

Corinth

Post

Modern

Faith

Prelude

Do you **think** like a Christian?

Fewer than one in four Americans (**24%**) now believe the Bible is "the actual word of God, and is to be taken literally, word for word," similar to the 26% who view it as "a book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man." This is the first time in Gallup's **four-decade trend** that **biblical literalism** has not surpassed **biblical skepticism**. Meanwhile, about half of Americans -- a proportion largely unchanged over the years -- fall in the middle, saying the Bible is the inspired word of God but that not **all** of it should be taken literally. [Gallup poll, 2018](#)

Nearly **60%** of Americans who regularly attend Christian church say there is **no such thing** as the Holy Spirit—they say the Holy Spirit is just a symbol of God's power or presence or purity. [George Barna](#)

American Worldview Inventory, 2022

Of an estimated 176 million American adults who identify as Christian, just **6%** or 15 million of them actually hold a **biblical worldview**,

Subsequent to revealing that the American Worldview Inventory 2022 found just **37% of Christian pastors** have a **biblical worldview** May 24, 2022

A History of Progressive Christianity, Alisa Childers

A few hundred years after Jesus' resurrection, a man named Augustine found himself sucked into a cult called the **Manichaeans**, who believed in Jesus, used Scripture to support their doctrines, and claimed their founder was the "Spirit of truth" Jesus promised would come after He ascended into heaven. Although Augustine was raised by a devout Christian mother, he became dazzled by the **new** and **exciting** promises that put a fresh spin on the Christianity he grew up with. It probably didn't hurt that their beliefs permitted him to **sleep with his girlfriend** while pursuing his theological studies and perfecting his spiritual mind.

A History of Progressive Christianity, Alisa Childers

The Manichaeans believed that the teachings of Jesus were **incomplete** and that they had revelations that would usher in **true** religion for everyone. In this way, they believed religion could **progress beyond** what was revealed in Scripture. In order to defend these ideas, Faustus wrote against the **reliability** of the Bible. He would **twist, re-interpret**, or **omit** the parts of Scripture that didn't line up with Manichaean thought.

A History of Progressive Christianity, Alisa Childers

After Augustine's conversion to Christianity, he wrote a fairly comprehensive response to Faustus' attack on the authorship of the gospels. He wrote: "You ought to say plainly that **you do not** believe the gospel of Christ. For to believe what you please, and not to believe what you please, is to **believe yourselves** and not the gospel."

A History of Progressive Christianity, Alisa Childers

Back in the early 2000s, some Christian leaders got together to attempt to **adapt** Christianity to the **post-modern** mindset that was beginning to pervade culture. They were **re-examining** the methods the church had been using to reach the world and questioning some of the more legalistic, hypocritical, and downright cheesy elements of modern evangelicalism.

As the **Emergents** distanced themselves from a Christianity defined by beliefs and creeds, this different version of faith gained popularity among those **disillusioned** and **disenfranchised** by evangelicalism. This birthed “A New Kind of Christianity,” which titled Brian McLaren’s 2010 book.

“Blue Like Jazz” Donald Miller, 2003

“Love Wins” Rob Bell, 2011

“The Liturgist Podcast” July 29, 2014

Universal Christ Richard Rohr, 2021
The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective, 2001

One of the greatest (and unspoken struggles) of Christians, is to **reconcile** what they **truly** believe with what they **wish** to be true.

Culture will **always** be a **pull** away from the Gospel

The second greatest mission field today apart from
the unsaved, are those **identifying** as Christian.
George Barna, *Second Coming of the Church*, 1998

Modernism is another philosophical movement that was prominent throughout the late **19th and early 20th centuries**.

Postmodernism is a philosophical movement that impacted the **arts** and **critical thinking** throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Works in Postmodernism tend to have an attitude of **rejection** or **irony** toward typically-accepted **narratives**.

Postmodernism typically **criticizes** long-held beliefs regarding **objective reality**, value systems, human nature, and social progress, among other things.

Then Paul left Athens and went to **Corinth**. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were **tentmakers** just as he was. [Acts 18:1-3](#)

Each **Sabbath** found Paul at the **synagogue**,
trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. **Vs 4**

But when they **opposed** and **insulted** him, Paul shook the dust
from his clothes and said, “Your blood is upon your own heads—I
am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the **Gentiles.**” **Vs 6**

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, “Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for **many** people in this city **belong** to me.” So Paul stayed there for the next **year and a half**, teaching the word of God. **Vs 9-11**

In the Apostle Paul's day, Corinth had several nicknames. It was known as **Carnal Corinth, Sin City, or Vanity Fair**. To "corinthianize" a person was to **corrupt** a person. It was to take him beyond his **moral limits**. People went to Corinth to be corinthianized - it was like a rite of passage. There was no greater insult that could be given a woman than to be called a Corinthian. **Julie Edensor**

Recent excavations have uncovered over **thirty-three** wine shops located in downtown Corinth. The wine shops featured lofted rooms. Travelers would get **drunk** with wine and then enticed into these lofts for illicit activity with **prostitutes** and other partygoers.

