

The Bible can be read
from two different
perspectives!

Which perspective do
you read it from?

Brendan Mc Crossan

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One

The Bible can be read from two different perspectives; which perspectives do you read it from? Most Catholics read the Bible from a negative point of view, a view that they are not good enough, that they are unworthy and sinful barely able to get into heaven, quite a lot of Protestants have this perspective also.

The born again child of God needs to read the Bible from a positive perspective, the way God intended his word to be read. Because God did everything for the born again child of God no matter what you're Christian religion is.

When you read the bible from a negative perspective you only see the punishment of God, a harsh attitude, you don't see the love of God for you.

Below is an e mail a friend in America sent to me and some others, when I read this email it disturbed me, not because I had anything to fear from God but because of the way it puts the scriptures together.

I did not write this but it was sent to me by a friend in America.

*****I'd like to share this challenging meditation with you. *****

“Be *perfect* as the Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48). “You shall be *holy*, for I am holy” (I Pet 1:15). “Let us cleanse ourselves of *every* defilement of the flesh and spirit, *perfecting holiness in the fear of God*” (II Cor. 7:1). “Pursue peace with all men and the holiness without which no one will see God” (Heb. 12:10). “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...” (Matt. 18:9). “So because you are lukewarm..., I will spew you out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:16). When you read such passages, do you tremble? Are you alarmed to see the mismatch between your life and these Scriptures? Or do you excuse yourself by giving them some minimalist interpretation? Do you hope grace will cancel out these high commands? Instead of striving to bring your experience up the Bible standards, do you explain the Bible down to fit your condition? ***Richard.**

I found this email very disturbing because it is sent from an aggressive spirit, a religious spirit, the scriptures are accurate, what they say are true, but are from a fleshy aggressive attitude. Over these last few years I have come to know the mind of God in regard to us his children, and I see he addresses us in a loving way; he sees us from his eyes, the eyes of his spirit, and wants us to see through spirit eyes also; but there are times he has to correct us and times he even chastises us but not in the way I see this email speaking, it has an aggressiveness in it, and I of course know the man who sent it to me and others, and he is always challenging people

religiously. There are times over the years I seen he has **been right** but mostly he is antagonistic. And I want to show you those scriptures from the perspective of a child of God and I want you to compare them because most Catholics have an unworthy background, a negative background.

I present these same scriptures mostly taken from the **Contemporary English Version (CEV)** which expresses the word of God in a more Christ like loving attitude with a sense that you need to do things God's ways to be blessed, not condemned.

Matthew 5-48-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 1-15

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Always live as God's holy people should, because God is the one who chose you, and he is holy. ¹⁶That's why the Scriptures say, "I am the holy God, and you must be holy too."

2 Corinthians 7-1-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

My friend, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honour God and try to be completely like him.

Hebrews 12-7-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

Be patient when you are being corrected! This is how God treats his children. Don't all parents correct their children? ⁸God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn't correct you, then you don't really belong to him.⁹Our earthly fathers correct us, and we still respect them. Isn't it even better to be given true life by letting our spiritual Father correct us?

****¹⁰Our human fathers correct us for a short time and they do it as they think best. But God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. ¹¹It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace. *****

¹²Now stand up straight! Stop your knees from shaking ¹³and walk a straight path. Then lame people will be healed, instead of getting worse.

Matthew 5-48-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

2 Corinthians 7-1-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

My friend, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honour God and try to be completely like him.

Matthew 18-9-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

If your eye causes you to sin, poke it out and get rid of it. You would be better off to go into life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fires of hell.

Revelation 3-14-Contemporary English Version (CEV)

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: I am the one called Amen! I am the faithful and true witness and the source of God's creation. Listen to what I say. ¹⁵I know everything you have done, and you are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other. ¹⁶But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷You claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need. But you don't know how badly off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Two

When you read such passages, do you tremble? Are you alarmed to see the mismatch between your life and these Scriptures? Or do you excuse yourself by giving them some minimalist interpretation? Do you hope grace will cancel out these high commands? Instead of striving to bring your experience up the Bible standards, do you explain the Bible down to fit your condition?

When I read such passages do I tremble? The answer to that is no! I am following God every day of my life and trying to live it to the best as his grace allows. I don't do things from a fear of God perspective, but I have the reverend 'fear' of God which is 'respect and adoration' not fear of what he will do to me but a fear and respect because he is my Father, and any good son or daughter both fear and respect their Father; they are not afraid of him, and when Father says something then we do as Father says because we know we will be punished by him if we don't, but we know he only punishes us when we do wrong; we don't walk around in fear of him all the time, we respect and love our earthly Father and our heavenly Father even more.

Do I tremble in his sight; am I alarmed by the mismatch between my life and these scriptures? No! for my life is devoted to my Father and I know him very well, I know he loves me and I know he created me millions of years ago and all that time ago he decided to make me holy, spotless and clean, Ephesians -1-4 and he also made me forever perfect in his sight; Hebrews-10-14, and he created me for heaven- Hebrews-3-1, and Hebrews-2-11 says I have been made holy by Jesus and we have the same Father. And you also are holy spotless and clean and forever perfect in his sight, if you are a Christian who loves Jesus.

