

7 Convictions that Change Lives

As Christians we are taught that what we believe largely determines how we live. The problem is that surveys of American Christians often seem to indicate that Christians pretty much live like everybody else. That poses a problem for our faith.

George Barna has been a premier researcher and commentator on American religion and culture for decades. For instance, he has been studying the actual beliefs of Americans who consider themselves Christians for a long time. What he has found is a bit surprising: self-designations mean very little. By that I mean that people may refer to themselves as Christians, Protestants, and even Evangelicals with little correlation between the name and what they believe. That appears to be the major reason why statistics show Christians living inconsistently with what we assume they believe.

Over the past 20 years Barna has identified 7 Christian convictions that do make a tremendous impact on how people live. In fact, when people hold all 7 of these core beliefs, their faith and behavior is radically different from the average American. They are far less likely to gamble, get drunk, or cheat on their spouse. They are more likely to fast and pray as well as share their faith with others. These 7 convictions are neither new concepts nor are they really a mystery. They are 7 core beliefs of our faith based on our understanding of the Bible.

For the next seven weeks your pastoral staff will be preaching about these 7 core convictions, because they are so essential to our faith. I hope you will join us for this sermon series for two reasons. We all need to be reminded of the core beliefs of our faith, but we also need to prepare to share what we believe with others. Invite your friends to join us.

Oct. 11 – God, the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of the universe stills rules it today

Oct. 18 – The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings

Oct. 25 – Witness, Christians have a responsibility to share their faith with other people

Nov. 1 – Jesus Christ lived a sinless life

Nov. 8 – Satan is real

Nov. 15 – Morality, absolute moral truth exists

Nov. 22 – Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned