
Text: [Colossians 3:1-4](#) (NIV)

Republic July 20, 2025

Title: "The Effects Of Christianity on the World and Other People"

I. Effects on the world

There is absolutely no doubt that this world is a better place than it would be, because of Christians. If no one offered a different view of what society thinks, society will stay the same, or get worse. If no one speaks up to help make the world better, the world stays the same. If no one did things that made the world better, society will stay the same, or get worse.

Two weeks ago I mentioned to you the following:

- Orphanages, a place for children who lost their parents, or they were abandoned by their parents, most were started by Christians.
- Long before the development of hospitals, Christians were the main ones helping the helpless, the sick, and those with financial needs.
- Most hospitals were started by Christians. Many of which, still have Christian, or at least religious, names. Some of these hospitals were given names associated with bible saints like St Joseph hospital. Other names are Mercy hospital, which is a Catholic hospital, St. Maries Hospital, and there are a bunch in St. Louis like Missouri Baptist hospital, St. Lukes, Barnes Jewish hospital, Christian hospital, or Christian Northwest hospital. Look at the history of hospitals and you will find most were started by Christians.
- Most organizations to help the poor and needy, like the Salvation Army, were started by Christians. Other great organizations today are Samaritan Purse, and Convoy of Hope.

Here is another great point: The United States has definitely helped change the world for the better. They have stepped in many times to take down evil nations, and have sent aid to other nations. Even though we have a separation of church and state in our constitution, in most ways we really are a Christian nation, or we could at least say, a religious nation.

Atheists do not believe at all in God. Agnostics believe a god started all of this, but He is not personal in anyone's lives. They believe He doesn't answer prayers, nor is there an afterlife. Tell me how many great things have come about in America through Atheists and Agnostics.

Even if you were an Atheist or an Agnostic, you absolutely could not deny the powerful impact that Christianity, and even the Jews, have had on their own nation, and the world.

Today, I want to add a few more:

During the Roman Empire, families were encouraged to abandon unwanted children and allow infants to die. Christians spoke against these acts; they rescued infants, cared for

orphans, widows, and the outcasts of society. Early Christians voluntarily pooled their resources & the church property in order to support orphans, widows, the sick, prisoners, the disabled, and others in need of help.

In the 1800's, during the Industrial Revolution in Europe, people moved into the cities to find work. Many found salvation instead. The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth ([1829-1912](#)), a minister to help the poorest people with food & shelter. Thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, and drunkards were among Booth's first converts.

YMCA The Young Men's Christian Association that today serves more than 20 million people worldwide was founded by British Christian George Williams in the 1840's. The YMCA was formed with the purpose of "the winning of young men to Jesus Christ, and the building in them of Christian character."

Many, many, many Christian leaders were also heavily involved in helping others, names most of us have never heard of. Names like George Mueller, an Evangelist who started orphanages in England, and over his lifetime helped 10,000 orphaned or abandoned children. Then there is a woman named Amy Carmichael who lived in India helped rescue young girls who otherwise would have become temple prostitutes. Then another woman whose name is still well known today. She was called Mother Theresa. Who knows how many total people she helped who were poor and needy. My guess is the best of all at it.

Even closer to our generation we have a minister and his wife named Jim and Carol Cymbala who built a dying Brooklyn Church out of reaching drug addicts, thieves, and prostitutes. That church today is named Brooklyn Tabernacle, and has around 10,000 attending each week. Lives who were changed because they found who God wanted them to reach.

This is not even counting the countless amounts of Christians in various churches all over the world, helping to reach the needy, helping to change alcoholic dads, and drug addicted moms into transformed lives, new dads and new moms to their children.

Christianity has truly made the world much better than it ever would have been.

II. Our Own Effect on Other People

We do not have to be people starting organizations. We can be an impact wherever we are at. We can impact many, or at least a few.

What God meant the Christian life to be like is that all Christians would do things, and say things like He wants them done, and things said. He is in charge. The more God comes through our lives, the more good effect we can have. You see it was God working through

all those organizations I mentioned. It was God working through people who listen and care. We all have the ability to quit being so selfish in our lives and instead, allow God to work through us. If we call ourselves Christian, we all have the ability to impact others for the better wherever we are at, whatever we do in life. I try to sneak it in at least a little in every

Defensive Driving class. Yesterday, for example, I talked about how much fun our church is on Sunday mornings. I almost always talk about Trooper Bob and the good he has done in this world. Yesterday a fun guy was sitting next to an older lady and he decided to call her Grandma for the rest of the class. After a break they came back laughing saying they took my Trans Am out for a test drive of over 100mph. Well, Grandma asked me when class was over "Are you the Pastor here?" I said "Yes I am." She said "Well some of us was wondering that on break."

