

OWNERSHIP

Share the Table

March 17, 2019

Introduction: I have mentioned this often – a fact I cannot get out of my memory. 50% of all church-going graduating high school seniors are disengaging from their faith. In other words, these graduating seniors are walking away from God. Why? What are we doing wrong? After 18 years of worship and Bible school, why do half of all students reject God? Is there a way to help them remain faithful, and if so how?

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36-43

I. A Scary Fact

¹⁸ *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:18–20).

II. Uncertainty

*And when they saw him they worshiped him, **but some doubted** (Matthew 28:17).*

*Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were **reclining at table**, and he **rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart**, because **they had not believed** those who saw him after he had risen (Mark 16:14).*

³⁶ *As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?** ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ **And while they still disbelieved** for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² **They gave him a piece of broiled fish,** ⁴³ **and he took it and ate before them** (Luke 24:36–43).*

²¹ **But we had hoped** that he was the one to redeem Israel... ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and **slow of heart to believe** all that the prophets have spoken! (Luke 24:21, 25).

⁸ *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Colossians 2:8–9).*

98% of the college students admitted they had questioned their faith.

What Causes Doubt?

- The pressure of others to conform.
- A faith that is not your own.
- Life isn't easy.
- Unanswered Prayers.
- Focus on traditions.
- Parents come to worship, but they aren't living it out in their daily lives.

What could your parents have done to help you overcome your doubts?

- Study the Bible with us.
- Allow us to ask any question without condemnation.
- Parents need to actively live it out their faith and guide us.
- Listen to our perspective.
- Provide us with good study material.
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

III. The Judas Mentality

...and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him (Matthew 10:4).

A. Judas was an apostle.

B. Self-deception is formed out of rebellion.

² Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. ⁴ ... offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged" (Isaiah 1:2, 4b).

IV. Remaining Faithful

"You shall have no other gods before me" (Deuteronomy 5:7).

A. Teach young people to love Jesus.

³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

B. Practice blessing his Holy Name and blessing others.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (Psalm 103:1).

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:15–20).

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II. Uncertainty

(Mark 16:14) (Luke 24:36–43) (Matthew 28:17)

III. The Judas Mentality

(Matthew 10:4)

A. Judas was an _____.

B. _____ is formed out of _____.

IV. Remaining Faithful

(Deuteronomy 5:7)

A. Teach young people to _____ Jesus.

(Matthew 22:37–40)

B. Practice _____ his Holy Name and blessing _____.

(Psalm 103:1) (Hebrews 13:2)