

Reset Chapter 3 (The belief bomb)

Questions for discussion

1. Do you feel nobody really knows you?

I love living with people. Yes, people drain us sometimes, but they can make us feel happy too. How often do you seek out people? Maybe you have retreated because they have bombed your heart far too often. I have retreated at times. In some ways it has hurt my relationships. I am not as confident in people as I once was. Recently I have tried to express myself so that others could know me better. I have found that it has given me opportunities to know others better too.

“In many ways I have lived my life alone. When everyone close to you dislikes you: you’re alone. Who do you confide in? Who knows your hopes and dreams? Who makes your day? For me it has been the mirror. A good friend of mine told me I am a great self-talker: the perfect motivational speaker to myself. The problem is that famous saying: “Preaching to the choir.” It means “Often used to imply that a speaker is addressing the wrong audience or is deliberately addressing a compliant, non-challenging audience.” I’m my own worst enemy most of the time.” Chapter 3, p, 2

2. We want to believe in people and God

I know you believe in things. Everyone has an opinion on gay pride to the devil. We are passionate about the things we hold dear to us. People have killed others and abandoned relationships because of what they believe. We are a passionate people called the human race. At times, someone dear to us has bombed our belief. It would be a sad day if you began to hate institutions and people because of a few bad apples. There are still good people and a good God.

“I called this chapter “The Belief Bomb.” What it means is that (in my mind) we believe in two things in life “People” and “God.” Sure we can believe in a great many things, but two things are dear to us: those around us and the spiritual. An atheist says he believes in nothing. Dumb ass you believe in something: nothing. Other people believe in something called the spiritual. If the spiritual was not that big a deal then why are wars fought, arguments started, and friendships lost over the spiritual? It means something.” Chapter 3, p, 3

3. Are you a Crusher or a Crushee?

I spent far too long in my life being crushed by mean spirited people. I have been told by those very same people that it’s selfish and mean to speak out. They like me right where I was. I was their playground to toss around insults and accusations for their pure enjoyment. Not anymore boo boo. I fight back against the Evil Crushers in my life now. Abusers always say the abused are over blowing the situation. Is that really true?

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“I guess there are two kinds of people when it comes to being mean (why must I label everything). There are the “Crushers” and the “Crushee’s.” I don’t want to be a “Crusher.” I never have. Yet, I have applied several times to be the President of the “Crushee” club. I know people that have never been hurt by another person, but they have crushed many. One lady had influenced others to leave their relationships for less than stellar reasons. Later those same people realized they were duped into believing a lie. She is a “Crusher” and they were all crushed.” Chapter 3, p, 8

4. Why has church become hypocrite heaven?

Church is supposed to be a safe place of refuge throughout history. Many people go straight to a church to be saved. Why then have many of those same people left the organized church? Church is certainly not a safe place. The further you go in ministry the worse it gets. I know many Pastors that are conflicted over this. They angrily defend the church at all costs, but in private they know there are problems. The reason the outside world thinks the church are hypocrites is because the leadership refuses to look in the mirror at all costs.

“The most amazing thing is that church keeps on doing church the same way. They have a controlled leadership, bent on money, and ignoring the spiritual. I was stunned and amazed when I became a Christian. They told me to read the Bible and follow it. That is most certainly not what’s going on in a church these days. Why then do churches not follow the Bible? Even more amazing is that they say they do, but stats don’t lie. The reason people don’t go to church anymore is twofold. One is that they say it’s not relevant in our lives anymore and secondly that those in attendance are hypocrites.” Chapter 3, p, 11

5. There is still Good in church and people

Inside church they live in the world of the Ostrich. Their head is deep in the Holy sand. They believe they can do and say anything because God accepts them. The problem is that God does accept people but he does not accept sin. God still wants us to strive for goodness. Just because you are in a church does not mean you don’t sin. I know a guy who believes that he does not willfully sin anymore. Far too many people believe that. People outside the church say “Good people go to heaven.” People inside the church say “If I believe I’m Christian then I believe I’m good.” Do they sound the same? There are really good people inside and outside the church just not as many as we would like.

“Ok, I need to bring this back to “Reset.” don’t throw out the Baby Jesus with the bath water. Just because church is broken (and it is) does not mean you should not believe. Dr. Laura said we need the spiritual. The ancient Greek philosophers did too. God always said to the Israelites “Come back to me and I will be your God and you will be my people.” People crush us in our daily lives. They crush us in faith circles as well. A “Reset” means to start with belief that

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what God started as good is still good, it's just some evil people that make it bad." Chapter 3, p, 13

6. There is a new remnant of God in our world today

There are good Christians inside church walls, but church is not a safe place. I have counseled tons of people that have been hurt by mean spirited Christians. Many of those mean spirited people are Pastors and ministry leaders. The unsaved community knows the church better than the church does itself. The problem is that the church defends evil better than the unsaved do. They say "Our actions are justified because I am justified in Gods eyes." Why have many of the great ministries left the church like food banks and prison work? It's because God has pulled the plug on the modern church. The sad part is that the church does not even know it but the people on the outside most certainly do.

"My conclusions about people and spirituality are this: those that want to believe are a remnant in this day. Just because church has gone sour does not mean God is sour. If you hate church then why do you still want to believe? It's because God has taken you out of a bad Christian environment for your protection. He wants you to grow in hope and faith. He wants you to believe.

God does not change and when people change God, he pulls out a remnant to keep Christianity safe. You are not the bombed or rejected. You are those who will make the church well again. We are the people who make the work place a better environment to work in. We say thank you and tip well. We are the good people in this world. Sorry, but you are the few. The remnant has always been a few. In Romans 11:25 it says Israel has been hardened. The church is in that same place today. Love, compassion, grace, and understanding have been replaced by programs, forms, boards, and expectations. The real Hope in God has been removed from the church". Chapter 3, p, 14