

# **Dangerous Times**

**The Crisis is Real**

**The Responsibility is Ours**

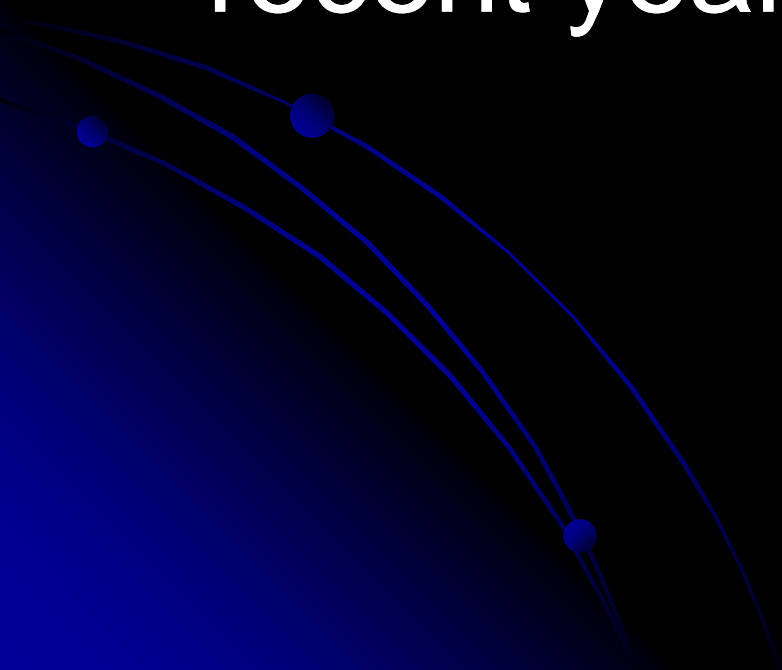


# OUTLINE

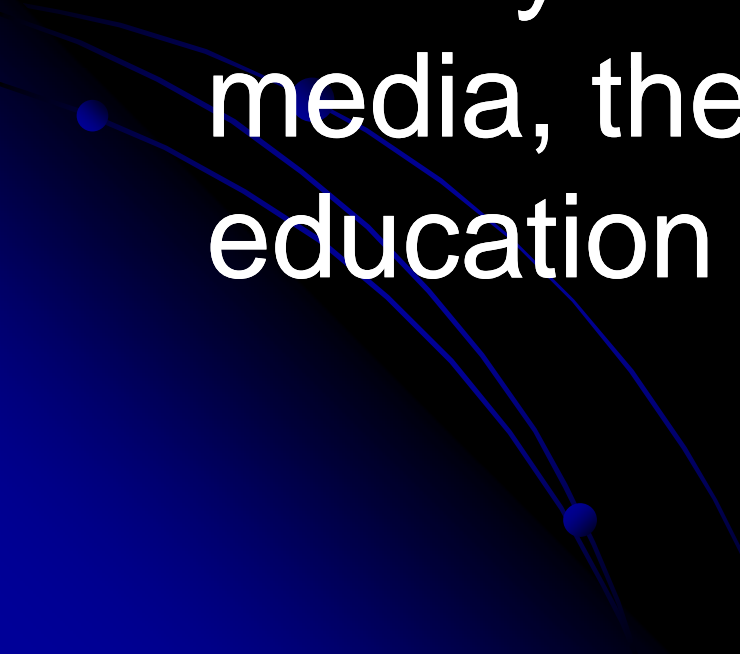
- The Reality
  - (examples from within)
- Illustrative Video Clip
- Damaging outcome
- Biblical vs. Cultural Definitions
- Distorted View of
  - Christianity
  - Truth
  - Reality
- Our Responsibility

