

RE-OPENING CHRISTIANITY:

Am I Known for What I'm For or Against?

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October 11, 2020



It can be so easy to look at others and judge them! We all struggle with self righteousness. As Jesus reminds us, however, judgment starts with discerning our own sins rather than decrying the sins of others. When we jump to judging others, it can be very difficult to be “for” them.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.” – John 8:3-4

My Next Step(s):

- I will strive to be known for what I am *for* rather than what I am *against*.
- Because of Jesus, I will choose mercy.
- Because of Jesus, I will choose peace.
- Like Jesus, I will love the sinner, even if I hate the sin.
- I will act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Memory Verse: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
- Micah 6:8, NIV

(Continues on back.)

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)



Re-Opening
CHRISTIANITY

*How can the church re-open **for
the better?***

Am I open
Or am I closed off?

*Am I a **Contributor**
Or a **Consumer?***

*Am I Playing **Offense**
Or **Defense?***

Am I Known for What I'm
For or Against?

*For: **justice***

*Against: **injustice***

*For: **generosity***

*Against: **self-centeredness***

*For: **love***

*Against: **hate***



Am I Known for What I'm
For or Against?

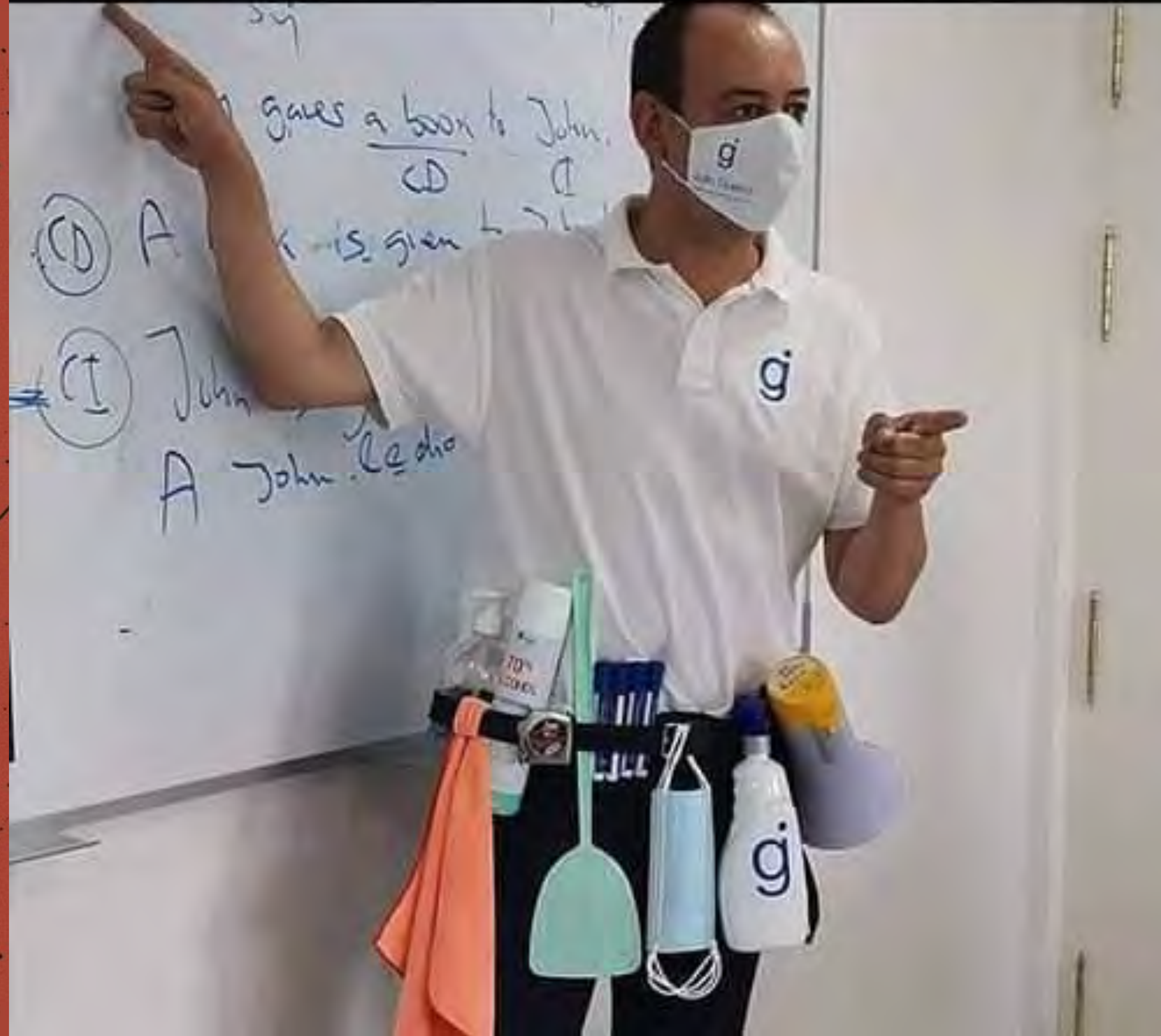
Am I Known for What I'm
For or Against?



