

Apologetics -5.1 - The True Church pt 1

Transcription

I'm going to talk about first of all the cardinal doctrines; does anybody remember what the four cardinal doctrines are? And I'm not going to give you a hint this time, on colors? Can anybody tell me what the four cardinal doctrines are give me the four colors, Red, White, Blue and Purple. What does red stand for, the blood of Christ, which means in the Christian Faith shedding the blood does cover our sins. That is something when you go to Islam; Bahaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, a lot of "isms" you'll find that they do not accept the book of Christ on the Christ to pay for our sins. All right. So that's going to be a critical doctrine. Now the reason why I'm using red, white, blue, and purple is a way to help you remember what these cardinal doctrines are. White means, purity of Christ because he was without sin. Now you can find in many religions we Jesus had some sin that he was simply a good man whether he was a little God, but of course we teach and the scriptures clearly teach that he was without sin, and he is who? And he is actually God. Now this is where you're going to cut, you know your going to cut and your going to be chased by everybody because they don't except the fact that Jesus is God, they accept that he is a little God perhaps or son of God but not that He is a Ho Theos or the one true God. Elohim, Yahweh, ok. And then you ask color being Purple, Jesus is our mediator, it's like the priesthood; he mediates that means he stands between us and God Father, so when God father looks at us he's able to communicate whatever we can't. How many of you would say you're not eloquent you don't feel that you're eloquent? Ok, what's wonderful about the mediator is that when you pray even though you almost stutter and don't know what to say, by the time it goes to Jesus Christ who is our

mediator it's eloquent to the Father. Every thought of our heart was explained beautifully to the Father, so that's what's great about the mediator. Now, basic apologetics, all right, great, very good, Jim. What we also talked about and this is where our next two minutes are going to be spent. If there's a way to prove that Jesus did claim in the scriptures to be God. Now why is that important? Because if you were a J.W. a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon and you walked up to me with your Bible which has had a lot of changes in it but you're unbiblical, but let's say you walked up with your Bible which is the new and world translation for example, for Jehovah Witnesses and you were talking to me if you know these four points I could take your four much eschewed scriptures and still prove that Jesus claimed to be God. In other words many cults believe the Bible was inspired so once they believe that you won the argument, as long as you know where to look. And so the basic of this of this tenant comes down to this. A lot of people say Jesus was a good man, I'm going to repeat this because its critical, don't ever forget this, a lot of people say Jesus was a good man but the reality is Jesus is either God or he is an obsessive liar. You can't fit good men in there. Now this will shock you kind of when I say it at first but if you think about it Jesus claimed to be God, he claimed to be the Son of God; he claimed to have the ability to think like the Holy Father, Heavenly Father that he had direct communication with the Heavenly Father. He made all kind of claims, but to tell you the truth if they weren't true how can you say he was a good man. Now why do I say this, I say this because a lot of cults think that they can get away with saying that he was a good man hoping to satisfy you as a Christian. Like we kind of believe like you do he was a good man, but to tell you the truth. He's either God or he's nowhere near who he claims to be. He's either a liar or he's God, and when you say that to people it startles them.

Because they suddenly realize oh I can't go the middle ground. Now there is no spiritual I use to say this there is no neutral ground there is no spiritual Switzerland. Ya'll with me its hell and heaven but there is no middle ground that you get to go and kind of dance for a few years until you figure it out. So, where we are right now it's the same with who Christ is so if you can actually open the Bible and say Jesus Christ claimed to be God, if you saw it in the Bible you believe that they say yes. What's the first verse you go to John 8:58 ok now I use to have a little cartoon that I use to teach to children. Which showed a number 58 and it showed a guy named John who was eating the 58 so John ate 58. So if that helps you, yeah it was a donut a donut in the shape of 58, so if that helps you open your Bibles right now, everybody who didn't have the chance to do this before now I want to do this with you. Now if you open your Bibles in 30 seconds I will give you the cheat notes that will enable you to literally a few minutes prove how the scriptures show that Jesus claimed to be God. Ok, does everybody have their Bibles open to John 8:58. If you go to John 8:58 go into the margin of your Bible and if you will write Exodus 3:14. Just write it in the margin of the Bible because as long as you remember John 8:58 where's the location again, John 8:58. Just hammer that in your brain and practice it all week long, but you can use your cheat notes from then on to prove what's going on with Jesus. Underline the words I Am on John 8:58 if you haven't underlined them don't be afraid to write in your Bible. John 8:58 make sure you circle or underline the words I Am. And then go down a couple of verses and you're going to see the word they tried to stone Him. Circle the word stone, and I'll tell you why? Because John 8:58 is showing Jesus claimed to be the, I Am, ya'll with me? I Am is the name of God. "I Am" is not a statement of tense, it's not a noun or a verb because otherwise it would be

