Some Causes And Cures Of Religious Indifference

Intro: 1 Pet. 5:6-11 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” It is necessary to watch for activity of Satan in the area of religion. He is ever seeking to promote opposition to the cause of Christ.

Indifference is one of Satan’s most successful ways. Subtle opposition has a form of respectability, and indifference is a negative form of opposition. Indifference is, “having no concern or feeling; no interest; showing no preference” according to Webster. Religion does not have a monopoly on indifference. One preacher estimated that there are 30 million atheists in the United States.

I. Materialism:
A. The doctrine that physical well-being and physical possessions constitute the highest good in life.
   1. “A world in the hand is worth two in the bush.”
   2. In the United States, 1/6 of the world’s population controls 1/2 of its goods.
B. Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
C. Rev. 3:15 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”
   1. Why were they like this?
   2. Rev. 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”
D. The cure.
   1. Mat. 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
   2. 1 Tim. 6:7 “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”
   3. Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

II. Judging Christianity By Perversions Of It.
A. Christianity is a way of life taught and exemplified by Christ.
   1. Acts 1:1 “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,”
   2. He did what He taught.
      a. This was not true of some of his contemporaries.
      b. Mat. 23:1-3 “Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 3Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: 4All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.”
B. Some curse (quarrelsome) experts on Christianity has never even read the book which sets if forth.
   1. It is easy to parrot an allegation which has been picked up. A good example, “The Bible is filled with mistakes and contradictions.”
   2. It is easy to judge Christianity a failure because some who claimed to be Christians found the going to hard and gave up Christianity.
C. Some Perversions.  
1. Christians are not concerned with man in this life, only with "getting the pie in the sky, by and by."  
   a. Look at Christ—His concern for man, see John 6.  
   b. Jam. 1:27; 2:14 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.... What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"  
   c. Tit. 2:11-14 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

2. Christianity is a reversion to the dependency of childhood.  
   a. Soldier; Eph. 6:10-18 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"  
   b. Great demands; Mat. 16:24-26 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

D. Cure: Sincerely investigation of God's Word.

III. INCONSISTENCY OF THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS.  
A. The Bible recognizes this problem.  
   1. Phi. 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel"  
   2. Tit. 2:10 "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

B. Which is worse:  
   1. To state, "God is dead!" or to act like it?  
   2. To have zeal without knowledge, or to have knowledge without zeal?  

C. Those who are suppose to be upholders of purity of life, often succumb to the pressures of compromise.  
D. There is the problem of division.  
   1. John 17:20-21 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."  
   2. 1 Cor. 1:10-13 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the
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house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

E. **Cure: realization of the human aspect of the church.**
   1. The church has a divine side and is perfect.
   2. The church has a human side and this lacks perfection.

IV. **Prevalence Of Immorality.**

A. **Mat. 24:12** “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

B. **We have a sick society.**
   1. Crime, dishonesty, alcoholics, millions of babies born out of wedlock, abortion on demand, etc.
   2. Why should I try to do right?

C. **Cure: See the worth and power of the individual.**
   1. Christianity places emphasis on the value of the individual.
   2. **Mat. 5:13-16** “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
      a. Salt of the earth.
      b. Light of the world. The darker the night the brighter the light.

Conclusion:

1. God has not been indifferent to the needs of man; **Rom. 5:6-9** “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

2. Let us respond in loving obedience; **1 John 5:3** “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

3. **1 Cor. 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

4. Satan is the author of religious differences and religious indifference.