



*Follow the Crucified
not Americanized Jesus*

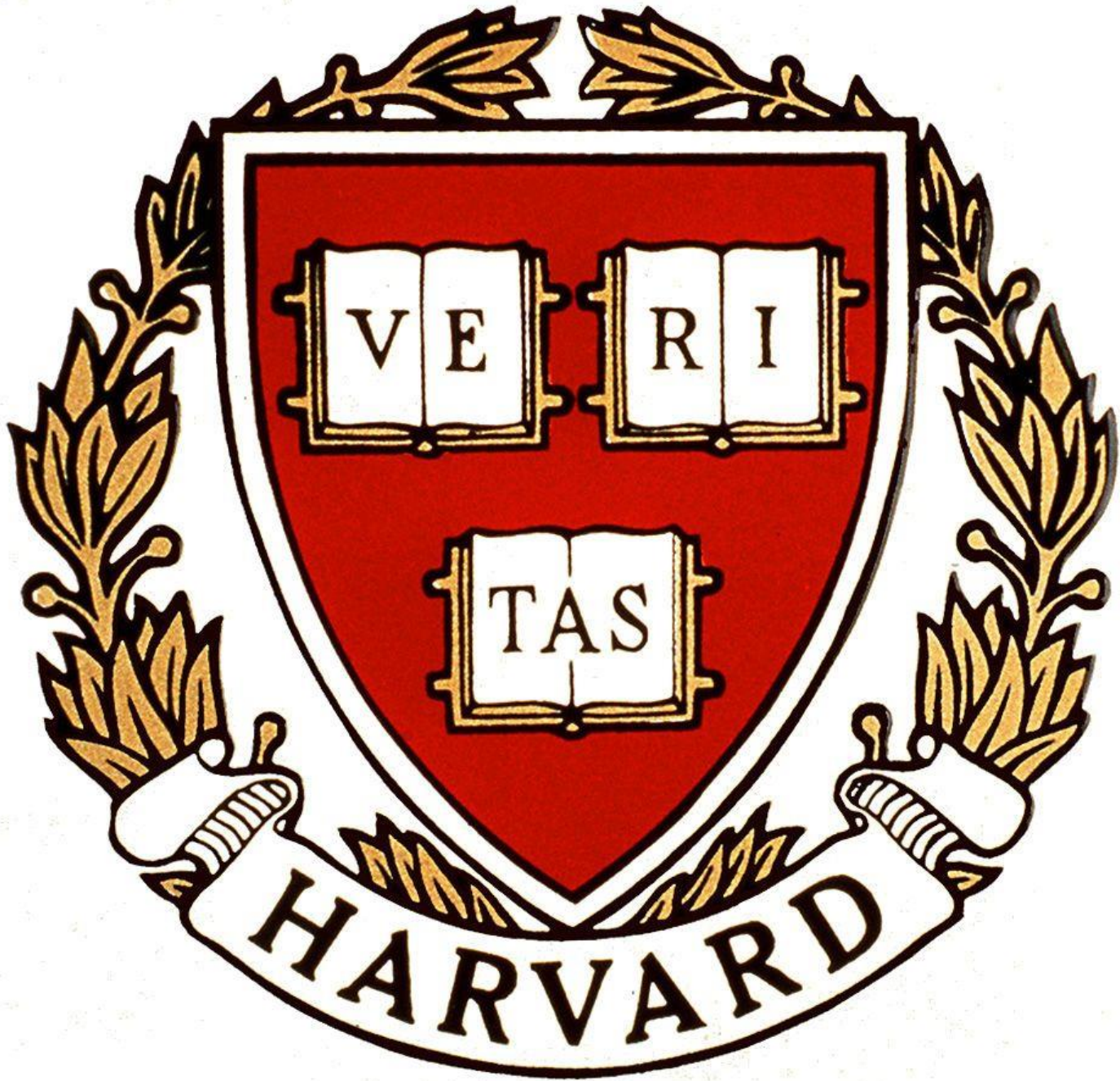
Emotionally Healthy Discipleship 4

Matthew 16:21-23; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pastor Ken Tang-Quan

Palos Verdes Baptist Church

August 15, 2021





VERITAS

CHRISTO ET ECCLESIAE



1 John 2:15-16 (ESV)

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **desires of the flesh** and the **desires of the eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world.*

Following the Americanized Jesus

1. Be Popular

2. Be Great

- “... *pride of life* ...” = popularity/prestige

3. Be Successful

- “... *the desires of the eyes* ...” = possessions

4. Avoid Suffering and Failure

- “... *the desires of the flesh* ...” = pleasure

Matthew 16:21-23 (ESV)

*²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and **suffer** many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be **killed**, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to **rebuke** him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a **hindrance** to me. For **you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**"*

Following the Crucified Jesus

1. Jesus' Way – Accepting the Cross

- “... Jesus began to show his disciples that he must ... **suffer** many things ... and be **killed**, and on the third day be raised.” (v.21)

2. Peter's Way – Avoiding the Cross

- “... Peter ... began to **rebuke** him, saying, ‘Far be it from you, Lord! This shall **never happen** to you.’” (v.22)

3. Adopt Jesus' Way

- “But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a **hindrance** to me. For **you are not setting your mind on the things of God**, but on the things of man.” (v.23)

1 Corinthians 1:18-19 (ESV)

*¹⁸For the word of the **cross** is **folly** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”*

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 (ESV)

*²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not **God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (ESV)

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach **Christ crucified**, a **stumbling block** to Jews and **folly** to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power** of God and the **wisdom** of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (ESV)

