

CHRISTIAN CLICHÉS

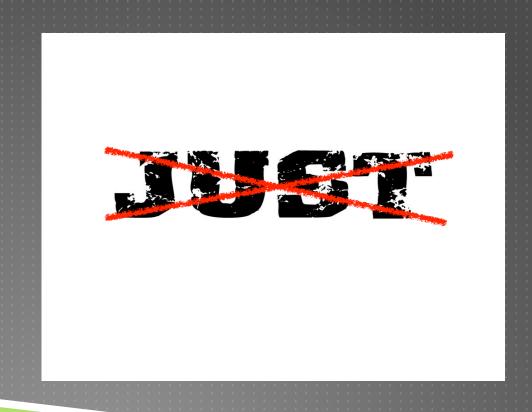
EXAMPLES

- "All you need to do is Just trust God"
- "Just lay it at the foot of the cross"
- "Make sure this is what God has for you. Is this in God's will?"
- "In this situation, you just need to let go and let God"

At best, they're overused, unexplained Biblical truths

At worst, they're distracting and potentially damaging clichés used to put a Band-Aid on a bullet wound

- Most of these involve the word "just"
 - Implies a singular, simple, easy solution to the problem of the person



LOST, BROKEN, AND HURT PEOPLE DO NOT NEED CLICHÉS. THEY NEED THE GOSPEL IN THE FORM OF PRESENT APPLICATION.

I."JUST TRUST GOD"

What does trusting God look like?

Riding a horse



I. JUST TRUST GOD

Each person has a different struggle and a different situation that requires trusting

Blanket statements minimize the specific circumstances on the person

II. "YOU NEED TO LAY IT AT THE CROSS"

- Related to previous, yet with an additional emotional factor
- This is told when someone is struggling with a persistent sin, usually anxiety
- Seems to imply that your current faith is not strong enough

II. "YOU NEED TO LAY IT AT THE CROSS

- Brings the image of taking it off your shoulders and getting rid of the weight you're carrying
- However, are we ever told that we are going to be burdenless?
- Matthew 11:28-30 says we will find rest with Christ
- Does not say we will be without a burden

II. "YOU NEED TO LAY IT AT THE CROSS

- According to Matthew 11:28-30, our burden will still exist
- However, it will be light and easy



III. "JUST FOLLOW GOD'S WILL"

- What is God's will?
 - Is it hidden, strange, mysterious, and hard to find?



III. "JUST FOLLOW GOD'S WILL"

Matthew 6:25-34

In summary: Do not be anxious about tomorrow, but seek first the kingdom of God

III. "JUST FOLLOW GOD'S WILL"

- "Make sure you're in the center of God's will"
- Implies you can act outside of God's will
 - Does this diminish God's power and ultimate control over mankind?
 - If we can act outside of what God has for us, then who is ultimately in control?

IV. "LET GO AND LET GOD"

Similar to "Give it to God" or "He'll open a door"

Opposite side, rather than over scrutinizing every choice this approach sits back and remains passive

IV. "LET GO AND LET GOD"

▶ What is our role in God's will?

- We are not to sit back and be inactive in all we do
- In Acts, Paul's traveling from place to place were by his choice

IV. "LET GO AND LET GOD"

If you can spread the Gospel and be used by God in athletics, law enforcement, psychology, writing, or teaching, is there a singular, "right" choice of those?

Risk taking!



Typically told it's never OK to be angry at God

Is it ever appropriate? Or always sinful? Maybe both?

- You will be angry at God
- A sinful, broken world leads to pain and hurt in your life

What do you do with the anger?

What does praying to God about your anger look like in contrast to becoming bitter?



- Lamentations 3
- In Jeremiah is angry at God for the first part, then eventually turns back to Him and remembers Historian faithfulness
- Why is this in the Bible?

- The intent and meaning behind people saying these can be good, but what do these phrases really mean?
- Most people need an application of these truths.
- Can you tell them the next practical step?
- Lost people need a path, hurt people need a remedy, and overwhelmed people need relief
- How can you help them more than putting a cliché band-aid over a tremendous wound?

► Kevin DeYoung, "Just Do Something", 2009

