

Disciples of Christ And Syncretism

Mark 6: 7-13

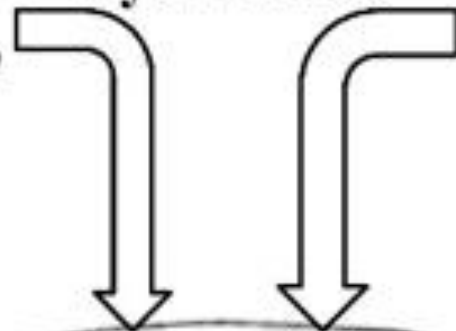
August 23, 2026

Man Made Religious Beliefs



Religious syncretism is the blending of the doctrines and practices of two or more religions in order to come up with something new.

Religious Syncretism



God Given Revelation



Blending Views & Practices



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ZEITGEIST

DEFINITION

Zeitgeist is a German term that translates to "spirit of the age" or "spirit of the times." It refers to the prevailing cultural, intellectual, ethical, and political climate or mood of a particular period in history. This concept captures the collective consciousness and shared values, beliefs, and attitudes of a given era.

EXAMPLE

- **The Roaring Twenties:** embodied the zeitgeist of post-World War I optimism and rebellion against traditional norms.
- **1960s counterculture:** with its emphasis on peace, love, and civil rights, it had a zeitgeist of social revolution and resistance to established authority.

Verse 7

Disciples of Christ are sent

LESSON: When sent, expect varying degrees of acceptance or rejection
– *be ready for both!*

LESSON: You cannot beg, borrow, or steal someone into the kingdom of God

Salvation is a miracle of God, *not man!*

It will not be my great arguments, my persuasive speech, or my wit and wisdom – **1 Corinthians 2: 3-4**

Calling all disciples: We are to model the Jesus way

What is the Jesus way?

Always be ready for your agenda to be interrupted

Approach people with a gentle, humble spirit, NOT a know-it-all spirit!

Join God where He is working, not where I am working; His plan, not my plan

Verse 8 - 10

Disciples of Christ: God will give you what
you need for the mission

Jesus' instruction was clear: Take nothing, God will supply,
TRUST HIM!

Jesus is teaching full dependence on God

We must rely on the Holy Spirit while on mission here for everything

Rely on His “*dunamis*” power to complete your mission
Acts 1: 8

Verse 11 - 13

Disciples of Christ: Some will hear, some
won't, still preach

There will be rejectors; many will simply blow you off, no time for this religious stuff

When that happens, what are we to do?

Be courteous and move on

Hear Jesus' warning to persistent rejectors: *There is a judgment for all people, NO OPT OUTS!*

Notice what the disciples preached:

Repentance, a change of mind leading to a change of heart

Who did the 12 preach to?

ISRAEL – Matthew 10: 5-6

This was a kingdom offer to Israel, NOW!

The kingdom offer was rejected, setting the stage for the Church age

The mission for all believers is to preach, be a witness, to be an ambassador of Christ

Closing

Disciples of Christ: *Think!*

THINK: Why are so many deconstructing their faith today?

Have you ever heard this? *“I don’t believe that stuff anymore”*
or *“I don’t accept the Bible anymore”*

Many who say they do believe develop a syncretistic faith; blend it all together and out pops my beliefs

Usually what the “I” determines is true, is in line with the sin “I” want to live out freely

A POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THOSE WHO DECONSTRUCT:

People are no longer taught the Word of God, and no longer read or study their Bible

This is a set-up for deception and deconstruction

In this information age, people are taking in volumes of information counter to the Christian faith

With the abandonment of truth, God's Word, deconstruction becomes easy peasy, especially when *“everyone's doing it”*

Critical thinking is lacking today; most cannot effectively analyze information presented to them

“The simple believe every word, but the prudent consider well his steps” Proverbs 14: 15

ANOTHER POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THOSE WHO DECONSTRUCT:

Many today say they believe in Jesus; are they truly saved, or are they fooling themselves?

True saving faith consists of three distinct levels of belief:

Notitia = knowledge

Assensus = assent

Fiducia = trust *(see handout for more information on this)*

Together, they move a person from knowing facts about Jesus to personally trusting in Jesus for salvation

WHAT I HAVE FOUND TO BE TRUE:

Live out your faith for real – *let everyone know where you stand!*

Disciples of Christ: May we never, never, never give in to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

Disciples of Christ: *“It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* 1 Corinthians 4: 2

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST: *MAY YOU BE FOUND
FAITHFUL!*

LOYAL TO JESUS!

NO RESERVES >

NO RETREATS >

NO REGRETS!!

FINISH STRONG!