

## “ENTRANCE INTO THE COUNTERCULTURE”

### NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH

DR. R. GARY ASHLEY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

- I.T. #1: Under the FIRST Covenant, the Israelite nation was to be God’s counterculture but they nation failed.
- I.T. #2: Under the SECOND Covenant, the Church/Christians are to be God’s counterculture.
- I.T. #3: Christians would be wise to learn from Israel’s FAILURE.
- I.T. #4: Jesus begins his sermon by revealing STEPS to enter the counterculture.

Text: **Matthew 5:1–6** *One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. <sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

### FOUR STEPS

#### I. TO ENTER GOD’S COUNTERCULTURE, ONE MUST BE AWARE OF THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION. **Matthew 5:3** *“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

- A. We must understand how God MADE us.
1. God gave us a BODY to serve as a spacesuit.
  2. God gave us a SOUL comprised of mind, will and emotions.
  3. God gave us a SPIRIT to enable us to know God.
- B. God gave only ONE rule with a warning. **Genesis 2:16–17** *But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—<sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”*
- C. Man chose to REBELL against God. **Genesis 3:6** . . . *So she (woman) took some of the forbidden fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he (man) ate it, too.*
- D. Man’s sin produced SEVERE consequences.
1. Man is going to die a PHYSICAL death.
  2. Man’s SPIRIT died.
  3. Man’s SOUL (mind, will and emotions) was adversely affected.
- E. Sin separated MAN from GOD.
- F. Christians must pray for the lost for the Holy Spirit to convict people of their spiritual CONDITION. **John 16:8** *And when the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of its sin. . .*

K.T.: A person is poor in spirit when he realizes he is HELPLESS concerning his own salvation.

#### II. TO ENTER GOD’S COUNTERCULTURE, ONE MUST NOT ONLY BE AWARE OF HIS REBELLION AGAINST GOD; HE MUST HAVE DEEP SORROW FOR HIS REBELLION. **Matthew 5:4** *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Mourn: to experience DEEP grief due to depressing circumstances.

- K.T. #1: A mourning person would say, “My life is a mess because I have been living in REBELLION against God!”
- K.T. #2: Most people will never mourn over their rebellion because it is horribly PAINFUL. Examples would be Adam and Eve.
- K.T. #3: Mourning people are blessed people for they have taken a major STEP toward salvation.

- A. King DAVID. **Psalm 51:2–3** *Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.*
- B. Apostle PETER. **John 21:17** *Peter was hurt (deeply saddened) that Jesus asked the question a third time.*
- C. Prophet ISAIAH. **Isaiah 6:5** *Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. . .”*

#### III. TO ENTER GOD’S COUNTERCULTURE, ONE MUST MOVE FROM PRIDE TO HUMILITY. **Matthew 5:5** *God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.*

Pride: to be stiff necked or unsubmitive to ANY authority.

Humble: to bow low or to become submissive to GOD’S authority.

- A. JESUS: **Luke 9:23** *Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*
- B. PAUL: **Galatians 2:20** *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- C. DISCIPLES: **Matthew 4:19–20** *Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” <sup>20</sup> And they left their nets at once and followed him.*

#### IV. TO ENTER GOD’S COUNTERCULTURE, ONE MUST HAVE NEW DESIRES. **Matthew 5:6** *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

- A. Before salvation, a person craves the things of the FLESH; after salvation, a person craves the things of GOD.
- B. A truly saved person has a HEART transplant. **Ezekiel 36:26** *And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.*

F.T.: A person can pray a prayer, join a church, be baptized, and become religious and yet go to HELL for eternity.