incorrect in its conjugation. IAm, is a name of Jehovah God, and that's why they tried to stone Him. Now you show this to a cult member and it throws them off a little. They're like maybe "I Am" means I was there, I saw Moses, I saw Abraham it's not saying that. It's very clear that it's the name of God. The way you know this because you've written Exodus 3:14 in the margin. Let's go to Exodus 3:14 real quickly, I'm just going to do this really rapidly so we can get into other stuff. Exodus 3:14 see the Old Testament and what your doing is your shooting through the the Old Testament and you're going to find where God actually names himself I Am. Actually it's the Great Name, I'll tell you why it's Great. Because he is saying I am Rapha, I am Tsidkenu, I am omniscient and omnipotent and omnipresent. I am all of all. I'm through all time. He's everything of everything. Exodus 3:14, does somebody want to read that out loud, I Am, see that's a name, do ya'll get it, the words "I Am" are not a noun or a verb, it is the name of God. So now circle that I Am there so when you go to that verse you will be able to show them see that is the name of God. Now I'm going to tell you what the cultists say at that point, Na, na , na ,na, no, no, no, no. You now maybe he's kind of saying that he's God but he's not The Great God. Maybe what he's saying is he's a god. Now this is where of course John 1:1 remember what John 1:1 says in the beginning was the Word and the Word was God. In the beginning was the Word, Hol Logos and the Word was God, Hol Theos. Jesus is God. What they have done to cover themselves up because they have realized that Jesus is called God as they say he is just a little God. Down the margin by Exodus 3:14 as write in Isaiah 43:10 and 11 write in and just write it right there you know why because now we're going to be able to connect the I Am to Isaiah 43 to show that it cannot mean the little gods. Is anybody there yet Isaiah 43:10 and 11? Ok would you

read that? Now every cult in the world that believes in multiple gods follows the “isms” such as Hinduism, Buddhism, I mean every cult in the world including Jehovah’s Witness and the Mormons. Did you know that the Mormons believed that Jesus was once a man and so is God the Father who was once a man and he evolved into a higher state then he is, now that’s what Mormons will teach us it believes that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer. How many of you knew that? Is that weird or what? So it’s way out there. The Christian faith teaches us in one true God. Now Islam is very issue it’s very issue oriented on the one true god Allah. The Christian faith and the Jewish faith also believe in one true God, but its not the same God even though we saw last week how Alah sounds like El of Elohim and Allah is a relative word because one is Aramaic and one is Hebrew and they have the same root derivatives. There is only one faith that teaches the true God fulfilled in Christ Jesus obviously that is the Christian faith. So where we are right now is those other religions though that believes that there is a bunch of gods out there Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, and all the other cults this verse is critical. Did you just hear what you said when she read it, it says, Isaiah 43:10 and,11. There are no other Gods formed God says before me or after me. That means there are none. I will tell you I probably one hundred times, sat then standing going door to door whatever it is and witnessing and at that passage the bottle begins to fall off beneath the cult member. Because I just showed them what I really love about this is, this is actually one verse ahead of what the Jehovah Witness use for their witness name. It’s beautiful because it kind of recognizes the passage we’ve done that before but they are used to looking at the later verses they have never been into that verse, so verse 11 is going to talk about something else that Jesus not only is he God, the one true God but it’s a job He’s going to

