

1.

Collusion or Collision

- The Difference of One Letter: U or I = Exact Opposites

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

*Jesus: "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake."
Luke 21:17*

- Individual Christians or The True Church?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

There are Only 2 Camps. No Neutrality, Middle Ground, Indifference, No Safe Faith or Private Beliefs

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets. Luke 6:26

*Jesus: "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."
John 15:18-19*

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with [Satan]? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "...Therefore, come out from among them and be separate", says the Lord. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ...Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules? Colossians 2:8 & 20

- Seeker Friendly
- Pragmatic
- Self-Esteem
- Health, Wealth, & Prosperity
- Social Justice/Tolerance
- Universalism

Collusion or Collision Series

Obeying God vs. Caesar
The Attacks on the Bible
The Disguises of Satan
The Persecuted Church:

In History

In Cost

In Culture

Message to the Marginal Church
Message to the Divided Church
Message to the Wordly Church
Message to the Final Church

2.

Collusion or Collision

Obeying God vs. Caesar

Spheres of Authority:

1. In the Home

2. In the World

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:1-2

Pharisees: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But [Jesus], knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it." So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Mark 12:14-17

3. In the Church

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

- The Historic Problem Occurs When One Sphere Invades Another.

- The Church Should Not Run/Dictate the Government.
- The Government Should Not Run/Dictate the Church.

So [the religious leaders] called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:18-20

And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:27-29

Lately:

Do Not Gather

Do Not Sing

Do Not Offer

Do Not Visit

In the Near Future: Do Not Say...

...Jesus is God/Lord/Exclusive Savior.

...It is Permissible to Disobey Government in Religion.

...Any Lifestyle or Practice is a Sin and Against God.

...Judgment is Coming.

- We Obey Family & Civil Authority Until it Violates the Clear Commands of God in Scripture.
- We Respond with Honor and Respect. We Pray for Our Leaders.
- We Understand and Accept the Consequences.

3.

Collusion or Collision

Attacks on the Bible—Part 1

From the Outside

I. The Reality

Jesus: "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." John 3:19-20

II. The History

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say...?" Genesis 3:1 (NIV)

Historical/Human/Natural Answer: "No"

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator... Romans 1:20-25

[Consider the character, depravity, intolerance, & hatred of the Bible's biggest historic critics.]

- Inspiration—_____
- Inerrancy—_____
- Sufficiency—_____

[Sadly, these are the very same issues we'll cover next week, looking at the Church]

- Sadducees
- Voltaire (1694-1778): "In 100 years, the Bible will be forgotten."
- The Age of Reason/ Enlightenment
- Existentialism & Relativism
- The Simultaneous Rise of the Cults: America
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
- The Ivy League/Princeton
- The Scopes Trial of the 1920's
- Media/Hollywood/ "Documentaries"
 - Dan Brown—The Da Vinci Code
- Post Modernism = There is No Truth at All

III. The Cause

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 2 Corinthians 2:15

IV. The Consequences

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land. Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it." Amos 8:11-12

A God-Induced Famine in the Land.
= The Removal of Common Grace.
The Restraints on Sin are Vanishing.
Truth Will Not be Found in Anything.
The Rejection of Absolutes.

4.

Collusion or Collision

Attacks on the Bible From the Inside

Paul: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock...for I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember..."
Acts 20:28-31

Liberalism Umbrella = Deny...

- Inspiration—_____
- Inerrancy—_____
- Sufficiency—_____
- Perspicuity—_____

The Only Infected Denominations: Anglican, Episcopalian, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, Non-Denominational, and Every Group that Came Out of Them.

The Only Doctrines They Take Issue with: The Virgin Birth, Deity of Christ, the Atonement, Sin, Creation, Paul, Church Leadership, Hell, Satan, Wrath & Judgment, Israel, a Literal Reading of the Book of Revelation*

The Labeling of Paul: Misogynistic, Homophobic, & Self-Inspired.

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation...and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ...These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage...there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. Jude 4 & 16-18

1. A Problem in the Teachers
A Problem in the Taught

Preach the word! Be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:2-4 (NIV)

- Surveys: Be Less Offensive, Be Inclusive, Be Comfortable, Be Pragmatic & Join the "Conversation"
- Activism: Poverty, Justice, the Environment, Animal Rights, Anti-War, Anti-Death Penalty, Socialism, Tolerance, & Inclusion
- Continuing Revelation

2. The Question Asked of the Faithful
The Accusation Made of the Committed

For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person." 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

3. The Solution: Stop Calling Yourself "Pastor"
Stop Calling Your Meeting "Church"

4. The Resource:
 - Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

5.

