

Discipleship Training Course

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- The Old Testament tetragrammation name of God (derived from the four Hebrew letters translated into English as YHWH) has been rendered LORD unless translated Jehovah or Yahweh
- Pronouns referring to the Trinity and some specific terms relating to the Trinity (such as Name and Word) have been capitalized
- Speech marks around entire quotes and at the beginning of new paragraphs have been omitted
- Anglicised spellings have been used
- All quotes begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop
- Some weights, measures and times have been replaced with easier to understand terms given in the footnotes using square brackets
- All verse numbers, footnote numbers and symbols have been removed
- Poetry has been indented and only new sentences start with a capital letter

Published in electronic format by Pastor Peter Samuels, Morecambe, UK

Version 2.5, July 2026

ISBN 978-0-9956916-1-2

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1. God is holy

Now Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to God's mountain, to Horeb. The LORD's angel appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the middle of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush burnt with fire, and the bush was not consumed. Moses said, "I will go now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt."

When the LORD saw that he came over to see, God called to him out of the middle of the bush, and said, Moses! Moses!"

He said, "Here I am."

*He said, "**don't come close. Take off your sandals, for the place you are standing on is holy ground.** Moreover", He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."*

Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:1-6 (WEBPB)

He said, "Please show me your glory." He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the Name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." He said, "You cannot see My face, for man may not see Me and live." The LORD also said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. It will happen, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand until I have passed by; then I will take away My hand, and you will see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

...

He chiselled two tablets of stone like the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two stone tablets. The LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness and truth, keeping loving kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and disobedience and sin; and

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that will by no means clear [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and upon the children's children, upon the third and upon the fourth [generation]."

Exodus 33:18-23, 34:4-7 (NHEB)

In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up; and His train filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two he covered his face. With two he covered his feet. With two he flew. One called to another, and said,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Armies!

The whole earth is full of his glory!"

*The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "**Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell amongst a people of unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!"***

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. He touched my mouth with it, and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin forgiven."

Isaiah 6:1-7 (WEBPB)

*After six days, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. **He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.** Behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them talking with Him.*

Peter answered, and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, let's make three tents here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. Behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were very afraid. Jesus came and touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid." Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone.

Matthew 17:1-8 (WEBPB)

After these things I looked and saw a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard, like a trumpet speaking with me, was one saying, "Come up here, and I will show you the things which must happen after this."

*Immediately I was in the Spirit. Behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne that looked like a jasper stone and a sardius. There was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald to look at. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads. Out of the throne proceed lightnings, sounds, and thunders. There were seven lamps of fire burning before His throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal. In the middle of the throne, and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. **They have no rest day and night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy* is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!"***

When the living creatures give glory, honour, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns before the

throne, saying, **“Worthy are You, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honour, and the power, for You created all things, and because of Your desire they existed, and were created!”**

Revelation 4 (WEBPB)

2. There is no sin or darkness in God’s presence

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in it, and laid incense on it, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. Fire came out from before the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke of, saying,

‘I will show myself holy to those who come near Me, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ ”

Aaron held his peace. Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, “Draw near, carry your brothers from before the sanctuary out of the camp.” So they came near, and carried them in their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said.

Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and to Ithamar, his sons, “Don’t let the hair of your heads go loose, and don’t tear your clothes, so that you don’t die, and so that he will not be angry with all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD has kindled. You shall not go out from the door of the Tent of Meeting, lest you die; for the anointing oil of the LORD is on you.” They did according to the word of Moses.

Leviticus 10:1-7 (WEBPB)

*This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, **that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.***

1 John 1:5 (WEBPB)

3. Sin can only be removed through a blood sacrifice – God demands an accounting

I will surely require accounting for your life’s blood. At the hand of every animal I will require it. At the hand of man, even at the hand of every man’s brother, I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, his blood will be shed by man, for God made man in His own image.

Genesis 9:5-6 (WEBPB)

*The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they came near before the LORD, and died; and the LORD said to Moses, **“Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Most Holy Place within the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark; lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud on the mercy seat.***

Aaron shall come into the sanctuary with a young bull for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. He shall put on the holy linen tunic. He shall have the linen trousers on his body, and shall put on the linen sash, and he shall be clothed with the linen turban. They are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water, and put them on. He shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall take the two goats, and set them before the LORD at the door of the Tent of Meeting. Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the

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LORD, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell for the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement for him, to send him away as the scapegoat into the wilderness.

*Aaron shall present the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull of the sin offering which is for himself. He shall take a censer full of coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil. He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the covenant, so that he will not die. **He shall take some of the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.***

*Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people, **and bring his blood within the veil**, and do with his blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. He shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, even all their sins; and so he shall do for the Tent of Meeting that dwells with them in the middle of their uncleanness. No one shall be in the Tent of Meeting when he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, and has made atonement for himself and for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.*

*He shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall **take some of the bull's blood, and some of the goat's blood, and put it around on the horns of the altar**. He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and make it holy from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.*

When he has finished atoning for the Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, he shall present the live goat. Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, even all their sins; and he shall put them on the head of the goat, and shall send him away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is ready. The goat shall carry all their iniquities on himself to a solitary land, and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.”

Leviticus 16:1-22 (WEBPB)

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since **it is the lifeblood that makes atonement**.*

Leviticus 17:11 (HCSB)

So you shall not pollute the land where you live; for blood pollutes the land. No atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed in it, but by the blood of him who shed it.

Numbers 35:33 (WEBPB)

*Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins**.*

Hebrews 9:22 (ESVUK)

4. The Old Testament sacrifices of animals only removed sins temporarily

The Old Testament provides us with a “type and shadow” of the New Testament (Hebrews 8:5, 10:1, 1 Corinthians 10:6). Several examples from the OT point towards the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins:

- The animal skins God used to cover Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21)
- The ram caught in the thicket when God spared Abraham from offering Isaac (Genesis 22:13)

- The Passover lamb sacrificed in order to protect the Israelites from destruction (Exodus 12:21-23)
- The sacrifice of animals as a sin offering (Leviticus 4)
- The day of atonement (Leviticus 16)

From these examples we may begin to appreciate John the Baptist's statement in John 1:29.

The Day of Atonement cleansed the people once a year:

"This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel once in the year because of all their sins."

It was done as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 16:34 (WEBPB)

No man can redeem the life of another:

*Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice,
that he should live on for ever
and never see the pit.*

Psalms 49:7-9 (ESVUK)

God takes no pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices in themselves:

*For you don't delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it.
You have no pleasure in burnt offering.*

Psalms 51:16 (WEBPB)

*For the law, having a shadow of the good to come, not the very image of the things, can never with the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. Or else wouldn't they have ceased to be offered, because the worshippers, having been once cleansed, would have had no more consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. For **it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.***

Hebrews 10:1-4 (WEBPB)

5. All have sinned: we have inherited the sinful nature of Adam; the punishment for sin is death

Romans 3:23 states that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; verse 10 states that there is no-one righteous. Sin is rebellion against God and His word. It is also rejection of the love of God. Psalm 51:5 states that we were conceived in sin. Sin is a condition that we inherited from Adam (see Romans 5:12). We do not have to teach young children to be disobedient! – there is something in their nature that makes them rebel.

Our best righteous actions are like filthy rags before a holy God:

*We are all infected and impure with sin.
When we display our righteous deeds,
they are nothing but filthy rags.
Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall,
and our sins sweep us away like the wind.*

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

The punishment (or wages) for sin is death (Genesis 2:16-17, Romans 6:23). Sin can be viewed as spending your life (symbolised by your life blood) in the wrong way. In Genesis 9:5-6, God states that he will demand an accounting for all life blood that is shed. We will have to provide an account before him for how we have spent our own lives after we die (Hebrews 10:27).

6. God loves mankind and decided to establish a New Covenant through the sacrifice of His Son

"Behold, the days come," says the LORD,

***"that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,
and with the house of Judah:***

*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;
which covenant of Mine they broke,
although I was a husband to them," says the LORD.*

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,"
says the LORD:*

***"I will put My law in their inward parts,
and I will write it in their heart.
I will be their God,
and they shall be My people.***

*They will no longer each teach his neighbour,
and every man teach his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD;'
for they will all know Me,
from their least to their greatest," says the LORD:
"for I will forgive their iniquity,
and I will remember their sin no more."*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (WEBPB)

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

John 1:29 (NHEB)

***For God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.** For God didn't send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.*

John 3:16-17 (WEBPB)

*After He took the wine, Jesus said, **"It's done ... complete."** Bowing His head, He offered up His spirit.*

John 19:30 (MSG)

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (ESVUK)

However, because of His love and foreknowledge, God always wanted to reveal a solution for the problem of man's sin. This was achieved through the idea of a **sacrifice**.

A sacrifice is a means of bringing forgiveness through the death of another living creature in place of someone who deserves to die. The ultimate fulfilment of this was Jesus (see above). Hebrews 9:22 (NIVUK) states that, *"without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"*.

Application: Based on Hebrews 9:22, why is it important for us to make restitution in order to restore friendships? Do we need to shed our blood physically (see Proverbs 16:6)? Think about what you can do to restore a broken friendship.