Aelian, the late Greek writer, tells us that if ever a **Corinthian** was shown upon the stage in a Greek play he was shown **drunk**

Greek proverb, 'It is not every man who can **afford** a journey to **Corinth**.'

"Korinthos, there, on account of the multitude of **courtesans**, who were sacred to Aphrodite, outsiders resorted in great numbers and kept holiday. And the **merchants and soldiers** who went there squandered all their money so that the following proverb arose in reference to them: 'Not for every man is the voyage to Korinthos.'" **Strabo, 20 AD , Geography 12. 4. 36**

"Guest-loving girls [courtesans and prostitutes]! Servants of Peitho (Suasion) in wealthy Korinthos! Ye that burn the golden tears of fresh frankincense, full often soaring upward in your **souls** unto Aphrodite." **Pindar, Eulogies Fragment 122**

Strabo also tells us that "the 1,000 prostitutes were **donated** to the temple". This means that wealthy citizens donated their **slaves** to the temple of Aphrodite.

At different times in our history, different **cities** have been the focal point of a radiating American **spirit**.

In the late eighteenth century, for example, **Boston** was the center of a **political** radicalism that ignited a shot heard round the world

mid-nineteenth century, **New York** became the symbol of the idea of a **melting-pot** America

In the early twentieth century, **Chicago**, came to symbolize the **industrial** energy and dynamism of America.

Today, we must look to the city of **Las Vegas**, Nevada, as a metaphor of our national character and aspiration

For Las Vegas is a city entirely devoted to the idea of **entertainment**, and as such proclaims the **spirit of a culture** in which...Our politics, **religion**, news, athletics, education have been **transformed** into entertainment

Today, **Disney World** best captures the current **spirit** of America. A place where **childhood (extended adolescence)** can continue without end. A place of **fantasy** where **logic and reason** have no place. It is a place tailor made to **create** whatever experience you want and looks to your definition of **truth** as your personal **path** to freedom in whatever **form** you decide

The infantilization of Western culture, Simon Gottschalk PHD, 2018

tourist destinations like **Las Vegas** market excess, indulgence and freedom from responsibility in casino environments that conjure memories of **childhood fantasies**: the Old West, medieval castles and the circus. Scholars have also explored how this form of Las Vegas-style “**Disneyfication**” has left its stamp on planned communities, architecture and contemporary art.

we’ve witnessed the rise of a “therapy culture,” which, as sociologist Frank Furedi warns, treats adults as vulnerable, weak and fragile, while implying that their troubles rooted in childhood qualify them for a “permanent **suspension** of moral sense.”

3 Characteristics of Childish Christians in Your Church, Eric Geiger

Childish Christians look to their **shepherds**
(celebrities) rather than the Shepherd.

Childish Christians drink from a **bottle** rather than dine on the Word.

Childish Christians **consume** rather than contribute.

imagine a church consisting entirely of **baby** Christians. When Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to the church at Corinth, the believers had been Christians for no more than **three years**. They were all recent converts. They didn't have **generations** of Christians in their culture. None of them grew up in a Christian home. **Andy Naselli**

most of the **problems** the Corinthians were dealing with in the first century we are dealing with **today** **Dr. Jack L. Arnold**

Salvation begins in the **mind (maturity)**

Christian Worldview-Focus

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix** your **thoughts** on what is **true**, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. **Think** about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **Philippians 4:8**

And may you have the **power to understand**, as all God's people **should**, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. **Ephesians 3:18**

We know more about **culture** than we do our own sacred book

Christian Worldview-Gradual

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God **transform** you into a new person by changing the way you **think**. Then you will **learn to know** God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. [Romans 12:2](#)

asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual **wisdom** and **insight** so that you might **grow** in your **knowledge** of God. [Ephesians 1:17](#)

A Spirit **filling** believer **hungers** for the things of the Lord and are not satisfied with what the world has to offer, therefore seeks to **know and grow** in God

Christian Worldview-Counter Cultural

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of **human reasoning** and to destroy **false arguments**. We destroy every **proud** obstacle that keeps people from **knowing** God. We capture their **rebellious thoughts** and teach them to obey Christ. [2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)

So **prepare** your **minds** for **action** and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your **old ways** of living to satisfy your own **desires**. You didn't know any better then. [1 Peter 1:13-14](#)

How we **thought**, should not be how we think

Christian Worldview–Worship

Jesus replied, “You must **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your **mind**.” **Matthew 22:37**