accomplish. Could you read verse 11, everybody listen to verse 11. He's not only God, but, He is Savior. Now, which Savior can we use in reference to saving somebody from problems that this savior has here connotes saving from sin only. Because it is talking about the diety. Now Jehovah's Witness and Mormon and everybody else gets really freaked out by now. This is where they start getting nervous this is where they want to get up and leave your house. Now I want to share something in love. You're doing this your sharing Christ with a new love, right, and because you want them to know the truth, Amen, because you want them to know the truth. I mean I love my kids, I don't want Gideon to get on his bicycle, he, he invents bicycles the other day he, he found an old bicycle cut it in half and attached it to a scooter and kind of bolted it together and he was out the door doing all kinds of tricks and stuff like that, it was really insane but it was really cool looking. But I realized that he did not have any control over this thing I saw this car coming down the street and I was like Get in and I grabbed him and pull him down the street because I love him. Why do you witness, it's because you care about these people's eternity right? But we allow people into our home before we do, we sit down, we've already talked, assume we already did our role playing, we sit down offer them coffee, and fellowship. Don't run when cults come to your door, you know why? They come to you, I mean you don't have to go out, I mean if you're a farmer and the wheat jumped into your hands wouldn't it be nice instead of going out into the field. So that's what your doing here. This last verse is Matthew 1:21 would you write Matthew 1:21 in the margin of Isaiah 43:10. Just write it with you pen in the margin of Isaiah 43:10 write Matthew 1:21 right next to that verse. Now for those of you who are new you're like Peter is flying by these verses so fast I'm like spacing out but it's ok I'll give

you the studies on this you'll be able back them up. But anyway, Matthew 1:21 would you like to read that for me? Ok, now what's the job of God alone to save from sin? Now if you're drowning in water somebody could save you but to save from sin is only the act of God. So even in the New Testament announcing the birth of Christ it shows it's an act of God. Now there is another name which was used for the name of Jesus and every Christian should know it, Oh Come Oh Come, Emmanuel. Which means what? God is with us. Jesus is God with us. God with us is his connotation that He was God who came to be with us. Now that's going to bring us to the first point tonight which is what is unique about the Christian faith. Our religion never listen to this its real simple I'll share with you. All religions are man seeking after God. That why there are Gold Temples and everything else. Everybody is seeking after God trying to figure out the Christian faith is the one faith where God came to man. Did ya'll see that? Religion is men seeking after god, the Christian faith is where God actually came in the form of a man he sought us out, is the difference here. Which is really a sign of love, isn't it? If your child was lost in the wilderness, what would you do? Would you just wait around hoping he comes home, No, that's right of course you wouldn't would you, you would seek him out, because you love him. The basis of the Christian faith is love as much as the Beatles and everyone else has abused that word; the basis of the Christian faith is love, and so that's why God came to earth it was simple love. Now, we're going to find out you'll learn a little Hebrew tonight a Hebrew word, but we're going to find out tonight what true love is. Its attached to the concept of loving kindness. Maria shared with me the other day, that's why she's sitting up here. I mean she, she was studying the word of God and we like studying the Word together. She just literally fills my heart with all kinds of

wonderful things, as far as understanding the scriptures. So now we're going to talk a little about that. That it is, listen carefully, the root concept that without it there is no true difference between the Christian faith and other religions. We're going to have to really understand that, what we're going to talk about next if you look at Islam you have a very harsh non fatherly god. If you look at polytheism , or if you look at Hinduism that have many gods, they have millions of gods. Now that's as impersonal as it gets, it's a crowd of gods, so over here you got a harsh god that doesn't have a relationship and will not be merciful, and over here you have millions of gods that are totally impersonal. And what makes the Christian faith unique is a singular God that is not just harsh but loving. So we need to understand that, that is in scripture, and how actually I don't have time to talk about the Koran actually we can prove using verses in the Koran. How many of you got my e-mail of the Koran, the verses, I'm sure most of you didn't have time to read it, there are actually verses which you can use in the Koran to prove that the Bible and Christ should be respected in what we say. Which is pretty powerful, I mean you know you got to admit, somebody walk up to you and says, your, your, your bad your evil because you don't worship Allah, well you also actually to tell you the truth your kind of bad because you're not even obeying your own Koran, and that throws them back. So the verses that we sent ya'll that you can actually use; the verses that say what you're doing with Christianity today, abusing is a according to the law will endanger you to hell. So that's relatively strong. And tonight we don't have time to go to the Koran, but we'll cover that another time. So but right here is the concept of the true church, now this is going to be a paradigm-shift for ten seconds. One of them the realities is , now everybody try to wrap your mind around this, I'm not going to go high speed on this I'm going to slow up. I'm

