



CAPITOL
ministries®

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

MINISTRY UPDATE 2

Capitol Ministries Announces
Leadership Transition

VERSE OF THE WEEK 3

Romans 5:19

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES 8

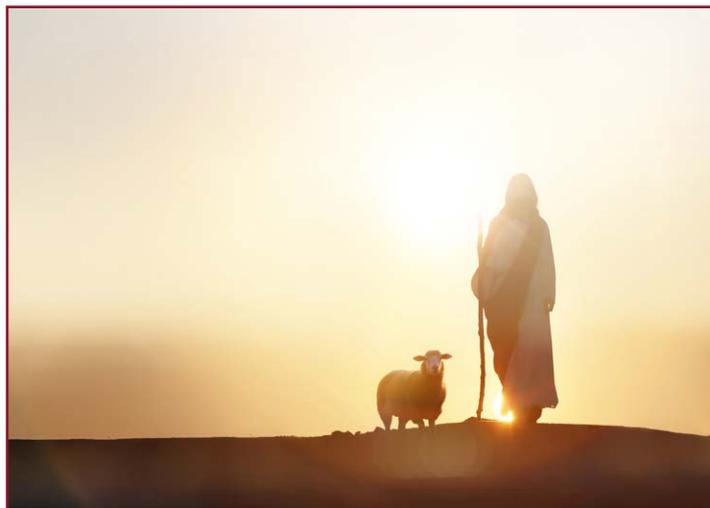


POWERED BY LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE



FOCUSED ON THE WORD

Will Jesus Say, “I Never Knew You”?



America’s greatest theologian, the Puritan preacher Jonathan Edwards, taught: “The way to the volition is through the intellect.” Indeed, the Scriptures teach in this regard that salvation, which is nothing less than a volitional commitment, is dependent on and informed by the intellect.

In this study, we will observe the important scriptural differentiation between intellectual assent only—versus the intellectual understanding that is the pathway to a volitional commitment of the will to Christ. To think that being married to Christ is nothing more than a mental acknowledgment of His existence is, scripturally speaking, a woeful error! By the end of this study, we hope you will have a clearer and better understanding of this distinction.

May God bless your time as you ponder this question: Will Jesus Say, “I Never Knew You”?

I. INTRODUCTION

You are not married to your spouse until you say “I do” to each other. Neither being in love emotionally nor agreeing intellectually that the one you love is a good match for you makes you married. Emotion and intellect play a part in marriage for sure,

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

White House Cabinet and Governors: Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served

Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

House Members: Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served

- WHITE HOUSE CABINET
AMBASSADORS
AND GOVERNORS**
- Alex Acosta **DC**
 - Mike Braun **IN**
 - Phil Bryant **MS**
 - Dr. Ben Carson **DC**
 - Mike Dunleavy **AK**
 - Greg Gianforte **MT**
 - Mark Gordon **WY**
 - Pete Hegseth **DC**
 - Mike Huckabee **DC**
 - Sarah Huckabee Sanders **AR**
 - Mike Keboe **MO**
 - David Perdue **DC**
 - Sonny Perdue **GA**
 - Rick Perry **TX**
 - Jim Pillen **NE**
 - Tate Reeves **MS**
 - Kim Reynolds **IA**
 - Brooke Rollins **DC**
 - Kevin Stitt **OK**
 - Scott Turner **DC**
 - Russell Vought **DC**
 - Scott Walker **WI**
 - Glenn Youngkin **VA**

- SENATORS**
- John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
 - Marsha Blackburn **TN**
 - Katie Britt **AL**
 - Ted Budd **NC**
 - Bill Cassidy **LA**
 - Kevin Cramer **ND**
 - Steven Daines **MT**
 - Joni Ernst **IA**
 - William Hagerty **TN**
 - Cindy Hyde-Smith **MS**
 - James Lankford **OK**
 - Markwayne Mullin **OK**
 - Mike Rounds **SD**
 - Tim Scott **SC**

- REPRESENTATIVES**
- Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
 - Mark Alford **MO**
 - Robert Aderholt **AL**
 - Rick Allen **GA**
 - Brian Babin **TX**
 - Don Bacon **NE**
 - Nick Begich **AK**
 - Michael Bost **IL**
 - Josh Brecheen **OK**
 - Tim Burchett **TN**
 - John Carter **TX**
 - Juan Ciscomani **AZ**
 - Rick Crawford **AR**
 - Jake Ellzey **TX**
 - Ron Estes **KS**
 - Glenn Grothman **WI**
 - Pat Harrigan **NC**
 - Kevin Hern **OK**
 - Richard Hudson **NC**
 - Bill Huizenga **MI**
 - Dusty Johnson **SD**
 - Jim Jordan **OH**
 - Doug LaMalfa **CA**
 - Nathaniel Moran **TX**
 - Gary Palmer **AL**
 - August Pfluger **TX**
 - David Rouzer **NC**
 - John Rutherford **FL**
 - Marlin Stutzman **IN**
 - Glenn Thompson **PA**
 - Tim Walberg **MI**
 - Randy Weber **TX**
 - Daniel Webster **FL**
 - Bruce Westerman **AR**
 - Roger Williams **TX**
 - Rob Wittman **VA**
 - Steve Womack **AR**
 - Rudy Yakym **IN**

The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.



MINISTRY UPDATE

Capitol Ministries Announces Leadership Transition

As part of its ongoing commitment to a strong institutional ministry for generations to come, Capitol Ministries announces a leadership transition designed to further the ministry’s growth and global impact. Ralph Drollinger, co-Founder and President of Capitol Ministries, has stepped down from his leadership role after nearly three decades of tireless dedication.

At the Capitol Ministries Board’s suggestion and by its unanimous consent, Danielle Drollinger, has assumed the presidency, and Board Member Dr. Randy Adams will take over leadership of the teaching ministries in Washington, D.C., and the Governors Zoom Bible study.



As a co-Founder of Capitol Ministries, Danielle Drollinger has played an integral role in the ministry’s growth.

Continued on page 4

but the act of volition, or will, establishes marriage.

So it is with Jesus Christ. The aforementioned parallel to human matrimony is a wonderful metaphor for being heavenly united with Christ. The analogy also aids in the understanding of Jesus’ statement in Matthew 7:21–23:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

A popular, faulty theology of “salvation” is called “easy believism.” At its core, there is a “belief” in Jesus that does not take into consideration the biblical definition of who He is. Followers thus “receive” Jesus according to their understanding of who they think Jesus is—in contrast to what the Bible reveals. In Romans 10:9 the Scripture states:

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Believe in your heart (*pisteuo kardia*) is the Greek idea of volitional commitment—something Jesus says was not present in those about whom He was speaking in Matthew 7. The “***Lord, Lord,***” refers to the tragic faultiness of intellectual assent only, versus the ***believe-in-your-heart*** volitional commitment that is indicative of authentic salvation. These passages more than suggest that to be truly saved, a person must not only give intellectual agreement, but also submit volitionally to the fact that

Jesus is Lord (*kurios*), which means “sovereign,” “master,” or “boss.”

Kurios is used as a descriptor of Jesus 747 times in the New Testament (NT)! Biblically informed belief in Jesus then requires a person to turn from all other understanding(s) as to who he thinks Jesus is and bow the knee to His Lordship. This turning away is known as ***repentance***. In contrast, self-informed thinking of Jesus—thinking of Him in a different way or in a lesser way will not be sufficient to bring about authentic salvation (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:4)!

Interestingly, likened to the faith to ***believe*** in Jesus (which is a gift of God per Ephesians 2:8–9), ***repentance*** is also a gift from God. Importantly, notice the following passages in this regard:

Understanding Repentance

Repentance is not a human work, but a gift from God synonymous with saving faith:

When they [the other apostles] ***heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life”*** (Acts 11:18).

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death (2 Corinthians 7:10).

With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 2:25).



You can always discern true belief by the existence of humility over personal sin. Humbleness is a telltale sign that the Holy Spirit is in the process of saving and sanctifying His called-out ones. Conversely, if no brokenness and contrition over sin is evident, then a person's salvation should rightly be questioned.