7. Anyone who repents and believes in Him is made clean; His sacrifice was once and for all

To repent is to turn away from our life of sin and to choose to live for God:

I tell you that even so there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

Luke 15:7 (WEBPB)

God has promised to restore us when we repent:

*Blow the trumpet in Zion,
consecrate a fast,
call a sacred assembly;
gather the people,
sanctify the congregation,
assemble the elders,
gather the children and nursing babes;
let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,
and the bride from her dressing room.
**Let the priests, who minister to the LORD,
weep between the porch and the altar;
let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,
and do not give Your heritage to reproach,
that the nations should rule over them.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'where is their God?'"**
So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the crawling locust,
the consuming locust,
and the chewing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.*

Joel 2:15-17, 25

He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (HCSB)

We are saved by grace alone:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (WEBPB)

No-one can redeem the life of another (Psalm 49:7-9). This is because we have all sinned and the sacrifice for our sins must be perfect (or unblemished – see Hebrews 9:14). The only one who was perfect was Jesus, the Son of God (Romans 5:15-19). He was the only man who was the Seed of God (Genesis 3:15) and came into the world without a sinful nature.

The significance and benefits of Jesus' death on the cross are explained in detail in Hebrews 9 and 10:

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it

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*to offer Himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then He would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, **He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.*

Hebrews 9:24-28 (ESVUK)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said,

*“Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired,
but a body have You prepared for Me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
You have taken no pleasure.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God,
as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.’”*

When He said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then He added, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

*“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the LORD:
I will put My laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds”,*

then He adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:5-18 (ESVUK)

These Scriptures state:

- Jesus did away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself (9:26)
- The sacrifice of Jesus’ body makes us holy once and for all (10:10)
- We have been made perfect in God’s sight whilst we are being made holy here on earth (10:14)
- Jesus’ sacrifice has fully paid for our sins – no other sacrifice is required (10:18)

8. When we receive God’s free gift of salvation we must also make Him our Lord

Salvation requires both believing in Christ and openly declaring Him as our Lord:

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

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Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

Although Jesus has paid the price for our sins, we must continue to come to Him in humility and repentance, just as we did when we received Him as our Saviour and Lord (Colossians 2:6). We must not receive the grace of God "in vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1). We should not continue to sin because we are under grace (Romans 6:15). It is our responsibility to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Jesus will only save those who are waiting for Him (Hebrews 9:28).

Although we have received the righteousness of God in Christ, we still have to work it out in our lives on a day-to-day basis. This process is called **sanctification**. It is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 1 Peter 1:15-16) and He has promised to help us (Titus 2:11-14, 1 Peter 1:3).

Accepting Christ as Lord is a fulfilment of the first Old Testament commandment:

You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exodus 20:3 (WEBPB)

We need to love God and our neighbour:

*And one of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together. Seeing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, '**Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**' The second is this, '**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**' There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to Him, "Truly, Teacher, you have said well that He is One, and there is none other but He, and to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

Mark 12:28-33 (NHEB)

We need to obey Jesus' commands:

Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things which I say? Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and does them, I will show you who he is like. He is like a man building a house, who dug and went deep, and laid a foundation on the rock. When a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock. But he who hears, and doesn't do, is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.

Luke 6:46-49 (WEBPB)

We need to live for Christ:

For Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If One died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (HCSB)

To love God is to obey His commands:

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

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1 John 5:2-5 (ESVUK)

To worship God but to also worship other gods is called **syncretism**:

The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, from Cuthah, from Avva, and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they possessed Samaria, and lived in its cities. So it was, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they didn't fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent lions amongst them, which killed some of them. Therefore they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations which you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria don't know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions amongst them, and behold, they kill them, because they don't know the law of the god of the land."

Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Carry there one of the priests whom you brought from there; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the law of the god of the land."

*So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. However every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived. The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burnt their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. So they feared the LORD, and also made from amongst themselves priests of the high places for themselves, who sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. **They feared the LORD, and also served their own gods**, after the ways of the nations from amongst whom they had been carried away. To this day they do what they did before. They don't fear the LORD, and they do not follow the statutes, or the ordinances, or the law, or the commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel; with whom the LORD had made a covenant, and commanded them, saying, "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them; but you shall fear the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, and you shall bow yourselves to Him, and you shall sacrifice to Him. The statutes and the ordinances, and the law and the commandment, which He wrote for you, you shall observe to do forever more. You shall not fear other gods. You shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods. But you shall fear the LORD your God, and He will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies." **However they didn't listen, but they did what they did before. So these nations feared the LORD, and also served their engraved images. Their children did likewise, and so did their children's children. They do as their fathers did to this day.***

2 Kings 17:24-41 (WEBPB)

This is a contemporary problem in the Church today:

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

However, God has promised that in the Last Days there will once again be a difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not:

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Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In His presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared Him and always thought about the honour of His Name.

*“They will be My people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be My own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. **Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.**”*

Malachi 3:16-18 (NLT)