Roman

And you must **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your **strength**. **Deuteronomy 6:5**

Jewish

worshippers will **worship** the Father in spirit and in **truth** **John 4:23**

We **worship** God with our **minds**

Corinth is **sensual**

Corinth is **immature**

Corinth is **struggling** with **transformation**

Corinth is trying to **blend** the Gospel and culture

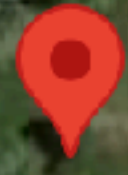
I am shocked that you are **turning away** so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a **different** way that **pretends** to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being **fooled** by those who **deliberately** twist the truth concerning Christ. **Galatians 1:6-7**

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the **approval** of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be **Christ's servant**. **Vs 10**

Baptism

Sunday July 10th





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Raja Stone

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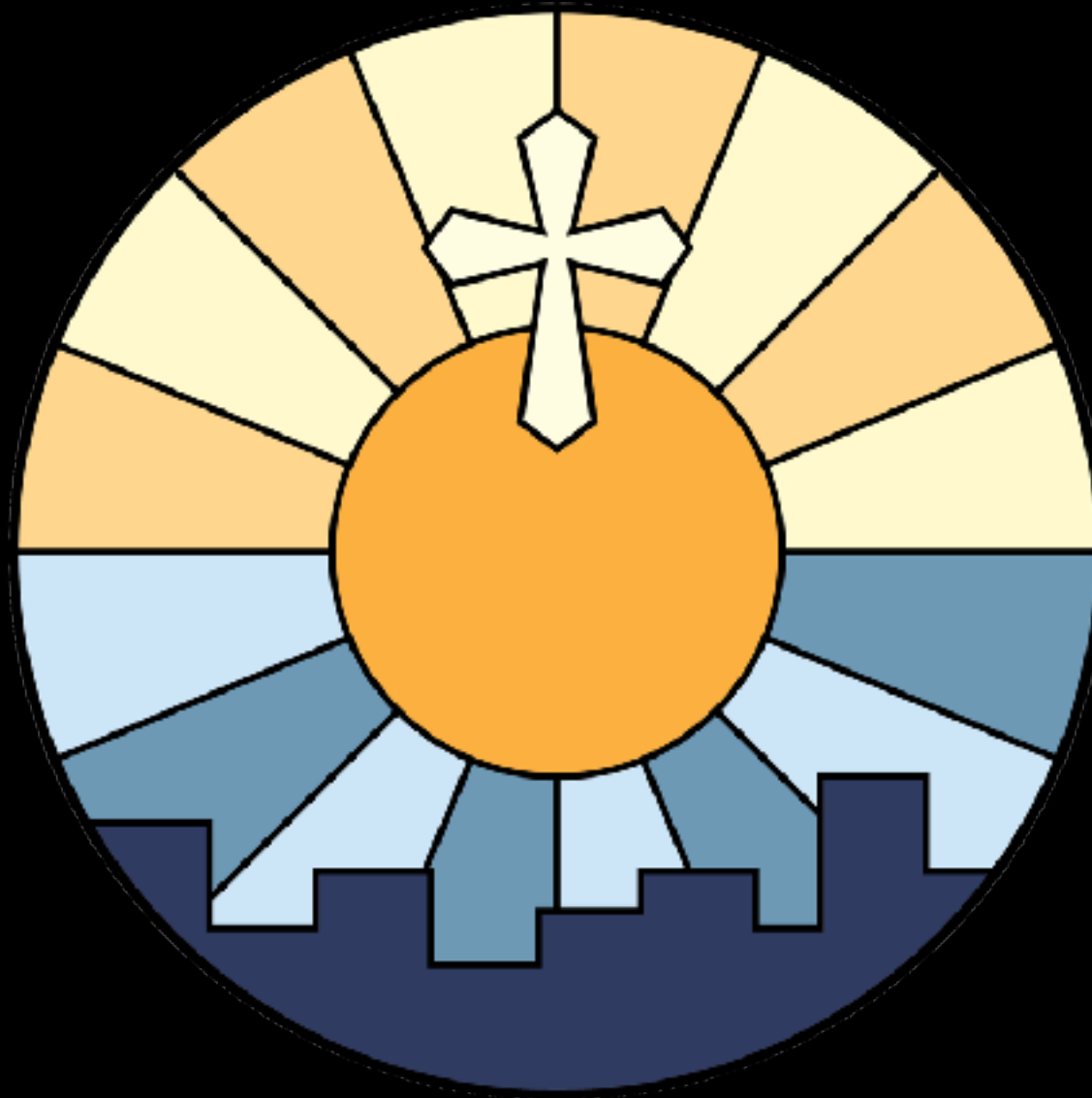
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