“Maintaining Faithfulness in a World of Challenges!”
Romans 6:4-11
Intersections
Where Faith and Culture Collide

FAITH
Jesus = Life!

CULTURE
Sin = Death!
Our Challenge: With New Life, Serve As A Faithful Generation

In handling the Gospel of Jesus Christ
“...our goal is to please him” (2 Cor. 5:9).

“...it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy / faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

“...well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23).
Intersection #1 – What Constitutes the Gospel??

Maintaining Truth – About Jesus, Sin, Salvation

“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires (2 Tim. 4:3)
New Twists on Truth

The “new Gospel” =
God’s love **affirms** people in their sin

* asserts **universal salvation** –
  all are God’s children (vs. God’s creation)

* salvation **confirmed** with no repentance

*Jesus sinned; just one of many way to heaven
WHEN HE LIVED ON EARTH, JESUS CHRIST WAS HUMAN AND COMMITTED SINS, LIKE OTHER PEOPLE

AGREE STRONGLY | AGREE SOMEWHAT | DISAGREE SOMEWHAT | DISAGREE STRONGLY | DON'T KNOW

ALL ADULTS: 31% | 24% | 15% | 28% | 2%  

MILLENNIALS: 24% | 21% | 17% | 35% | 3%  

GEN-XERS: 32% | 35% | 16% | 26% | 3%
Universal Salvation vs. Salvation in Jesus Christ Alone

“All people are eventually saved or accepted by God, no matter what they do, because he loves all people he has created”

(40% agreed versus 50% disagreed).

Intersection #2 – A New Morality

The standard...
“Let marriage be held in honor by all”
(Hebrews 13:4)

At stake: what is family? #1 evangelism spot!
• Cohabitation
• Divorce and remarriage
• Transgender lifestyles
  + How you THINK / IDENTIFY in gender
Gender Neutral public bathrooms
BIBLE OWNERSHIP REMAINS STRONG, BUT READERSHIP REMAINS WEAK.

- 88% of households own a Bible.
- 4.7 Average number of Bibles per household
- 37% of Americans read it once a week or more.

56% of America remains Pro-Bible.*

*People who believe the Bible is the actual or inspired Word of God with no errors.
Intersection #3 –

Position of Church in Culture

Former days, Church = respect
Contributions to education, medical care
Travel across GA towns = church on city square
Church time and $$$ turn inward, less community service

Today, church = marginalized
* No more public prayer
* No more Bible reading
* 57,762,000 abortions since Roe Vs. Wade
* same-sex marriage law of the land

In new morality, “freedom” = “lawlessness”
Biblical Foundations of a Nation

3 Branches of Government Found Here
“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us” (Isaiah 33:22).

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...” Dec. of Independence
Text of the First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

Can public officials/teachers pray?

Can public officials share their faith in Jesus?
Headlines Last Week

III. inn owners ordered to host same-sex wedding
by Bonnie Pritchett/WORLD News Service, posted Wednesday, April 06, 2016 (yesterday)

Christian churches ‘must be made’ to affirm homosexuality, says New York Times columnist
Intersection #4 – How We “Do” Church

* Facilities based - progress = building, expanding campus
* Attractional” model – “Bring them in!”

When the politically correct “foot falls:”

* Loss of 501(c) tax status
* no tax break on tithes
* property taxes on facilities/lake-front property

Challenge of a long-range planning committee...