Collusion or Collision

The Disguises of Satan

And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
2 Corinthians 11:12-15

A. He Never Looks Like His Real Self: Terrifying, Dark, Dragon, & Evil.

B. He'll Always Seek Positions of Authority & Influence: King, Secretary General, Dictator, Leader, Politician, Chancellor, Scholar, Professor, Author, Personality, Expert, & Financier.

And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish." Luke 4:6

C. His #1 Disguise: Religion

- Hindu, Buddha, Islam—Works Related Judaism & Works Based "Christianity".

[Note: They all come together, unified in the end]

D. Often Bears the Title: Founder, Prophet, Restorationist, Theologian, Minister, Pastor, Priest, Bishop, & Pope.

E. Supernatural: Intercessor, Mediator, Messenger, Angel, & the Venerated

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

F. Possessor of Special Insight, a Secret Knowledge, or a New Word from God

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:8-9

- Deny or Alter the Word of God.
- Deny or Alter the Person of Jesus Christ: Fully God, the Resurrection, the Exclusivity, & Coming Judge.

G. The Promise Giver: Prosperity, Peace, & Power

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.
2 Thessalonians 2:9

- Great Gauge: Their Response to Criticism, Accountability, Questions, Correction, & Audit.

H. Eventually: Messiah

Then I saw another beast [False Prophet] coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast [Antichrist] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do... Revelation 13:11-14

6.

Collusion or Collision When Salt loses its Saltiness

Jesus: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."
Matthew 5:13 (NIV) [Mark 9:50 & Luke 14:34]

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Salt of the Earth: Our Words and Our Conduct

Biblically, Salt is...

1. A Preservative

2. A Seasoning

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
Colossians 4:6

3. A Symbol of Fidelity, Loyalty, & Purity

"Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?" 2 Chronicles 13:5

4. A Disinfectant & An Antiseptic

On the day you were born, no one cared about you. Your umbilical cord was not cut, and you were never washed, rubbed with salt, and wrapped in cloth. Ezekiel 16:4 (NLT)

5. An Abrasive—Used in Stain Removal

To the World, Our Word is...

- A Sting [In the Wound] & Poison [Salt Sea]

How Salt Loses Saltiness

Saltiness = Greek: Moros—English: Moron
= Fool/Foolishness

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man... Romans 1:22-23

- Abandon God [Misrepresent/Remold]
- Reject the Word
- Redefine Sin
- Incorporate the Market
- Belittle the Faithful
- Collusion with the World

A Model of Saltiness:

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

Collusion or Collision

Collison Characters—Part 1

Jesus: "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also...He who hates Me hates My Father also." John 15:18-23

I. Jeremiah

His Message:

God: "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth...take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.' For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight," says the LORD. "They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it." Jeremiah 7:28-30

The Collision:

Then they said, "Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words." Jeremiah 18:18

II. John the Baptist

His Message:

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Matthew 3:7

For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Mark 6:17-18

The Collision:

Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison... Mark 7:27

III. Paul

But the Lord said to [Ananias], "Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:15-16

His Message:

Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Acts 18:5-6

The Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome." Acts 23:11

The Collision:

They came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul." Acts 23:14

Collusion or Collision

Collision Characters—Part 2

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them...

2 Timothy 3:12-14

- **Peter**

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

...when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Acts 5:40

- **James**

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Acts 12:1-3

- **John**

I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the Word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.

Revelation 1:9 (NLT)

- **Stephen**

Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen...disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Acts 6:8-10

Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. Acts 7:57-58

- **The Jerusalem Church**

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 8:1

- **The Church at Pergamum & Antipas**

Jesus: "I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives."

Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

So Easy to Miss Church Now:

- **Activities, Mood, Busyness, Recreation, Fatigue**

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

Collusion or Collision

The King of Collision: Jesus

[Jesus]: "What then is this that is written: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone'? Whoever falls on that stone will be broken: but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." Luke 20:17-18

1. His Own Family

Jesus' brothers said to Him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." For even His own brothers did not believe in Him. John 7:3-5 (NIV)

When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:21 (NIV)

2. The Community

The whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. Matthew 8:34

But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Luke 23:21

3. The Religious Leaders

[Jesus]: "I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." John 10:30-33

Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. Matthew 26:3-4

4. The Civic Leaders

[Herod] hoped to see some miracle done by Him [Jesus]. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other. Luke 23:8-12

While [Pilate] was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." Matthew 27:19

5. The Critics: Paul

6. The Demons/the Enemy

He cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Limply You by God that You do not torment me." [Jesus] said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Mark 5:7-8

7. The World and All That is in It

A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Daniel 2:34-35

Jesus: "Who do you say that I am?"

Collusion or Collision

What Jesus Said About Your Collision

1. I Am Coming Again
2. The Great Tribulation is Coming Before That
3. Many False Teachers are Coming Before That
4. Jesus: "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls." Luke 21:12-19

What Will Persecution Accomplish?

- Scatter the Gospel Across the Globe

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria... Acts 8:1

- Provide Opportunity for Witness & Testimony

*"But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony."
Verse 13*

Paul: But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Philipians 1:12-14

- Build up Perseverance

...We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:3-5

- Establish Your Reward

Jesus: "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10

- Affirm and Seal the Fate of the Lost

...We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-8

Collusion or Collision

The Cost of Reformation

Definition and Difference:

- Error vs. Heresy

Error: Interpretation—Eschatology, Order of Salvation, Baptism*, Limits of Atonement...

Heresy: Acceptance—Nature & Person of Jesus Christ, a God of Relativism, Salvation by Works, the Veneration of Men, Work of the Spirit...

- Reformation vs. Restoration

Reform: Return to Scripture & Model

Restore: New Revelation & Rejection of Orthodoxy

- Suffering vs. Persecution

Suffering: Universal, Common, & Due to Sin

Persecution: Distinct, Personal, & Due to Faithfulness

I. When the Church Drifts Too Far

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. 2 Timothy 1:12-14

Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Galatians 3:2-3 (NLT)

2. When the State and the Church Collude

3. When Division is Mandatory

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. 1 Timothy 6:3-5

- Power thru Fear & Wealth thru Promise

The Cost

- **Biblical Question:** *Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? Galatians 4:16*
- **Rhetorical Answer:** "Yes"
 - Old Testament Prophets
 - Jesus, The Church, & Paul:
 - All Accused of Being Divisive
 - 16th Century Reformation
 - 19th & 20th Century Liberalism
 - Today

Collusion or Collision

Endurance of the Saints

Collision Characters: Daniel, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Paul, Peter, James, John, & Stephen.

The King of Collision: Jesus Christ

Key Text:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 1 Peter 5:8-10

Elijah, Ahab, & Jezebel
1 Kings 18-19

1. The Bold Confrontation

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" 1 Kings 18:17

2. The Historic Irony: Elijah was the Truth. Ahab was the Problem.

Jesus: "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service." John 16:2

3. The Messy Reform

4. The Vow of Revenge

5. The Expression of Despair

- *...he arose and ran for his life... 19:3*
- *"It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life..." 19:4
[Moses, Job, & Jeremiah]*
- *"I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." 19:10*

6. The Provision of Strength

God: "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 19:11-12

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

7. The Legacy of Endurance

God: "And Elisha...you shall anoint as prophet in your place." 19:16

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You, therefore, must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 2:2-3

Collusion or Collision

Message to a Captive Audience

- Captive to Us by Assignment
- Captive to the Enemy by Nature

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, ...correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

1. There is a God.

- He is Creator, Sustainer, Lawgiver, & Righteous

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." Psalm 14:1

- Grace and Mercy & Holy and Judge

2. God is Relational.

- He has Revealed Himself Through...

...Creation/Nature

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made... Romans 1:20

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

...His Word

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by his Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word. Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV)

3. Sin Separates all Men from God...and from Life

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Jesus: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

4. Your Jesus Options:

- He's Biggest Fraud in History

If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty...Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise...If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19

- He's Insane
- He's Who He Claims to Be

Today: A Total Divine Appointment

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

Collusion or Collision

How to End Persecution

Question 1: What Causes Persecution?

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith... 1 Peter 5:8-9

- Key Word: Adversary

The Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Luke 22:31-32

- Key Words: Lord & Faith

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

- Key Words: Godly in Christ Jesus

Question 2: How do I Avoid or End Persecution?

Answer: Collude

He [the False Prophet] was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast [the Antichrist], that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:15-17

So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Daniel 3:7

Answer: Compromise

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. John 9:22

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42-43

Answer:

- Run from Danger
 - Hide from Persecution
 - Be Silent in the Moment
 - Refuse Your Mission

When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian... Exodus 2:15

But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire. Mark 14:54

Question 3: What is the Cost?

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

Collusion or Collision

The Divided Church

1. The Universal Church

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28

- What Divides the Universal Church?

2. The Denominational Church

For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one... 1 Corinthians 3:3-8

- What Divides the Church into Denominations?

3. The Local Church

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)

- What Divides the Local Church?

How the Devil Uses...

...Division

If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. Galatians 5:15 (NIV)

...Unity

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles...And you are [proud]!...1 Corinthians 5:1-2

How God Uses...

...Division & Unity

Jesus: "But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. [Division] Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name [Unity], I am there in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:17-20

How the Church Confuses the Two:

- Money Matters: Favoritism & Spending
- Fostering Factions and Cliques
- Low View of Authority: Scripture & Elders
- Democracy, Voting, & Majority Rule

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform, pause or reflect." — Mark Twain

- Unguarded Membership and Leadership
- Neglecting Church Discipline

Collusion or Collision

Message to the Marginal Church

Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

1 Kings 18:21

The Time Has Come: All In or All Out?

1. The Marginal are Convinced: Cheap Christianity is Better than no Christianity.

[Jesus]: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23

Jesus Says: Marginal Christianity is No Christianity at all.
When the Collision Comes, You will Cave.

Jesus: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." Matthew 15:7-9

2. The Marginal Want the World Now and Jesus Later*.

Jesus: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot." Revelation 3:15

3. The Marginal Have Distorted Priorities

Jesus: "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the Word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful." Mark 4:18-19

[Jesus] said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ...And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:59-62

Lord, first let me go have...

...My Fun

...My Youth

...My Career

...My Family

...My Retirement

4. The Marginal are Exhausted and Overextending

Jesus: "Yet you have not called on Me, Jacob; you have not wearied yourselves for Me, Israel." Isaiah 43:22 (NIV)

Point: Oh, You're Tired Alright.

5. The Marginal Offer God the Leftovers

When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 1:8 (NIV)

Now, Choose...

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But, as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

Collusion or Collision

Message to the Worldly Church

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

A. Altering the Scripture

Jesus: "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2

Jesus: "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:18-19

B. Offering A Different Gospel

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:6-8

- A Different Jesus
- A Different Way
- Ecumenicalism vs. Syncretism

C. Elevating the Profiteers

He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

John 2:14-17 [Psalm 69:9]

And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' Matthew 21:13 [Isaiah 56:7 & Jeremiah 7:11]

D. Tolerating, Condoning, and Celebrating Immorality

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate...And, you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (NIV)

E. Rejecting the God-Ordained Restraints on Sin

- Conscience [The Removal of Guilt & Shame]
- Family [Father/Head, Parents/Lead, Children/Submit]
- Government [Death Penalty]
- The Church [Plurality of Biblically Qualified Male Elders]

F. Rushing to Babylon and the Final Apostasy

Collusion or Collision

The Final Church

I. Jesus Will Not be Pleased With the Final Church*

Jesus: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" Revelation 3:15-17

II. The Final Church Will Have Abandoned the Word

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:2-5 (NIV)

III. The Final Church Will Have Removed the Biblical Jesus

Jesus: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." Revelation 3:19-21

* = [There is always a faithful remnant somewhere]

Jesus: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."

Fallacy: Jesus speaking to poor, lost sinners pleading with them to open their hearts and receive.

Reality: Jesus is speaking to the Church, who removed Him sometime back.

IV. The Final Church Will Lack Discernment

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed...

Acts 17:11-12 (NIV)

V. There Will Be Faithful Holdouts Who Pay Dearly

Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. Revelation 13:10 (NLT)

[They will be forerunners and models for the Tribulation Believers]

VI. The True Church & True Gospel Will Not be Stopped

Jesus: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

VII. The Faithful Believers Will Never be Alone

Jesus: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen Matthew 28:20

Collusion or Collision

Questions and Answers

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 [5-11]

My Current Questions: _____

My New Concerns: _____

My Prayers Going Forward: _____

My Habitual Collusion (sin) I'm Walking Away From: _____
