

Satanic Christianity Part 1

Icebreaker: How did you practice BLESS this week?

Discussion: For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.
 - Read Matthew 23:37 highlight the following
 - The starting place of this conversation is that Jesus longs to gather us and protect us.
 - Our goal is to pay attention to Jesus's loving warnings and willingly lay down our religious pride, hypocrisy and legalism.
 - So, let us willingly and joyfully return to Jesus' grace, shelter and protection!
- Prepare to break into smaller groups

Smaller Groups (20-25 minutes) Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Have someone read Matthew 23:1-7. Jesus gives us warnings because he sees genuine danger of legalism and wants us to see how damaging and even deadly it is.

- Jesus warns his listeners to pay attention to what the Pharisees teach, but don't do what they do.
 - What is your typical response to another person's hypocritical behavior?
 - How does Jesus's teaching differ from the way you would respond?
 - What are some ways that you have held higher standards for others than for yourself?
 - How often do you check your motivation for your behavior?
 - How does keeping up appearances keep you from experiencing the grace, love and acceptance that you desire?

Have someone read Matthew 23:13-15. Jesus warns us that our hypocrisy doesn't seem to be content with our own hypocrisy, we want others to live that way too.

- What are some places that you recognize hypocrisy in your life?
- How does it make you feel when others begin going below the line of shame and stepping out of their hypocrisy?
- How does it help you to step out of your hypocrisy when others confess their sin?

Have someone read Matthew 23:25-28. Jesus doesn't want us to merely modify our behaviors, he wants to get to our heart's motivations.

- What are some habits we can practice as a group to provide a safe space for confessing sin?
- Have someone read James 5:15-16. James instructs us to confess our sins and pray for

one another.

- How do you make confession of sin to another person a regular practice in your life?
 - How does confessing sin keep you connected to grace?
 - How does confessing sin help you combat hypocrisy?
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Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups (5-10 minutes)

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

“I’m praying for _____”.

“I have been having good conversations with _____

_____”. “I’m having lunch with _____
_____ on
_____ (day of the week).”

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)