# The Reality

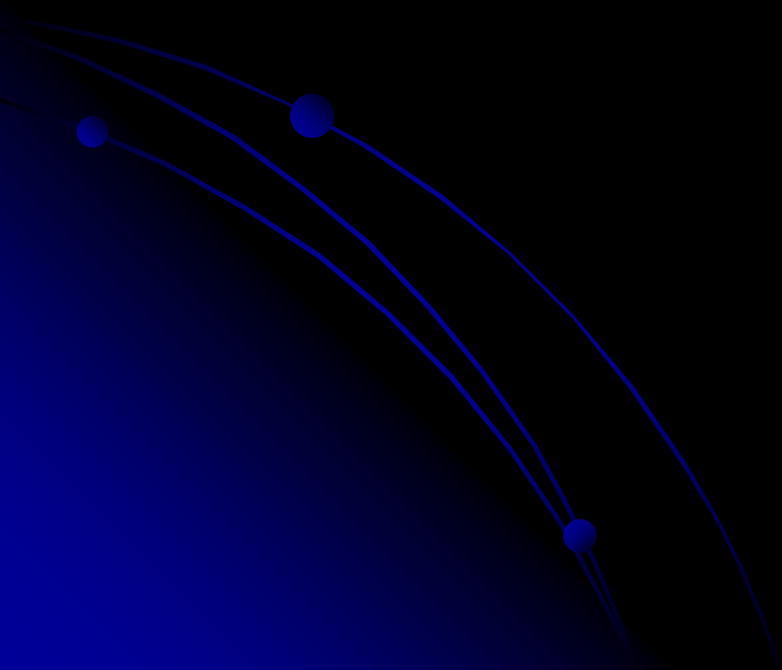
- Christianity with her moral values and principals have undoubtedly been under vicious attacks in recent years.



# The Reality

- These subtle anti Christian attacks have channeled their way through the very fabric of our society through many venues; the media, the government and education to name a few
- 

# Attacks from Within



# Joyce Meyer



“I didn’t stop sinning until I finally realized I wasn’t a sinner anymore.

The Bible says that I’m righteous and I can’t be righteous and be a sinner at the same time ...

**I am not poor, I am not miserable and I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of hell. Amen”**

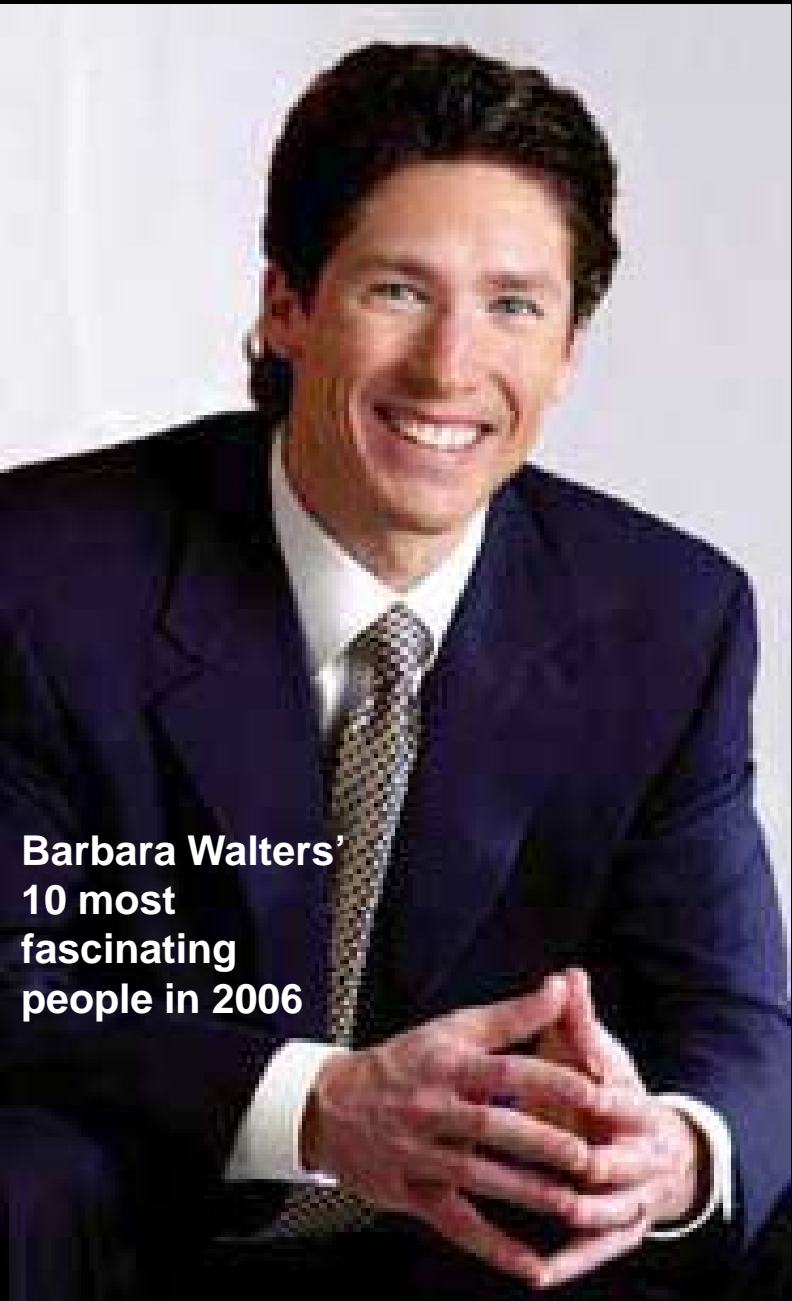
# Benny Hinn



Benny Hinn teaches that **the Trinity is actually God in nine persons, not three, because the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are each comprised of trinities.**

You want to prosper? Money will be falling on you from left, right and centre. God will begin to prosper you, for **money always follows righteousness...**(Benny Hinn, TBN, 1990)..."

# Joel Osteen



Barbara Walters'  
10 most  
fascinating  
people in 2006

When interviewed by Larry King on June 20, 2005,

**KING:** “What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't believe in Christ at all?”

**OSTEEN:** “You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know ...”

**KING:** They're wrong, aren't they?”

**OSTEEN:** “Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong.... I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know.”

**KING:** How about Abortion? Same-sex marriages?”

**OSTEEN:** “I just, you know I am not going to condemn those people. I tell them all the time our church is open to everybody.”



# Pat Robertson


Robertson claims that God speaks to him in an audible voice. He also considers himself a prophet.

Regarding the Scriptures he says:  
**"Anything coming through man is contaminated to some extent. Therefore, since the Bible came through man, there must be some errors in it."**

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/robertson/general.htm>



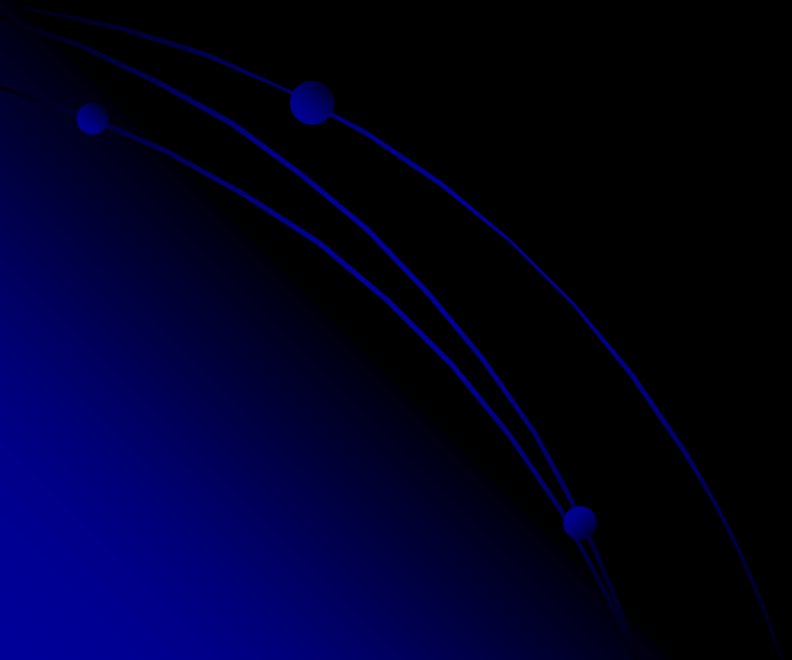
# Word of Caution

- They are more dangerous than preachers of other faiths for they give you what would appear to be an appealing Christian message but with anti-Biblical foundation.
  - One needs to use extreme discernment when listening to their preaching.
- 

# Word of Caution

- Their anti-Biblical teaching is denounced by Orthodox, Catholics and Conservative Protestants alike.
- They all belong to a heresy called “Word-Faith Movement”
  - Name it and Claim it
  - Gospel of Health and Wealth
  - Prosperity Gospel
  - Positive Confession

# Other Examples



# James A. Donahue, Ph.D.

## Catholic Scholar



Dr. Donahue is a professor of theology and ethics at Georgetown University for 15 years.

He promotes an **interfaith** model in a religiously diverse world

The Bay Area, he said, is the perfect place for **interfaith work**. We should be willing to understand that we don't have an exclusive understanding of truth."

# Attacks from Within

- **Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish: multi-faith enthronement for Prince Charles**



- Canon John Hall, the Dean of Westminster Abbey, said that **the traditional Church of England coronation service must be revised**
- He said that the Church must be prepared to let other faiths play a role in the service.
- **"We need to recognize the reality of religion rather than hold it possessively, it has become possible to help to create space for other religions within our national life. It is leading to inclusion and cohesion."**

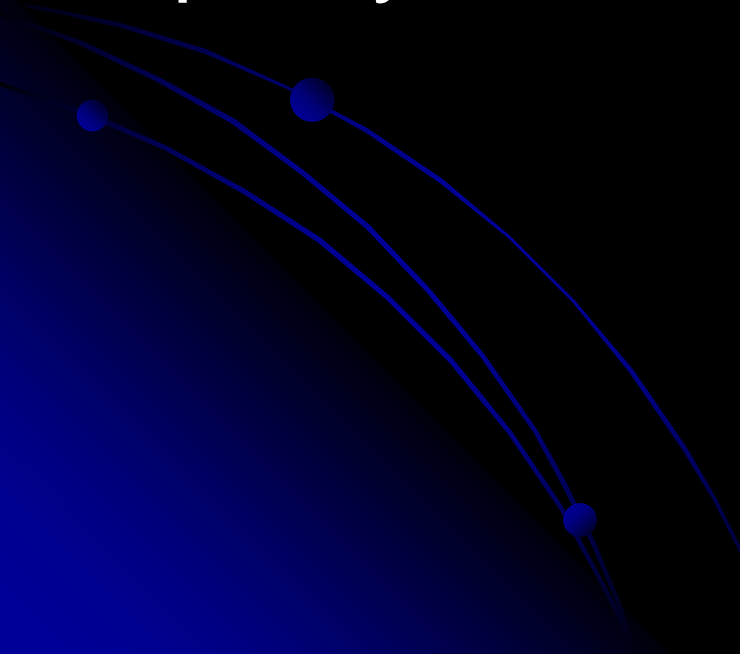
# What does the Bible Say?

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in **among you**, not sparing the flock. Also **from among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch (Acts 20:29-31)



# What does the Bible Say?

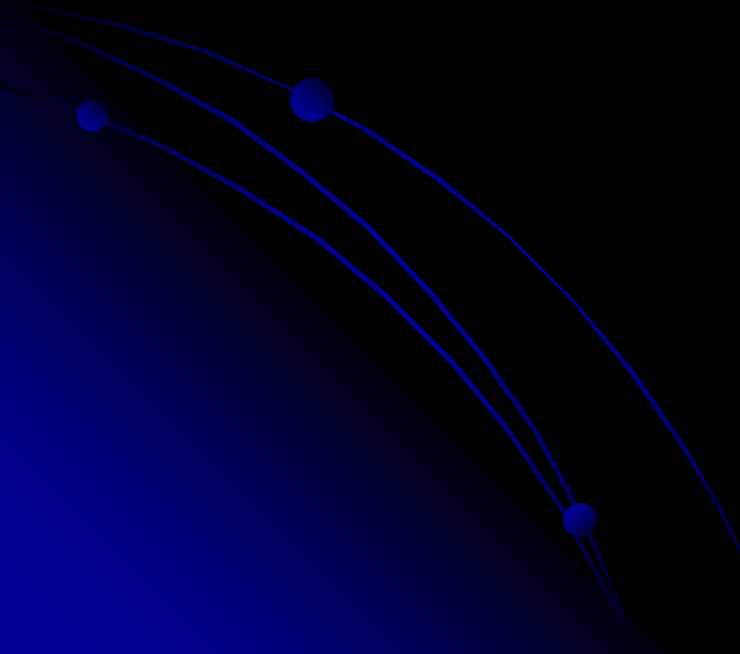
But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers **among you**.. and many will follow their destructive ways. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words (2 Peter 2:1-2)





# What does the Bible Say?

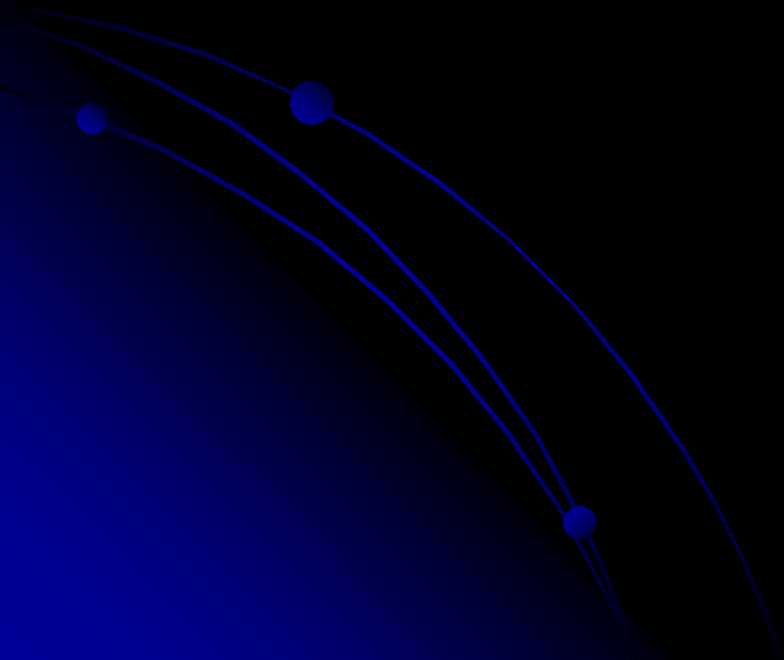
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)



# The Damaging Outcome

- The Barna Research Group conducted a study asking thousands of professed Christian youth, the results are as follows:
  - **63%** don't believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the One True God
  - **58%** believe that all religions teach equally valid truths
  - **51%** do not believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead
  - **68%** do not believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity.

# Illustrative Video Clip



# The Damaging Outcome

- Concepts such as
  - Truth, Tolerance, Morality, Salvation
- All have completely different meaning to our youth than they do biblically.

# Biblical vs. Cultural Definitions

<b>Concept</b>	<b>Biblical Understanding</b>	<b>Today's youth understanding</b>
<b>Tolerance</b>	<b>Accepting &amp; loving others without having to agree with their ideas or behavior</b>	<b>Accepting that each individual's beliefs, values and lifestyles are equally true and valid.</b>
<b>Acceptance</b>	<b>Embracing people for who they are, not necessarily for they say or do</b>	<b>Endorsing and even praising others for their beliefs and lifestyle choices.</b>
<b>Moral Judgments</b>	<b>Certain things are morally right or wrong as determined by God</b>	<b>We have no right to judge another person's view or behavior</b>


# Biblical vs. Cultural Definitions

<b>Concept</b>	<b>Biblical Understanding</b>	<b>Today's youth understanding</b>
<b>Personal preference</b>	<b>Preferences of color, food, clothing are personally determined</b>	<b>Preferences of sexual behaviors, value systems and beliefs are personally determined.</b>
<b>Freedom</b>	<b>Being free to do what you know you should do. Most importantly free from sin</b>	<b>Being able to do anything you want to do.</b>
<b>Truth</b>	<b>An absolute standard of right and wrong</b>	<b>Whatever is right for you.</b>

# Distorted views

- Much of what American youth believe about **Christianity**, **truth** and **reality** comes from a distorted view they have learned from the world around them.

# Distorted views

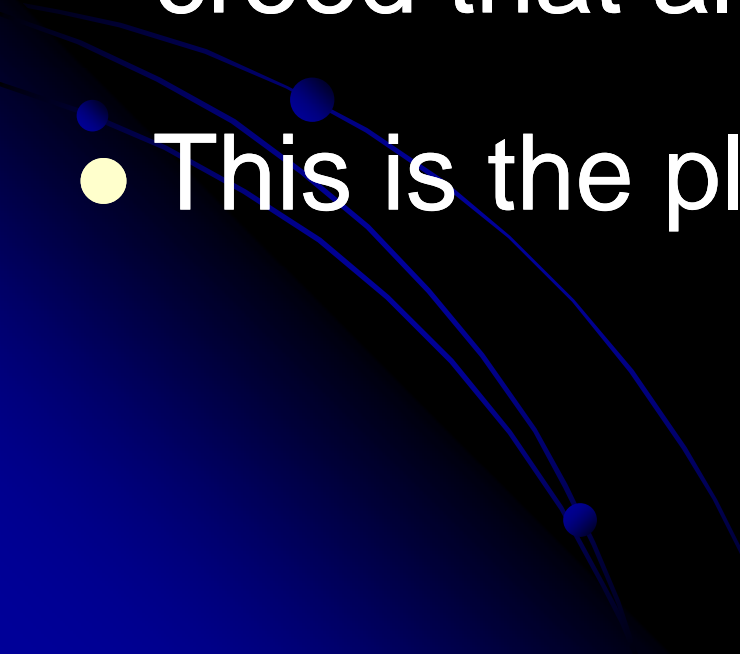
- Distorted View of Christianity
  - Distorted View of Truth
  - Distorted View of Reality
- 



# Distorted view of Christianity

- Newsweek magazine dated 9/5/2006 asked 1,000 professed Christians this question:
  - “Is Christianity the only way to salvation?”
  - **68%** said “No”
- The reason for this answer is that it is **intolerant** to say that one person is right and everyone who does not believe like him or her is wrong.
- That’s why **63%** do not believe that Christ is the Son of the One true God.

# Distorted view of Christianity

- Our society is teaching our youth that Christianity can't be **exclusively** true
  - They are taught and have adopted the creed that all beliefs are equal.
  - This is the plague of **Religious Pluralism.**
- 

# Biblical View of Christianity

- It would be hard to argue against this point if Christianity was merely
  - A system of religious beliefs or
  - Based solely on ethical teaching or theological concepts.
- But Christianity is not just a mere religion that is simply based on various teachings,
- Christianity is a way of life that is based on the **life, Character** and **identity** of the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Biblical View of Christianity

- Christ did not come to earth to teach Christianity – **Christ is Christianity.**
- Most religions of the world are based on philosophical propositions or theological ideologies, **Remove its founder or prophet and the religion remains intact.**
- That is because these religions are based on the teachings, not upon the **founding teacher.**
- Not Christianity!!