****Or do you excuse yourself by giving them some minimalist interpretation? Do you hope grace will cancel out these high commands? ****

I never minimalist the interpretation of the word of God in fact I exult it high above everything else on this world; I see the glory in the written word of God and I never presume on God in anything but I believe by faith that God has made me holy, spotless, clean and forever perfect in his sight forever more; I know his divine grace has done all these things in my spirit. I do not think I am forever perfect in my flesh or that I am spotless or holy in my flesh life, but I know that my flesh is going to die and rot in the grave but my spirit which is holy, spotless, clean and forever perfect will live for eternity in heaven and I know that I am already seated in heaven even at the moment of writing this. I know grace has done this for me from before the world began and it is all a plan of God to make me Holy in his sight just like and equal to his son Jesus because he has joined me together as one person in spirit in Christ Jesus.

I do not read the bible, God's Word, from a negative flesh centred side, but from the spirit of God in me. I know that I must try and walk holy, in my flesh life as God said, 'be holy as I am holy.' And I know if I try and walk holy from the flesh perspective, trying to achieve holiness I can never accomplish this I will end up in frustration because I cannot make myself holy, only God can do that for me and he has done so already.

{Reading scripture from the flesh perspective reads from a negative side, because the flesh tries to justify itself.}

{Reading scripture from the spirit of God in me side reads that it is already done for me and I walk in gratitude; Jesus justifies me!}

As this man states in that bunch of scriptures, he states the truth in the word of God but he approaches the word of God from the flesh thinking and there is harsh judgement coming with it; he sees punishment and focus on punishment and trying to justify ourselves by what we do or don't do.

The positive side of scripture focus on what Jesus done for us and in realising what Jesus done we walk in a love relationship with Jesus, wanting to do things that please him, not because we have to, but because we love him and want to.

I don't sin because I don't want to, I don't sin because sin offends the person I love, and lately I have found that sin, {my sin} is now offending me. I try and walk in holiness because I am holy in my spirit and I try not to fall into sin, not always successful of course but I am aware more than ever of sin in my life, but even more I focus that in my spirit I am made in the Divine Image of my creator and those were his words and not mine. -Genesis -1-27.

I know that the word of God tells me in Romans -8-1 that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And that Hebrews -2-11 we have been made Holy by Jesus. I know that Hebrews-3-1 says that we have been chosen for heaven and set apart for God; why would I concentrate on the negative side of reading the word of God, when I see positively what God has been trying to get us Christian children of God to see for centuries. Reading the word from the human perspective is useless because all you will see is rules and regulations you will never find freedom that Jesus won for you.

Jesus died so that we would be free, free from rules and regulations, free from the law with its rules and regulations. God made you Holy in his sight, the world says you must work at being holy and that can never be achieved by works or you would be able to save yourself, and you can't.

*****Do you hope grace will cancel out these high commands? Instead of striving to bring your experience up the Bible standards, do you explain the Bible down to fit your condition? *****

Grace will never cancel out God's high commands but grace has been given to you to accept Jesus into your heart as Lord and Saviour and look again at those two words 'Lord and Saviour,' meaning someone is your lord and someone is your saviour and that someone is Jesus. He saved you from a religious, and humanistic way of trying to be saved and trying to live, he saved you by grace and he gave you all the marvellous blessings to be able to dwell in the heavenly places, to be able to walk right into the throne room of God himself assured of a glad welcome when you come with and in Jesus.

I have been striving for 35 years to bring the Bible standards to people showing them how much they are loved and cherished by God-Jude-1-1 'beloved of God.' I have been trying to teach and show those who are mixed up regarding the truth in scripture that Jesus died for them personally and he arose from the dead with their spirits joined to his spirit and that we now live the life of Jesus in our every day walk with God and people and that Jesus is now living his new life in us if we let him; and I strive every day to get out of the road of Jesus and let him live in me as planned by God from before time even began.

I explain the Bible 'up' not down, to show others that Jesus fits their condition, he is their Lord and he is their Saviour and the Holy Spirit is their teacher their guide and corrector.

When people read the word of God from a human perspective without the Holy Spirits teaching and direction they focus on the punishment intended for those who are against Christ; they don't focus on what Jesus has done for them, they focus on condemnation and not on mercy. A true child of God does everything they can to please their God because of love for him as I said before, they don't do it because if they don't, they will be punished; you cannot make someone love you by threats, and God does not threaten us, he warns us but doesn't threaten us; and to me those scriptures sent to me and some others are from a human perspective not a spirit perspective, and I seen the response that one person replied to this email, he agreed with it and said he was unable to forgive himself, he is living in guilt, he does not know that he is totally forgiven by God and Jesus and that God has cleared his record of all sin and guilt-Romans-3-22-'now God says he will accept and acquit us, and declare us "not guilty" if we trust Jesus to take away our sins.'

I don't bring down the scriptures to suit me no I bring the scriptures up to suit what God did for me through Jesus and I dwell in that every day of my life; I don't have time to dwell in negative scripture searching, I search with my spirit not with my head which condemns, but with my spirit, which is clean spotless holy and forever perfect in the sight of God.

I am forever perfect in the sight of God, I agree with what he says about me and not what man using his word says about us.

I thank my friend, because if he never sent me these negative scriptures I would never have discovered by the Holy Spirits teaching me that there is 'two ways' to read the word of God, from a negative human perspective or from a positive Holy Spirit perspective.

You the reader can choose which side you wish to read scripture from, from mans version or the Holy Spirits version; and you, if you are a Christian have the Holy Spirit in you to teach you the truth in his word, and all you need to do is take out your bible every day and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in God's word, to seek the truth and Jesus said, 'I am the way the truth and the life.'

Amen