not reviewing as much anymore. If you try to use only history to prove this superiority of the Christian faith or other religions, you will not win the argument. Because there have been a lot of people who attach the name of God to what they did, that did wicked things, are ya'll with me. They'll attach the name of Christ to what they do and they don't do good things, and you can debate all day long with a cult member and try to convince him that's not us. Everything you do when you discuss this eternal issue you have to go back to the scriptures. Because they're going to quote the crusades, they're going to quote the Salem witch hunts, they're going to quote abuses in the church today and you know what's going to happen? Four days from now you're going to be at the same point that you started. Do ya'll follow? Now because there, there are temptations to do that, but the reason I put this up here is I believe that there is true Christianity, Biblical Christianity. I also believe and have experience as many of you have that in church environments the abuse of the Christian faith. So that's why is so critical for ya'll to know the scriptures because it's really going to come back to what does God say? Now, would, ya'll say that with me, what does God say? One more time, think about it, what does God say? Because outside that what we say in opinion is not going to hold water, ok. Forgiveness for example, is one of the things about Christianity that is very rare. Paul wrote, you are to forgive and comfort him so he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow, I urge therefore to reaffirm your love for him. Paul in the New Testament, people think Paul is a tough guy and that he is not very friendly and very loving but he really did write about love a lot. But what he said was the way Christianity will look different is the way we treat each other and love each other. Now look at the worldwide church in its variations you're not seeing that as much. You see a lot of politic you see a lot of business you see a

lot of corporate but you're not seeing what made the church really famous in the first century. Romans write about how Christians were known because they were so forgiving and so loving and they embraced one another, and slaves were treated decently by their master, because their masters were humbled by God to reach out and love a slave, as brothers. The book of Philemon by the way if you ever want to read a neat letter the book of Philemon is a letter Paul writes in Philemon to treat your slaves if you don't think this is revolutionary trust me, to treat your slaves as your own brother. That was revolutionary, because it showed love, and that's what changed the world. It wasn't the crusades it was the love of one believer toward one another. Ok, and actually when we go show that I want to tell you who's behind all that. The reason can you read this out loud with me. The reason I wrote you was to see if you could stand the test in order that worry Satan might not outwit us for we are not unaware of his schemes. **When you say the vision of the body of Christ when you see people politics and their doing it corporately you know what's going on it's actually not just the place there.** The Bible said it was Lucifer himself that's behind that. That's right, dividing brother, Satan is behind the corruption in the church for that last 2,000 years, because that's the best place for him to hunt. It's inside the body, so it says here this is a test. So whenever even in your home, why do you think it says husbands love your wives and don't abuse them, don't be abusive. You know why, he said love them like Christ loves church, you know why? Because the family is a microcosm of the church, the church is a macrocosm of the family and if you at home cannot show love and forgiveness to each other how are you going to in a big body of people? How are you going to represent Christ publically; going to be able to do it. Does that makes sense to ya'll? I'm sharing this with you and