To root out this misunderstanding, new Christians in Russia are instructed to refer to themselves as having *repented* (which is difficult to say if a person hasn't really repented) versus referring to themselves as someone who has "received Christ"—a relatively easy statement to say. The presence of *repentance* and humility is a much better outward indication of an inner genuine conversion than someone's glibly saying, "I received Christ." To the point, the former is indicative of a volitional commitment; the latter could simply be indicative of an intellectual assent.

In James 2:19, Scripture indicates that the kind of "belief" a person possesses is profoundly important. Notice what the writer of James states to his deceived-about-true-salvation audience:

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Demons display a correct intellectual understanding as to who Jesus is—but their intellectual assent is insufficient as evidenced by the *belief in* [their] *hearts*, i.e., their nonetheless volitional rebellion against the *Lordship* of Christ in their visceral inner being. Likened to those Jesus was addressing in Matthew 7, the *demons* also evidence that

It is possible to acknowledge or "believe" in the Lordship of Christ without bowing the knee to the Lordship of Christ.

James' point is that that kind of "belief"—what is called "easy believism"—does not save a soul from hell. Christ will say to the easy believers, "*I never knew you! Depart from Me.*"

What then are the signs of false belief, so that you can be sure you are not deceived about your own salvation or following a false teacher? Ephesians 5:5 is an excellent passage that provides tremendous insight and discernment regarding true salvation—not only in terms of a false understanding of true salvation but also a true understanding of false teachers regarding salvation. Let us drill down, ponder, and meditate on Ephesians 5:5–7 in particular with those two perspectives in mind.

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Make sure you catch this: Paul lists four characteristics so that *no one* [can] *deceive you with empty words* lest you be *partakers with them*. Each of four revealed aspects that typify false belief and false teachers will follow—*so that you will be spiritually wise and discerning about this matter!* Therein is Paul's objective today concerning your spiritual well-being! But before plunging in, I want to examine the context of Ephesians 5:5–7.

II. THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE

Ephesians 5:5–7 is directly tied in to the discussion of sexual sin, which precedes these verses. However, at this juncture, Paul's emphasis now segues into the larger, specific issue of habitual sexual sin as an indicator as to whether someone is truly saved. In other words, those who routinely

VERSE OF THE WEEK



Romans 5:19

For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.



May your convictions be based upon a scripturally solid understanding of sin.





Continued from page 2

“I am deeply honored to step into the role of President of Capitol Ministries. As a co-Founder alongside Ralph, I have witnessed this ministry’s growth from a single Bible study in California’s State House into a global discipleship movement within the political arena. I approach this new responsibility with humility and gratitude, fully committed to serving our remarkable team and advancing our shared vision in the days ahead,” said Danielle Drollinger.

This transition marks a new chapter for Capitol Ministries, as we trust God’s providence to continue and expand the work under new leadership.



“In the deepest gratitude to God and all of you, it has been my cherished honor to serve Capitol Ministries for the past 29 years. God has blessed this ministry so much and I feel the time has come for me to relinquish the leadership of CapMin and pass the torch to Dr. Randy Adams and Danielle Drollinger.” said Ralph Drollinger.

Dr. Randy Adams possesses the exceptional qualifications

Continued next page

sin as a lifestyle with no remorse or *repentance*—even though they may say they are Christians—are really not saved. In light of this important matter of spiritual discernment, many other passages reinforce the certainty of this biblical intention.

Note the following citation from the Matthew 7 passage we have already reviewed that has now been placed in context by the preceding sentence: *“You will know them by their fruits”* (Matthew 7:20). This indictment underscores everything I am saying regarding the ensuing volitional actions of obedience to Christ being the only accurate indicators of true saving faith. The manifest ongoing sins in a person’s life, listed in Ephesians 5, run contrary to what Jesus states are indications of true saving faith, i.e., *you will know them by their fruits*. What follows are other similar passages that underscore this same truth:

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves (James 1:22).

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:4).

No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:9).

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen (1 John 4:20).

