

HOW WE ADOPT OUR BELIEFS

James 1:22-23 ... “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror...”

Even people who do not have relationships with Christ, usually have belief systems; something they believe in that guides their paths. Such alternatives to Christian beliefs usually change frequently, leaving unbelievers guided by the whims of society, their friends, trends, and other fleeting ideas. If you are a committed follower of Christ, you have a belief system anchored in God. God never changes. But even believers can find themselves slipping away from God’s path and going their own way. How does this happen?

It often begins with your disagreement with something in God’s Word. Your Bible may contain some verses that you find disagreeable, unfair, unsatisfying, or simply not to your liking. It could be verses condemning certain sins or behaviors. It could be passages that tell you exactly what you do not want to hear. It might be the numerous passages about punishment and hell. As soon as you start criticizing God’s Word as being too harsh, unfair, or judgmental, you may be tempted to create your own hybrid belief system; you accept portions of the Bible, reject others, and invent your own faith.

This is why Jesus tells us that the road to Heaven is narrow and few travel it. It is not narrow because he built the road that way, but because it is so seldom traveled it does not need to be wide. The National Highway between Maitum and Gensan, is slowly undergoing widening. They are adding additional lanes because there is more traffic than there was a few years ago. If few people drove that highway, it could remain a narrow road.

Everyone who rejects Christ is living according to some other belief system, and it is probably one that they create themselves. It is easy to create your own customized belief system. All you need to do is create your own ideas to live by, think about them often, and eventually those ideas will transform into beliefs. The sin of lying works in the same manner. If you tell a lie often enough, you will begin to believe it yourself. After some time passes you may even forget what the truth is.

To fight against the natural tendency to adopt your own belief system, fill your mind with God’s Word. God’s system is all you need to have a fruitful, satisfying, joy-filled and successful life and the instructions are found in his Word.

Copyright © 2018 Datu Wali Mission Foundation