We can impact people wherever we are at. All we have to do is care, and then let God do the rest through us. JUST CARE to look. The more God comes through your life, the more impact you will have. HE is the key. We are not smart enough to do it ourselves. Our job is to care, and to listen to the Holy Spirit, and then say or do what God wants. The more we get out of the way, the less selfish we live our lives, the more impact we will have.

Here is the problem. The opposite of all of this can happen as well. Professing Christians allow too much of themselves to flow through their lives. Too many attitudes, too many opinions, too many selfish things. Instead of impacting lives for the good, they are presenting the ugliness of themselves.

You see the Christian life is meant to be all about being unselfish. Our self, our opinions, our attitudes, our judgements should always be put aside in order to allow God to come through. And, at times, that is hard as we deal with people.

[Colossians 3](#) says it best:

[Colossians 3:1-4](#) (NIV)

- ¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
- ² Set **your minds** on things above, not on earthly things. (*not on selfish things*)
- ³ **For you died, and your life is now hidden** with Christ in God.
- ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

If you have never been told this, or you still do not get this, God wants to operate through all Christians. But, He wants to be in charge. He does not need our opinions. He does not need our ideas. We need HIS ideas and HIS opinions. God wants to flow through people's lives. He does not want the ugliness of ourselves to flow through our lives. In other words, we exchange our lives for His life.

You have a choice. Be completely led by God so He flows through you. Or, keep acting like a religious leader of Jesus day, and do things for God, which all comes from you.

The choice in the Christian life, since the days of Jesus, has always been between doing things for God, or doing things through God. It is the choice between your own ideas of doing things, or God's ideas. It will always be the difference between acting like a Pharisee of Jesus' day, or being led by the Spirit.

A person might think "Well, I am not like a Pharisee." Here is what I would say to that, if you don't let God guide your thinking, your mouth, your attitude, then you will come up with your own ideas of what we all should, or should not do. In other words, you are exactly like a Pharisee. It's your own rules, your own ideas. Life is all about you and what you think. And, it's ugly. There is nothing about that life that would make anyone want to get saved and follow God.

What God wants is to talk through you, to touch others through you. He knows that "The God the world sees" comes, most of the time, through a professing Christian. And, if that is messed up, you are hurting what God wants to do. You are the problem.

What God do you present to the world?

- The God of opinions, and what is wrong with each of us, to the point that people are afraid to say or do anything around you, lest they be judged?
- The God of doing things for God, that we were never told by Him to do, or say?
- The God of grudges. Someone does us wrong, in our own mind, and we hold a grudge. If we do that, we show the world that grudges is okay with God.
- The God of being a loner, not involved in other's lives?

What God flows through you? The true God, or "the filtered" god you try to make Him to be? A filter prevents something from going through. In essence, you block the real God from coming through your life, because you are too full of yourself.

Many Christians need to have a "Come to Jesus" moment over their wrong view of God, and what God does, and does not, want from them. They need to see themselves as God sees them, because they obviously are not trying to do so right now.

Ask yourselves these questions:

If I was the only Christian someone ever knew, would they want to be a Christian? Or, would they want nothing to do with God?

Would they see things in me that "turn them off" so bad they would not want anything to do with God?

I have met many, many professing Christians, to whom if I was unsaved, I would want nothing to do with the God they present. They would turn me off completely about God. And, the problem with every one of them is they were all clueless on how "far off" they were. Satan is a deceiver, and the Christian who refuses to look at themselves, and try hard to hear God, will live a deceived, ineffective, life for God. They will be more help to Satan than to God.

Discussion Introduction:

If you asked me what I believe are the biggest hindrances of a Christian, in other words, what keeps them from being what God wants or even hinders God, I would answer you with at least 5 things:

- 1. Many Christians are not fully committed to God.** Most think they are, but it is because they never look at themselves. They don't see it because they don't live like David of the bible lived, where he was constantly asking God to search him, search his life.