All of these passages serve to elaborate on the biblical truth that good, not bad, *fruit*

will characterize the truly regenerate: *“You will know them by their fruits”* (Matthew 7:20).

There are many false professors of Jesus.

What follows are the four outward characteristics of the false professors of and/or the false teachers of true salvation as evidenced by and in Ephesians 5:5. Again, knowing these indicators will greatly aid your spiritual discernment and personal wisdom: who are you going to listen to in terms of personal counsel as it relates to policy decisions, as well as spiritual advice? Knowing what Scripture teaches are the signs of false belief and false teachers will be of great aid to you. Let’s now “get into the weeds” as it pertains to best understanding all the profound truths of Ephesians 5:5.

III. THEY ARE IMMORAL, IMPURE, AND COVETOUS

All three of the Greek words from which the above descriptions are derived point to self-centeredness.

- *Immorality* (*porneia*) relates to pornography, prostitution, fornication, adultery, and child molestation. All are aberrant forms of sexual fulfillment that have no regard for the other person and sooner or later deeply scar other individuals.
- *Impurity* (*akatharsia*) relates to mental *immorality*, referring to the fantasy life and other forms of mental/sexual/selfish lusts.
- *Covetousness* (*pleonektes*) or greed refers directly to the self-gratification fixation and orientation, likened to both the easy believer and false teacher.

Each of these words, which illustrate an “all-about-me” mentality, are descriptive of



someone who thinks the world revolves around him. The truly saved, on the other hand, depict a habitual behavior quite to the contrary. They are dead to self (Galatians 2:20) and are more concerned about others than self (Philippians 2:3). They live to serve their Savior! In our passage under study, Paul is saying that we can **know with certainty** that people who display a continual, unrepentant sexual deviant lifestyle are not **inheritors of Christ's kingdom**.

The word for **certainty** (*ginosko*) at the beginning of Ephesians 5:5 can also be translated as “ascertain, come to know, comprehend, perceive and recognize” as it is used throughout the NT. For instance, in 1 John 5:13, God states that He wants believers to **know** they are for **certain** saved. The passage states:

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

God wants you to know for certain whether you are saved and to possess the ability to discern what characterizes true saving faith.

When this list of indicators of false belief provided in this passage is combined with the list in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, our ability to **know** with **certainty** who is saved and who is not loses much of its mystery. It reads:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

By studying Ephesians 5:5 with 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, we begin to **know** who our mission field is, no matter what verbal allegiance to Christ they might testify to outwardly. Notice from these two passages the common words and underlying habitual sins that serve to double down on what the earmarks of falsities are. Seen another way, the passage being studied is a subset of this larger, more comprehensive portrayal of the unsaved. The Ephesian summary on sexual deviations, of their being **immoral** and **impure**, is more specifically identified when Paul pens the Corinthians: concomitant with easy believism and false teachers is habitual **fornication, adultery** and **homosexuality**. So

Those who parade throughout the Capitol naming the name of Christ who approve of such unrighteousness are either terribly untaught as true believers—baby believers who will change when confronted by the perspicuity of Scripture—or else certainly not believers whatsoever.

To calculate otherwise is to say that Scripture is not inspired and/or that Paul is somehow misled. If you think Paul's litmus test to be a bit harsh, may I challenge you to allow the Scriptures, rather than your own, perhaps biblically uninformed thoughts on the subject, to be your guide in discerning who is most likely saved and who is not. Trust God and His Word to aid you in deciphering such things.

IV. THEY ARE IDOLATERS

Another indicator of the existence or nonexistence of true saving faith is the characteristic of **idolatry**. **Idolaters** are

Continued from previous page

and leadership experience needed to advance Capitol Ministries' mission in Washington, D.C. His academic background, pastoral depth, and proven record of ministry leadership make him uniquely equipped to serve as CapMin's next Bible Teacher in the nation's capital.



“When God invites you to do something, you should say yes,” he said. “That simple truth has shaped my entire life and ministry.”

As Executive Director-Treasurer of the Southern Baptists' Northwest Baptist Convention, he led a network of more than 500 churches across multiple states and language groups. His lifelong commitment to preaching and teaching God's Word will now continue in the heart of the nation's capital.

