



# The Illusions of our Time

Identifying and speaking to the background beliefs of those we care for and counsel.  
Pastor Jon Walker

## **Why this matters:**

1. Our background beliefs are an expression of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ we think we're in.
2. We're asking and answering questions about things that  
\_\_\_\_\_.

***"Heresies typically ask an important question and offer answers that contain significant truths."- Carl Trueman***

3. The gospel transforms our \_\_\_\_\_.

***I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (logikos) worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:2***

## **Keep these Questions in mind:**

- What's the grand story they think they're in?
- What does this reveal about what they think God is like?
- Where does this belief naturally lead?
- What can I affirm that's true in what they're saying?
- What's their gospel?
- What's the hope that's lost with this belief?
- How does the gospel say something more beautiful/true/hopeful than this belief?

## **#1 - The illusion of \_\_\_\_\_**

The belief that we are self-sufficient and our own highest authority.

- Exodus 20:3 – Have no other gods before God.
- Romans 11:36- All things are from, through and for Him.
- I Corinthians 8:6- We live for God and through Christ.
- Matthew 28:18- All authority given to Jesus.
- John 14:6- Jesus is truth embodied.



- John 17:17- God's word is truth.
- Psalm 19:7- God's law nourishes the soul.

## **#2 - The illusion of \_\_\_\_\_**

The belief that the highest human good is becoming our truest self by acting on what comes from within.

- Psalm 145:9- The Lord is good to all.
- Matthew 7:11- God gives good to his children.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7- In Christ we are a new creation.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18- We are being transformed into the image of Christ.
- Philippians 1:6- God is completing His work in us.
- Ephesians 4:20-24- Put on the new self.

## **#3- The illusion of \_\_\_\_\_**

The belief that true love means total acceptance of all beliefs and lifestyles.

- 1 John 4:10 – Loved is defined by Christ's sacrifice.
- John 4:1-26 – Loved displayed to the Samaritan woman.
- John 8:1-11- Love displayed to adulterous woman.
- Ephesians 4:15- Speak the truth in love.
- James 5:19-20 – Restoring a sinner saves them.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4- We aim to please God, not men.

## **#4- The illusion of \_\_\_\_\_**

The belief that true freedom is the absence of constraint in order to pursue internal desires.

- Isaiah 61:1 + Luke 4:18- Christ came to set us free.
- John 8:31-36- We have freedom from sin which enslaves.
- Romans 6:16-18- We are free from sin but slaves to righteousness.
- Galatians 5:13-14- Don't use freedom as opportunity for the flesh.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12- Not all is wise because sin dominates.
- 1 Peter 2:16-17- Our freedom doesn't cover-up evil.



## **#5- The illusion of \_\_\_\_\_**

The belief that societal oppression is the dominant explanation for reality and identity.

- Romans 3:10-12,23- None are righteous and all have sinned.
- Matthew 16:27 + Romans 2:6 - Each will be judged according to their actions.
- Mark 7:8- Don't add human traditions to the Word.
- 1 Corinthians 4:6- Don't go beyond what's written.
- Ephesians 2:11-16- Christ breaks down hostility between people groups.
- Matthew 22:37-40, I John 4:20- Love of God and others are synonymous.
- Philippians 4:2-3- Women referred to as Paul's fellow workers.
- James 2:17-18 – Faith should produce genuine action.

### **Some Resources:**

5 Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age: Rosaria Butterfield

Strange New World: Carl Trueman

What God Has to Say About Our Bodies: Sam Alberry

Critical Dilemma: Niel Shenvi and Pat Sawyer