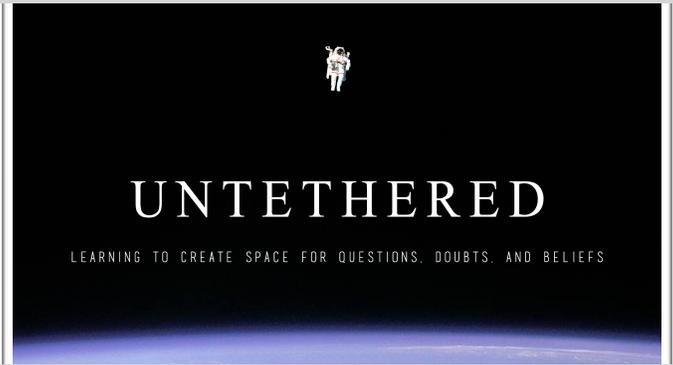


**"I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
CONTINUE."**

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In so many ways, Christianity can feel like a huge, exclusive club.

- "Special people, saying special words, singing special songs..."
- Lines can get drawn between Church Members vying for position and outsiders trying to figure out if they are even wanted or belong.
- When it comes to faith, I'm often told people don't feel like they can ask hard questions or express doubts about particular issues.

"Christianity is supposed to be a community where people can wonder out-loud. A place where people don't have to park their injuries outside and the questions they have around them."

So, why isn't it?

Jesus prays in ... (Vs) John 17:21 - "...that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent me."

Throughout much of Churchdom, people have been told not just what to believe, but how to actually think...

- What they can or can't do... What is right or wrong...
- What is Spiritually acceptable or unacceptable...And many of these things are important and good!

(Vs) 2nd Cor. 4:15 NLT - "All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory."

In this way The Church teaches people how to view and interact with the World and others around them.

- Again, so much of this is wonderful, beautiful, and important.
- Lessons of the truest light, shining out into in the darkness but, some of it has been really messed up.

- In this sense, the Church and some of its teachings have left great harm and hatred in its wake.
- Note: I don't think too many folks are surprised to hear me say this.
- You can feel it as well. We know something's wrong!

What we don't know is what we are supposed to do about it!

- And so, nothing changes. And, there's a really good reason why that is...

People want to know what's real...

- What is true? What is false? What is right and wrong? Good and evil, etc.?
- Answers to questions like these have been sought since the beginning... so, it makes sense that people feeling called by God would accept most of what was being taught at His House of Worship.
- Even if some of the 'Holy' is tangled up with some of the 'Hazardous.'

To Clarify: This series is not going to be about what the Church has taught right or wrong...

- It's more about how to begin the process of untangling yourself from false thinking and warped world views.
- The phrase we're using for this process is "To Be Untethered."

For us to even begin Untethering, there are some important things that have to be understood...

- **First:** Awaken to the reality that we are all tethered in one area or another.
- This is the first step because I have found it to be the most difficult to accept.
- There are over 33,000 distinct Christian denominations in 238 countries, all of which claim to have it right!

"The problem is, many of the people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same way they do." Barbara Brown Taylor

(Vs) Rom. 7:21-24 – "So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

- **All this to say,** for us to act as if the Local Church's teachings are completely free from the effects of sin is ludicrous.
- **Next:** Be aware that your personal Untethering should never be done by anyone else but you and the Holy Spirit.

(Vs) John 14:25,26 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

This will look different for each individual, as not all people are tethered to the same things in the same way. Let it be personal!

- Different experiences create different bindings, and so on...
- **Lastly:** Accept that the process will be experienced best with a "childlike" posture.

(Vs) Matt. 18:2,3 - "And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

- A child-like posture is full of wonder and willingness without holding anything back!

"I don't believe you. Continue!"