“My goal in Washington, D.C., is simple,” he shared. “To teach God's Word to men and women in leadership and help them apply it in their work, their families, and their daily lives.”

For Dr. Adams, Capitol Min-

Continued next page



Continued from previous page

istries’ mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ resonates deeply with his convictions.

“I believe in the biblical truth that we must reach leaders,” he said. “Capitol Ministries isn’t about lobbying or politics; it’s about discipleship—teaching leaders the Word of God, leading them to Christ, and helping them grow in biblical truth that transforms their lives and decisions.”

He and his wife, Paula, will be traveling weekly from their home in Washington State to D.C. for Bible studies with leaders in the House, Senate, and White House Cabinet.

“Every ministry I’ve ever been called to, we’ve felt was a joint calling,” Dr. Adams said. “Wherever Paula is, I’m home.”

Dr. Adams asked other believers to partner with them as they begin this new journey.

“Our greatest need right now is prayer—for wisdom and strength as we adjust to this new rhythm of life and ministry. The number one thing in ministry is building and protecting trust—people must trust your heart, your competence, your integrity, and your confidentiality.”

Please pray for Danielle Drollinger and Dr. Randy Adams as they begin this new season of leadership with the Capitol Ministries team, bringing Gospel light to public servants worldwide.

those who worship something over and above Jesus Christ, i.e., their primary occupation in life supersedes their honor for and loyalty to the Lord. Habitually and continually, something else is far more important to them—be it their non-biblical philosophies toward life, their vocational fixations (i.e., political career), their recreational pursuits, or their selfish obsessions with such tangibles as money and fame. When these kinds of obsessions compete with and diminish a person’s trust and dependence in the Lord, then that person is manifesting *idolatrous* behavior. It is no coincidence that the first two of the Ten Commandments are prohibitions relating directly to *idolatry*.¹ Time and again in the Old Testament (OT), Israel fell into worshipping something other than the Lord God, and the consequences were disastrous.

Notice in the home passage of study that *idolatry* is used to further define *covetousness*: “a covetous man, who is an idolater.” Again, that word *covetous* is better translated/understood today as being descriptive of someone who is greedy, referring directly to the self-gratifying orientation of an individual.

This passage contains strong biblical language identifying and condemning the “all-about-me” mentality so prevalent today. *Idolatry* therefore further defines greed in that some kinds of self-orientation supplant a God orientation. The Greek word for *idolaters* is *eidololatres*, meaning “lacking acknowledgment of God and gratitude to Him.” “An *idolater* is a slave to the depraved ideas his *idols* represent.”² In the long run, all other gods together cannot satisfy; only in worshipping the true and living God can the fallen, vacuous *heart* of a sinner find an eternal quenching and fulfillment. Summarily,

Be rightly skeptical of those who give an aura of being a follower of

Christ but are devoted to something or someone other than Jesus Christ!

Conversely and soberingly, God states in Exodus 34:14:

“For you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

Believers who are recipients of the indwelling Holy Spirit at the point of their salvation (cf. Romans 8:9) are acutely sensitive to giving their *Utmost for His Highest* (as Oswald Chambers has titled his book). Beloved, we who are believers in the Capitol community must be ever quick to *flee from idolatry* (1 Corinthians 10:14).

Because of the existence of *idolatry* and the other characteristics listed in this study, *the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience*—one of the concluding stanzas in our home passage. Make no mistake: false believers and teachers will eventually experience His *wrath*. That is a promise of this passage. As leaders of our great nation, you must be careful not to model such attributes, lest they characterize others—and our nation.

Accordingly, may we never *partake* of anything that even hints of *idolatry*! The serious consequences will be our undoing. Throughout the OT, this sin invokes the *wrath of God* on His chosen people to the point they repeatedly lose their nation and are taken captive by other empires (Assyria and Babylon). If you lack traction, perhaps *idolatry* is the reason?

Lest there be any doubt about the salvation of those who are habitual *idolaters*, both Revelation 21:8 and 22:15³ make it perfectly clear that no habitual *idolater* will inherit the kingdom of God. Habitual *idolatry* is simply uncharacteristic of those who are truly *repentant* and indwelt by the



Living God. **Idolatry** is therefore a telltale sign of false belief and false teaching.