When we do not look at ourselves, this leaves openings for Satan to work through our lives. We think we are doing all this good stuff for God, and we do not see we are doing what we think is best.

Keep in mind that in Jesus' day, it was those type of people who killed Jesus, the uncommitted religious leaders. They didn't listen to God. They were smart enough on their own. They had their own ideas of what they thought God wanted from people. They did the things they thought God needed done. It was all about their own ideas.

If you are not fully committed to God, you are wide open for Satan to work through.

A 2nd major hindrance for professing Christians is:

- 2. Too many Christians do not try hard to always hear God.** They are too full of their own opinions and too full of doing things "for God." In other words, they think they are fighting for God, when all they are really doing is what they think needs to happen. God is not in it at all. Or, if God does occasionally work through them on a particular thing, it will be a situation where God worked in them inspite of themselves. It will be kind of like how God worked through Samson, or even Balaam who had to have a donkey talk to him.

Both of those are perfect examples of God working through someone inspite of themselves.

The 3rd major hindrance for Christians is:

- 3. Too many Christians are not truly humble.** They may be humble in a few areas, but they are arrogant and full of themselves in other areas. They have no clue about all the ways they are prideful. And, as a result, their pride will constantly keep coming out of them, and will constantly cause problems in their lives, and through their lives. And, worse yet, they are a hinderance to what God wants.

Every Christian needs to constantly evaluate each of their thinking, their attitude, their comments, and their actions by asking themselves *"Is that of God, is that of humility, or is that of pride?"*

The 4th major hindrance for Christians is:

- 4. Too many Christians are judgemental.**

We all can get frustrated at other people, or not like something someone did, or said. We all can disagree with other people from time to time. Welcome to life. But, judgemental people are constantly looking for what is wrong with someone else. And, they take it to the point of condemning that person. That is never our job.

What is sad is they want to see the speck in someone else's eyes while ignoring the log in their own eye. We are not called to judge. I have never met a judgemental person who does not have a lot of issues on their own, and pride will be one of them.

The 5th major hindrance for Christians is:

- 5. Christians will not look at themselves.** They want to make everything with God about other things, like how God does incredible miracles, or we just need faith, or look at this cool thing I found in the bible. They have no clue how much they are a 'turn off' to other people because they will not look at themselves. David will always be the example of a guy who looked at himself a lot. Joseph will always be a guy who could take any bad circumstance caused by others, and turn it into something good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What personality traits "turn you off" the most about professing Christians?

What do you NOT admire about a professing Christian?

What personality traits coming from a Christian cause you to see God coming through them?

What personality traits do you admire in a professing Christian?

Summary -

In today's sermon we looked at two main sections:

1. We looked at the impact that Christianity has had on the world.

We saw clearly how much better this world is because of Christians. Christians represent the unselfish side of life, the caring about others side of life. Even if we were an atheist or an agnostic, we would have to admit the impact that Christianity has had on the world.

What if when life was completely over, we found out that the bible was not true, and there is no afterlife, no rewards in heaven? Then, we could at least say we made the world a better place, which is something selfish people rarely ever do. The point is Christianity makes this world a better place.

The 2nd thing we looked at today was:

2. Our own impact on the world, on those around us.

We saw what God wants from us. But, we also saw how we hinder Him, and how easily we can represent Satan instead of God because we are so full of ourselves.

We saw how we need to be constantly open to God to change, and that if we are not seeing ourselves, we are probably part of God's problems.

We looked at 5 things that truly hinder a Christian's effectiveness, 5 things that would turn off the unsaved to where they want nothing to do with God.

Our job is to represent God, and many Christians are still representing themselves. If we truly allow God to flow through us, and our constantly holding back ourselves, God will do great things through our lives. We will be part of the good impact that Christianity has on the world.

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Either you died, or you didn't die. Either you're a Pharisee, doing things for God, or you're led by God. Either your life is now hidden so Christ is what people see, or people see you and all your opinions. Either Christ is your life, or He is not your life. If you truly live [Colossians 3:1-4](#) then, when He appears you will appear with Him in glory.

Prayer for forgiveness for being too full of ourselves, and never looking inward.

"God show us ourselves. Show us how we are not impacting others in the right way. Show us all the ways we still run our own lives, so we can realize we must change all of that and get our minds totally on what you want, not what we believe you want, or not what we see wrong with everyone else."