# Biblical View of Christianity

- While Christianity has a particular belief system and a theological construct from scriptures. It is essentially based upon **the life, work and person of its founder the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- The teachings from scriptures are not true because the theological concepts are superior to other religions. **The teachings are true because they came from Christ.** The True Teacher.

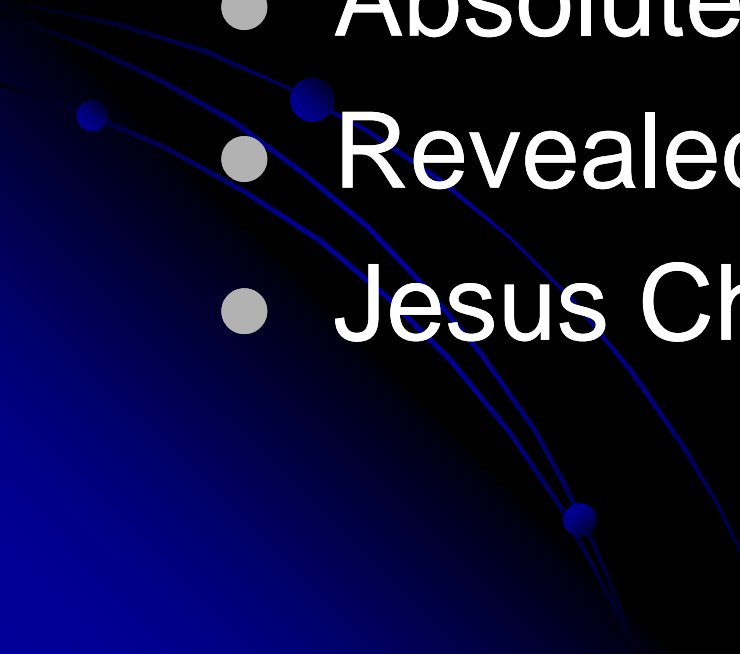
# Distorted View of the Truth

- Our youth, through the influence of society have adopted the following:
  - Moral and religious truth do not exist in any objective sense
  - Instead of discovering truth, we care creating it
  - Truth is relative to the individual
- This philosophy permeated much of our society – government, schools, movies, televisions and music. It guides our behavior.

# Distorted View of the Truth

- Truth when it comes to morality is reduced to personal preference.
- Determining moral truth by personal preference will lead to disaster just like it did in ancient Israel when **“everyone did whatever he considered right in his own eyes”** (Judges 17:6)

# Biblical View of the Truth

- Truth is
    - Objective
    - Exclusive
    - Absolute
    - Revealed (Discovered)
    - Jesus Christ (John 14:6)
- 



# Distorted View of Reality

- In the 60 and 70's Hugh Hefner's slogan was "if it feels good do it".
- In this era the slogan has changed to **"if it works, it is right"**.
- According to the Barna Research Group,
  - 72% of youth in America believe that you can tell if something is morally right for you be whether or not it works in your life.

# Biblical View of Reality

- God's perspective is **“if it is right, it will ultimately work”**
- Consider these examples”
  - When David sinned with Bethsheba and then arranged to have her husband killed did not say to Nathan that it works just fine for me.
  - When his actions were exposed he said with repentance: I have sinned against the Lord.

# Our Responsibility

- As servants, we must understand the distortions that we, and those whom we serve are facing.
- We must learn to be discerning and test the spirits, whether they are of God

# Our Responsibility

- We must espouse a service that is
  - **Christly centered**
  - **Biblically grounded**
  - **Churchly guided.**
- We need to anchor those whom we serve in:
  - Christ, the Person of Truth (John 14:6)
  - Scriptures, the word of truth (Eph 1:13)
  - The Church, the ground and pillar of truth (1Tim 3:15)