



Unhitched

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Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, or word usage.

Well, today, we're beginning a brand new series called the N Commandments. And if this is your first time with us, if this is the first time you've watched with us, we take a topic and talk about it for several weeks and today is the introduction. So, if at the end of today's message you're like, "I'm not really sure what to do with it," I'm gonna go ahead and give you the application now. Come back next week [laughter] which is great because this is the first sermon some of you have ever been able to apply. You don't even have to be a Christian to apply that. So come back next week, this is the introduction to the N Commandments and I'll tell you what the N stands for at the very end of the message.

00:33 S1: Because I'm a pastor I have some hobbies and some habits and some interests that perhaps you don't have and you might think this is crazy, but I love to read blogs by people who have abandoned the Christian faith. I've even read a couple of books by people who've abandoned the Christian faith. That's always so fascinating to me. Why would someone stop being a Christian? Because I think why because following Jesus makes your life better and following Jesus makes you better at life and everybody wants their life to be better and most people want to be better at life. So I don't quite get this. So I'm always fascinated not by people who have never been Christians but by those who were raised in the church or they kind of became a Christian for a while and then bailed out.

01:14 S1: And the thing that's always so fascinating to me in my experience which is limited, 100% of the people that I've read their story or talked to personally who bail out of Christianity bailed out for really bad reasons. They bailed out because they met some quirky Christians or some weird Christians or their parents were weird or... They didn't like the Christians so they left Jesus. That's a bad reason to leave Jesus. You've had bad haircuts, you just found another barber. You had bad medical experiences, you found another doctor. You didn't give up on hair cutting, you didn't give up on doctors. So don't give up on Jesus because of us Christians, okay. So that's one bad reason. So, anyway, the other, the more fascinating, that's just sort of a side bar, the more fascinating thing to me are the people who give up on Christianity because of the Bible.

02:00 S1: The Bible is another terrible reason to give up on Christianity. And this happens all the time. Somebody says, "Well, I got into the six day creation thing, I can't go with that. I used to believe that as a kid then I went to college and six days of creation. And so the whole idea is..." Or you know, "Sanctioned genocide in the Old Testament. I just can't follow a God who sanctions genocide in the Old Testament." Or, "Andy, you know there's no historical or there's no evidence that the Israelites actually left Israel, since we left Egypt. And then there's this date in the New Testament that doesn't line up with other historical documents. So, I just left Christianity." I'm like, "Those are..." and this sounds offensive to those that don't leave, "Those are terrible reasons to quit being a Christian."

02:43 S1: And all of that may be true and so I'm just reminded that the church, and I'll take part of the blame, the church has done a terrible job communicating the foundation of our faith. It's done a terrible job. I've never talked to someone who genuinely followed Jesus and then left and thought they had a good reason. I don't argue with people's story but it's like "Wait a minute. What you're rejecting isn't even the faith. What you're rejecting isn't even essential to Christianity". And so what's happened and if those of you who were here for the brand new series, if you didn't watch the brand new series or weren't here for it, please go online and watch the brand new series. You can find it on our website. It's under the messages. But anyway, picking up kind of where we left off, in the temple model, the Christian version of the temple model, and the Christian version of the temple model we were presented with the Bible as the foundation of our faith.

03:32 S1: The Bible is not the foundation of our faith. Don't panic, evangelicals. What the foundation, don't email me either, the foundation [laughter] You can email me. The foundation of our faith, this is better, okay, don't panic. The foundation of our faith is an event, the resurrection, the foundation of the Christian faith is an event. It's the resurrection. It's not the Old Testament. It's not the New Testament. And part of our problem is we were given the Old Testament and New Testament together, all bound up in a book called the Bible, which you know I love the Bible, okay. If this is your first time, I love the Bible. But when it got put together it was given equal theological weight, not equal theological