



# “Dear Church: Letters from a Disillusioned Generation”

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**Q: If you could say one thing to church leaders,  
what would you tell them?**

**A. I would say that faith systems that don't compel transformation are empty. I feel like a lot of the reason that Generation Y has come to a point of cynicism and disillusionment is because we misunderstand what it means to follow Christ.**

**It's not that people had bad intentions. No one stands at the altar and says, “How can I over-formulize or systemize Christianity?” But few people see Christianity as a shift of allegiance that prompts us to make personal changes in beliefs, habits and lifestyles. We must continually examine our churches and make sure our message is one that requires transformation.**



# How Do We Change?

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- **What Needs Changing?**
- **What Really Needs Changing?**
- **Living Out an Identity Change**

# What Needs Changing?

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The cure only works if the diagnosis is correct

## So what's the diagnosis?

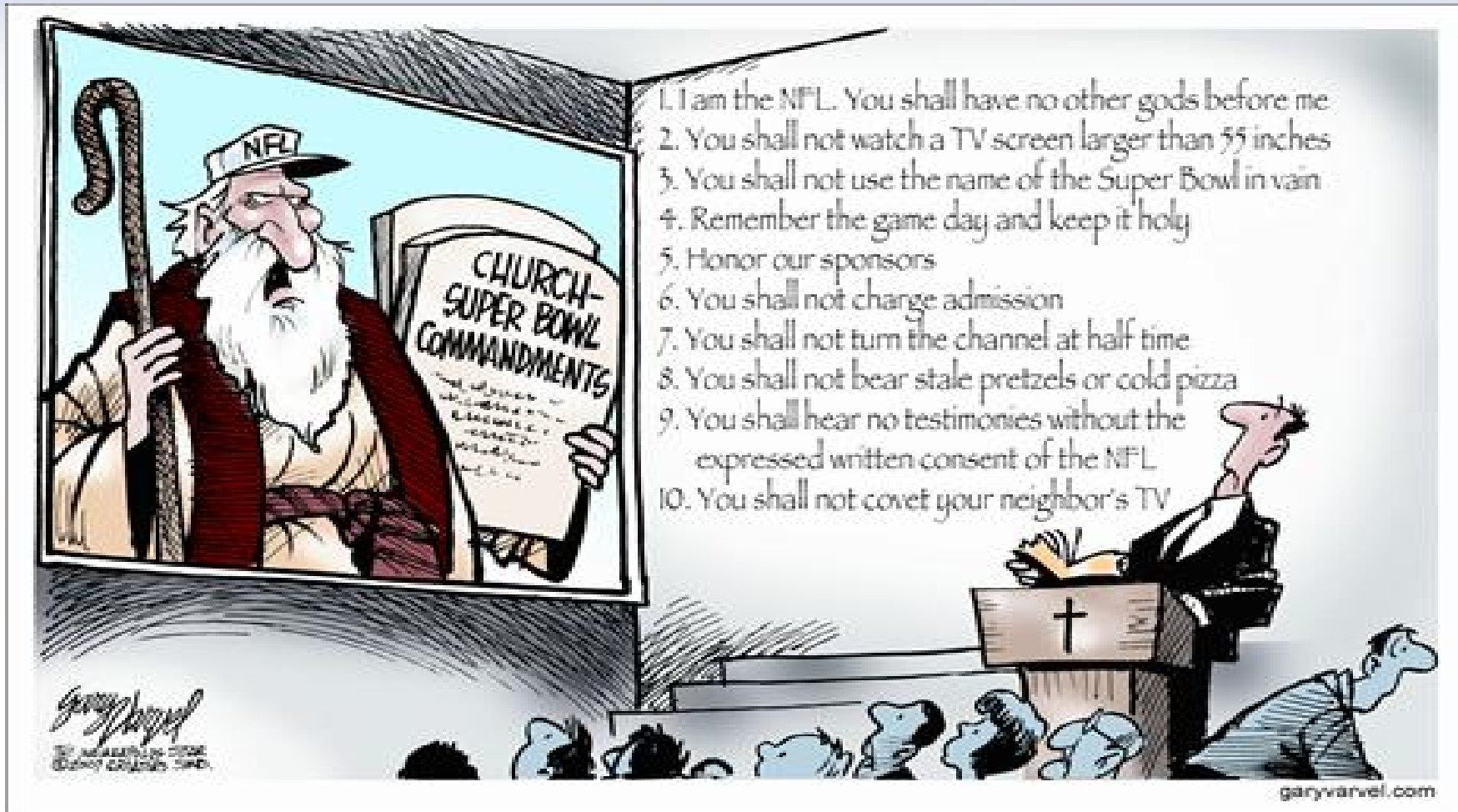
- Circumstances
- Environment
- Past
- Psychological
- Physiological

All of these could well be part of the diagnosis...

...BUT none of these are the ultimate problem that needs changing

# What *Really* Needs Changing?

## Diagnosing from the 10 Commandments



# What *Really* Needs Changing?

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The **first 3 commands** get to the heart of what needs changing

*“You shall have no other God’s before me”*

“Before”...in front of, of more importance

- Nothing is to be more central in your life than God
- **God made you to worship him alone...to find Him**
  - ✓ As the greatest treasure of your heart
  - ✓ As the greatest beauty of your mind
  - ✓ As the greatest satisfaction of your desires

# What *Really* Needs Changing?

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## We have a “Worship Disorder”

You can deny God’s central place in your life, but it doesn’t stop there...

...you will “exchange the glory of God” for something else

You must have something supreme, important, central in your life  
...something that you deeply trust in to bring your life

## ***IDOLATRY***

Anything more important than God to your happiness, meaning,  
identity

Idols are *good things* that get morphed into *ultimate things*



# What *Really* Needs Changing?

God's greatest concern in the 10 commandments is that He is central in your heart... *Commands 1-3*

## WHY???

Because God knows that when we make anything more ultimate than Him in our hearts (idols)...then our lives, families, communities, culture will be distorted, will experience dying

- Remember the Sabbath
- Honor your father & mother
- Do not murder
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not steal
- Do not bear false witness
- Do not covet

God's intention in the 10 commandments is not that we would save ourselves, but that we would recognize what the real problem is that needs changing...*Idolatry*



# How Do We Change?

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Identify the idols of your heart beneath the oil slicks of your behavior

## Live Out an Identity Change...

...When God puts a new law in your heart

All of us live with some functional sense of who we are, what we are like and what we're worth

You may define yourself *by your vocation, or strengths*  
*by your past*  
*by your current struggles*

But do you wake up every morning and live each day finding your functional identity in Jesus...

...believing who you are in Jesus and living out of that God-definition



# Living Out an Identity Change

**Romans 8:1-4** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

## Absolute Pardon... *No Condemnation*

*The only idolatry that can be identified, dismantled & replaced with Christ's likeness is the idolatry that is forgiven*

You can look deeper than your surface struggles into the idolatries of your heart and not be crushed by self-loathing, guilt or shame



# Living Out an Identity Change

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**Radical Potential ...the law of the Spirit of life sets you free**

*Where idolatry was once your identity, all is now right with God and He comes to live in you with life freeing reality*

**You can look deeper than your surface struggles into the idolatries of your heart and not feel powerless, defeated or victimized**



# Living Out an Identity Change

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Absolute Pardon... *“No condemnation”*

Radical Potential... *“the law of the Spirit of life sets you free”*