V. THEY ARE DECEIVERS

Not only are false believers and teachers sexually aberrant and focused on something other than God's glory, but they also have a propensity toward **deceiving** true followers of the Christ of the Bible. States our home passage, **Let no one deceive you with empty words** (Ephesians 5:6). People will always attempt to undercut the authenticity of what the Word of God states about fake belief. You will find some people will attempt to discount the integrity of this Bible study—or of me. The shrewd believer is forewarned by Scripture herein to watch out for this tactic. “People will try to deny [that these characteristics are evidence of unbelief], telling you that sin is tolerable, and that God will not exclude unrepentant sinners from His Kingdom.”⁴

Deceivers, my friend, possess **empty words**. The Greek word that Paul uses here for **deceive** is *apate*, which means “that which gives a false impression, whether by appearance, statement or influence.” The interesting aspect about **deception** is that you do not realize it is happening to you! Only in knowing the Word of God and what it says via wisdom and discernment can you keep from **deception**. Again, **You will know them by their fruits**. Become a trained “fruit inspector”! In a very straightforward manner, Colossians 2:8 exclaims:

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

False Christians do not match up to Scripture. When you know the Word, you will easily be able to identify the untruth in what they say. You will have a certainty about their invalidity. For those who lack

discernment and do not care to gain it, Proverbs 1:22 and 14:15 must speak loudly to you:

“How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?”

The naive believes everything, but the sensible man considers his steps.

VI. THEY ARE DISOBEDIENT

False believers and teachers are sexually aberrant, **idolatrous**, and **deceptive**. Paul adds one more characteristic: habitual **disobedience** or rebellion. The Scripture is clear that those who are saved will place themselves in submission to legitimate spiritual leaders—men whom God has given to His Church (cf. Ephesians 4:11–12). Hebrews 13:17 states, **Obey your leaders and submit to them**. True believers enjoy submitting to true, humble Christian leaders, but false followers of Christ despise legitimate spiritual leaders all the time. For example,

**The folks who promote
Chrislam in the U.S.
Capitol and the state
capitols of America are at
the same time not fond of
the local church.**

From what we've learned, this disconnect from God follows, doesn't it? Whereas the true follower of Christ has a contrite and broken will in submission to Christ's Lordship and His ambassadors, the apostate prefers to rule his own life, do his own thing, and **disobey** God's Word and His ambassadors this side of heaven.

An attitude of spiritual **disobedience** then is yet another telltale sign of false belief. In the book of Jude (vv. 16–17) the follow-

ing apropos summary descriptor is used to describe these people:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep an eye out for those who have difficulty following legitimate, humble Christian leaders.

VII. SUMMARY

The apostle Paul concludes, **Therefore do not be partakers with them**. In all of the New Testament, the word for **partakers** (*summetochos*) is used only twice, in this instance and in Ephesians 3:6. The word means “one who shares in a possession.” In other words, believers need to make sure they do not join or copy the sinful ways that characterize false believers. Ephesians 3:6 states exactly the opposite concerning true believers; they are **fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel**. In other words, they share in the possession of the **Gospel** and all the responsibilities that such a calling entails.

Lastly, it is important to understand what this passage is **not** teaching. Note Peter T. O'Brien in this regard (the emphasis below in bold is mine):

It is certain that persistent sinners like the immoral, impure, and **greedy** have no part or lot in God's heavenly kingdom. Believers have already been assured that they have a secure hope of inheriting the glorious life to come (cf. 1 John 5:11–12⁵). ... Those who have given themselves over to immorality, impurity, and **greed even if they call themselves Christian**, show that they are excluded from eternal life. The apostle is not asserting that the



believer who ever falls into these sins is automatically excluded from God’s kingdom. Rather, what is envisaged here is the person who has given himself or herself up without shame or repentance to this way of life.⁶

On the other hand, do not be naive. Not everyone in the Capitol who states he is a Christian is one. Scripture provides you, the true believer, with the tools to be discerning about such matters, including your own salvation. It is therefore appropriate to note 2 Corinthians 13:5 in closing:

Do not be quick to judge a genuine believer as a heretic because he has sinned; he will repent and get back on track. He will hunger for God’s ways to be his ways. Scripture will remain his plumb line.

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols.

Capitol Ministries Mail Processing Center Post Office 30994 Phoenix, AZ 85046 661.288.2622 capmin.org

© 2025 Capitol Ministries All rights reserved.



/capitolministries next page

- 1. “You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me” (Exodus 20:3–5).
2. W.E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1952), 575.
3. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. ... Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. (Revelation 21:8, 22:15).
4. John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 203.
5. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life (1 John 5:11–12).
6. Peter T. O’Brien, The Letter to the Ephesians, The Pillar New Testament Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1999), 363.

ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES: UNITED STATES

Albany NEW YORK • Annapolis MARYLAND • Atlanta GEORGIA • Augusta MAINE • Austin TEXAS • Bismarck NORTH DAKOTA • Boise IDAHO • Boston MASSACHUSETTS • Denver COLORADO • Dover DELAWARE • Carson City NEVADA • Charleston WEST VIRGINIA • Cheyenne WYOMING • Columbia SOUTH CAROLINA • Columbus OHIO • Concord NEW HAMPSHIRE • Des Moines IOWA • Hartford CONNECTICUT • Harrisburg PENNSYLVANIA • Helena MONTANA • Honolulu HAWAII • Jefferson City MISSOURI • Juneau ALASKA • Lansing MICHIGAN • Lincoln NEBRASKA • Little Rock ARKANSAS • Madison WISCONSIN • Montgomery ALABAMA • Montpelier VERMONT • Nashville TENNESSEE • Oklahoma City OKLAHOMA • Olympia WASHINGTON • Phoenix ARIZONA • Providence RHODE ISLAND • Raleigh NORTH CAROLINA • Richmond VIRGINIA • Sacramento CALIFORNIA • Saint Paul MINNESOTA • Salem OREGON • Santa Fe NEW MEXICO • Springfield ILLINOIS • Topeka KANSAS • Trenton NEW JERSEY

ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES: INTERNATIONAL

Brussels BELGIUM • Porto Novo BENIN • Brasilia BRAZIL • Ouagadougou BURKINA FASO • Gitega BURUNDI • Yaounde CAMEROON • Manitoaba CANADA • Bangui CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • San Jose COSTA RICA • Yamoussoukro COTE D’IVOIRE • Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • Quito ECUADOR • Malabo EQUATORIAL GUINEA • Mbabane ESWATINI • Addis Ababa ETHIOPIA • Brussels EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT • Helsinki FINLAND • Suva FIJI • Libreville GABON • Strasbourg GERMANY • Accra GHANA • Conakry GUINEA • Port-au-Prince HAITI • Tegucigalpa HONDURAS • New Delhi INDIA • Rome ITALY • Nairobi KENYA • Riga LATVIA • Monrovia LIBERIA • Vilnius LITHUANIA • Antananarivo MADAGASCAR • Lilongwe MALAWI • Mexico City MEXICO • Chisinau MOLDOVA • Maputo MOZAMBIQUE • Nauru • Kathmandu NEPAL • Wellington NEW ZEALAND • Abuja NIGERIA • Skopje NORTH MACEDONIA • Oslo NORWAY • Ngerulmud PALAU • Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA • Warsaw POLAND • Brazzaville REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • Bucharest ROMANIA • Apia SAMOA • Edinburg SCOTLAND • Belgrade SERBIA • Freetown SIERRA LEONE • Bratislava SLOVAKIA • Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS • Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA • Seoul SOUTH KOREA • Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte SRI LANKA • Bern SWITZERLAND • Papeete TAHITI • Dodoma TANZANIA • Nuku’alofa TONGA • Kyiv UKRAINE • London UNITED KINGDOM • Washington, D.C. USA • Montevideo URUGUAY • Port Vila VANUATU • Cardiff WALES • Lusaka ZAMBIA • Harare ZIMBABWE