HANGING WITH FRIENDS IN 2020_



Being a teacher in 2020:



**Scientists have found that
one dog year does not
equal 7 human years.**

**In fact, the only thing
that equals 7 human years
is 2020.**

Decades I have been alive in:

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

Early 2020

March-May 2020

June/July 2020

August/September 2020

October 1, 2020

October 2, 2020

**The clocks go
forward next
weekend. Not
sure how far
forward but I
think 4 months
should do.**

**IN MARCH: FRIDAY THE 13TH,
FULL MOON, TURNED CLOCKS
AHEAD, ALL IN ONE WEEKEND.**



**OCTOBER 31ST: HALLOWEEN
ON A SATURDAY, FULL MOON,
TURN CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR.
MAYBE THIS WILL RETURN US
TO FACTORY SETTINGS?**

Am I Known for What I'm
For or Against?

but Jesus went to the **Mount of Olives**.

JOHN 8:1





At dawn Jesus appeared again in the **temple courts**, where all the people gathered around Him, and He sat down to teach them.

JOHN 8:2

At dawn Jesus appeared again in the temple courts, where **all** the people gathered **around Him**, and He sat down to teach them.

JOHN 8:2

*He was for the **sick**, which is why He
healed them.*

*He was for the **poor**,
which is why He **fed** them.*

*He was for the **sinners**,
which is why He **forgave** them.*

*He was for **God**,
which is why He **talked about** Him.*

³ The **teachers of the law** and the **Pharisees** brought in a **woman caught in adultery**. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?”

JOHN 8:3-5

³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ **In the Law** Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?”

JOHN 8:3-5

“For out of the heart come **evil** thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”

MATTHEW 15:19

They were using this question as a **trap**, in order to have a **basis for accusing** Him.

JOHN 8:6

If a man commits adultery with another
man's wife – with the wife of his neighbor
– both the adulterer and the adulteress
are to be put to death.

LEVITICUS 20:1

But Jesus bent down and started to **write**
on the ground with His finger.

JOHN 8:6

Where is the other person?

⁷ When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ **Again He stooped down and wrote** on the ground. ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

JOHN 8:7-9

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said. “Then **neither do I condemn you,**” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

JOHN 8:10-11

#1

Because Jesus is for us...
We can choose mercy.

If a man commits adultery with another
man's wife – with the wife of his neighbor
– both the adulterer and the adulteress
are to be put to death.

LEVITICUS 20:10

If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress **shall surely be** put to death.

LEVITICUS 20:10, ESV

"In the Law Moses **commanded** us to stone such women. Now what do You say?"

JOHN 8:5

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. **“Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

JOHN 8:10-11

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JOHN 8:10-11

RUGIE



**ACT
JUSTLY**

**LOVE
MERCY**



WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

Micah 6:8

Love the sinner ...

Hate the sin.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

JAMES 2:13

#2

Because Jesus is for us...
We can choose peace.

If God is for us,
who can be against us?

ROMANS 8:31

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?

PSALM 118:6

#2

Because Jesus is for us...
We can choose peace.

He who did not spare His own Son, but **gave Him up for us all** – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

ROMANS 8:32

*What would it look like if you chose
to be **for** someone this week?*

*Maybe you could pick up the phone
and have a conversation?*

*Maybe you could listen a little harder
and talk a little less?*

*Maybe you'd stand up for someone's
else's right to see things differently?*

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And **the peace I give** is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

JOHN 14:27

