

“FOUR SIGNS OF COUNTERCULTURITES” NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH

**DR. R. GARY ASHLEY
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- I.T.: #1: Moses received the TEN Commandment on a Mountain and Jesus preached the SERMON on the Mount on a Mountain.
- I.T.: #2: The first FOUR commands have to do with vertical relationship and the last SIX have to do with our horizontal relationships.
- I.T.: #3: The first FOUR Beatitudes reveal how to be saved, the last FOUR reveal the Signs of Salvation.
- I.T. #4: The four steps of salvation are awareness of SINS, deep sorrow for SINNING, a turning away from a life rebellion to living a life of REBELLION, and a CHANGED life.

Matthew 5:7–12 *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

FOUR SIGNS

I. COUNTERCULTURITES ARE MERCIFUL PEOPLE.

Matthew 5:7 *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Merciful: a person who shows leniency, compassion, or forgiveness; especially towards someone who has OFFENDED them.

- A. God extended mercy to us when he SAVED us. **Ephesians 2:4–5** *But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)*
- B. Once we receive mercy, we are to be EXTENDERS of mercy. **Galatians 6:16** *May God’s peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.*
- K.T.: Before salvation, we were extenders of WRATH; after salvation, we become extenders of MERCY!
- C. We needed mercy in the past and we will need mercy in the FUTURE. **Matthew 5:7** *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
- D. Merciful people are distribution centers for MERCY. **Acts 10:38** *Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*
- E. Mercy is a SURE sign of salvation. **Matthew 25:35–36** *For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’*

II. COUNTERCULTURITES MAINTAIN A PURE HEART.

Matthew 5:8 *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.*

Pure heart: in a state of ritual cleanliness or FREE of guilt and sin.

A. God gives us a pure heart at the moment of SALVATION. **Romans 8:1** *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Isaiah 1:18* *Come now, let’s settle this,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.*

K.T.: The problem is that we live in a DIRTY world, and we must maintain a CLEAN heart.

B. How do we maintain a PURE heart?

1. A pure heart must be our GOAL! **Psalm 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.*
2. Close out the day by praying for past FAILURES! **Psalm 26:2** *Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart.*
3. Begin the day by praying for future VICTORIES! **Matthew 6:13** *And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

III. COUNTERCULTURITES ARE PEACEMAKERS.

Matthew 5:9 *God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.*

- A. BEFORE salvation, we were troublemakers; AFTER salvation we become peacemakers.
- B. Christians can have peace with GOD, SELF and OTHERS!
- C. Christians can have peace in the midst of the STORMS of life.
- D. Christians can be peacemakers between GOD and MAN.
- E. Christians can be peacemakers between MAN and MAN. **1 Peter 3:11** *Search for peace, and work to maintain it. Hebrews 12:14* *WORK at living in peace with everyone. . . Romans 12:18* *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

IV. COUNTERCULTURITES ARE PERSECUTED.

Matthew 5:10–12 *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

- A. The definition: the persecuted have a TARGET on their back.
- B. The attack: to mock is unjust INSULTS, to persecute is deliberate HARM and lies are FALSE accusations!
- C. The command: be exceedingly filled with JOY.
- D. The reason: Christians will be rewarded in HEAVEN for faithfulness.
- E. The example: The O.T. prophets set the STAGE.

P.Q.: Do you bear the SIGNS of a Counterculturist?