
- Check your process (*What did Jesus do?*)
- Check your power (*Am I 'filled' with God's Spirit?*)
- Check your facts (*Do I see the situation accurately?*)

– *Matthew 18:15-16*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - *Deuteronomy 8:3; Joshua 1:8*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - Does it violate my conscience?

– *Romans 14:22-23*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - Does it violate my conscience?
 - Does it violate the conscience of another?
 - *Romans 14:21; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13; 10:23-33*

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - Does it violate my conscience?
 - Does it violate the conscience of another?
 - Will it advance God's Kingdom?

– *1 Corinthians 9:22-23*

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-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - Does it violate my conscience?
 - Does it violate the conscience of another?
 - Will it advance God's Kingdom?
 - What do my spiritual leaders think?

– *Hebrews 13:17*

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-What 'belief' looks like...

- Critical Considerations for non-essentials:
 - Does it violate a Biblical command or principle?
 - Does it violate my conscience?
 - Does it violate the conscience of another?
 - Will it advance God's Kingdom?
 - What do my spiritual leaders think?
 - Does it please my heavenly Father?

– *2 Corinthians 5:9; John 8:28-29*