with all of you in Russia because much of you are new to the Christian faith and many of you are not free to worship in churches; so let me just encourage you on something. Mercy, grace and forgiveness, the act of the church or God is critical for you to grow in your faith, because we're going to find love, now I want you to see something, this is really cool. I wish we could do at least two studies on this, love is the key to the invisible and supernatural. I'm going to repeat that we're going to see but love is actually the key to the supernatural. You would think when you look if you don't look at Harry Potter, but if you look at Harry Potter, what do you always see in which craft, chants, right, like a chant or a Latin slogan it's always in Latin for some reason, right. **Latin words**. Now that's not a chant that's actually what Caesar did say about dividing Gaul. But anyway. But you know the word of God shows that to know the mysteries of God you have to have the proper heart, to know the mysteries of God you have to have the proper heart and to love truly with loving kindness, and there's an interesting translation of loving kindness, that we're going to see in the Hebrew in the Old Testament that I think will change your whole vision as to why our Christianity has failed, but where you as a believer, and there's some couples sitting in the back and I'm not going to pressure you guys but they literally minister to people over seas and to young women who are in college and everything else, my daughter met one of those foreign students, that love and grace that was shown to them and the encouragement was showed to them is Christ to those girls. It's a perfect way for those girls to see Christ. My daughter Rachel you know I remember once when she walked up to me she was so excited because a young woman had walked up to her and said I just want to let you know I never much liked Christians in High School, until I went to college, but I watched and you've always been so gracious

to me that it completely shifted how I feel among Christians and it also has opened my heart and I met Christ because of the way you treat me. Did ya'll follow that? I'm going to tell you that is the power of the biblical faith right there. I'm going to just share with you quickly Colosians 3:11 shows us what the true church is. Will you just say the word True Church? Now we're not saying this little guy is the true church it's not some weird cult or something, but within Christianity for 2,000 years it has been a golden thread to believers who by faith believe what God said in His word and by grace they are saved in faith and not of any works even though for a season in church and much of the church around the world still says it's through good works you need to be saved. It is by grace we say through faith and that not in itself, it is a gift of God not any works or else we would boast. What's true, right. If you do something to save yourself you would be like talking like Hey I just saved myself I mean we'd be working our way to heaven. So there's always been this golden thread through history. The church swells in numbers and everything else because the golden thread is within them. The very first thing is we see the Christian faith there is no bigotry or difference, ok. It must have been retyped what we see the second point is kindness, humility, compassion; gentleness, patience are the sign of the true church. Now, I was the pastor's son and we're going to come back in a second and we're going to talk about the biblical true church in other words the church is not a building or a denomination. The Greek word for church as some of you probably know because I've taught this before is Ekklesia you can say Ekklesia. Now you know a little Greek. You know Ralph who works down the street at a little Greek restaurant – (laugh) just kidding, that was bad. The word “Ek” the first part comes from the word “Ex” or Ex which comes from the word Exit, like when you walk out of the door, so Ex

means to be called out the door to the called out assembly . Koininia is the other word which you know means fellowship. So the Ekklesia is the called out assembly that means we've been called out from the rest of the world to be unique. We've left, Elvis has left the building and the Christians have left the building on lifestyle and now God has called us into this lifestyle of grace and love. So, we're going to go ahead and take a break and for those of you who are watching we want you to make sure that you come back next week and I hope that you have enjoyed our studies we talk about the true church the biblical church it's not a denomination, is not an organization, it's an organism it's living versus an organization which simply structure in itself so God Bless you and we will see you next week. When you are searching for the heart of God, which for me is huge, I came across the word "hesed" which means loving kindness and when you see loving kindness the two words together in the scripture is always the word "hesed". In Hebrew and it's the loving kindness that is beyond you just being kind go someone. It is, a divine loving kindness and that's the heart of God. That's when Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh to teach them about God because he said if I go and they believe in God I'm going to be mad because I don't like them, I don't like them, and I don't want them to believe in God. They argument he has with God you know, God had to you know have a serious talk with him. To make a long story short when he gets to Nineveh, you know God finally leaves him there and says you're going and he preaches the word of God so every single person can believe. It wasn't about him being happy and he became very upset with God because he didn't like those people. You know and he said I knew they would believe if I came because of your "hesed" Now that is the key right here, this is in the book of Psalms. Surely, goodness and mercy shall, whats the word there and in

English do you know what it surely, goodness, and mercy shall. “hesed” follow me and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Right that’s the loving kindness of mercy “and I knew you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in hesed, a God who relents from sending calamity.