²⁶For consider your **calling**, brothers: **not many** of you were **wise** according to worldly standards, **not many** were **powerful**, **not many** were of **noble birth**.
²⁷But God chose what is **foolish in the world** to shame the wise; God chose what is **weak in the world** to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is **low and despised in the world**, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, **boast in the Lord.**”



Way of the Cross

1. Preposterous or Powerful?

- “... the word of the **cross** is **folly** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.” (v.18)

2. Stumbling Block or Salvation?

- “... we preach **Christ crucified**, a **stumbling block** to Jews and **folly** to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**.” (v.23-24)

3. Boast in Self or in our Savior?

- “... consider your **calling**, ... God chose what is **low and despised in the world**, ... so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, **boast in the Lord**.’” (v.26-31)

Following the Crucified Jesus

1. Relax in Jesus.

- *“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10a)*

2. Relinquish for Jesus.

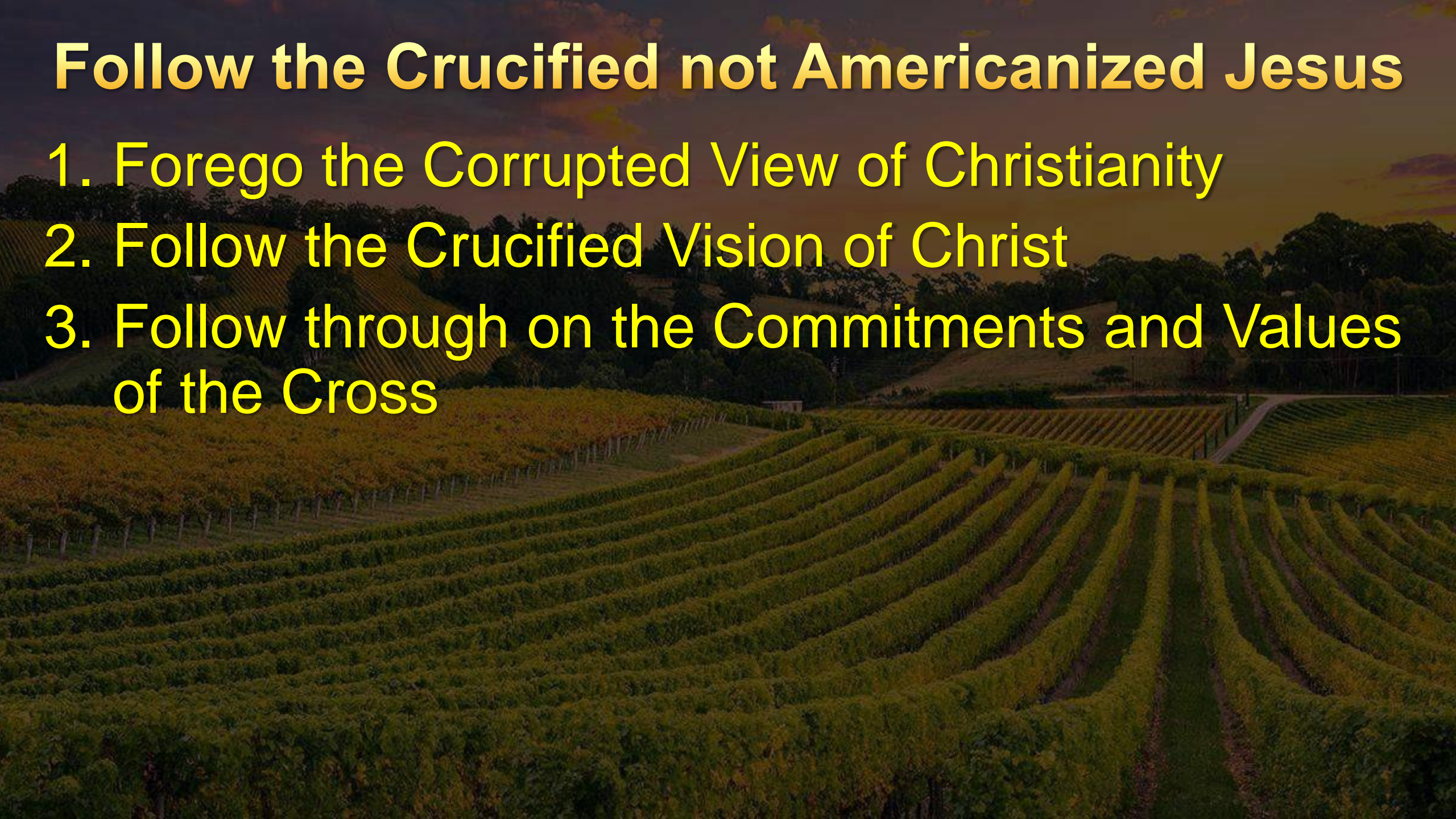
- *“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:25)*

3. Receive from Jesus.

- *“... This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matthew 17:5)*
- *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*

Follow the Crucified not Americanized Jesus

1. Forego the Corrupted View of Christianity
2. Follow the Crucified Vision of Christ
3. Follow through on the Commitments and Values of the Cross



Discussion Questions

1. Which of the three world aspirations (pleasure, possessions, popularity/prestige) do you find most alluring?
2. What are some of the ways your background has influenced what you value and pursue in life?
3. How does following a crucified Jesus affect your view of what constitutes success?
4. What life lessons would you share with a teenager or young adult about following the crucified not Americanized Jesus?
5. Share about actions you might take to develop practices of relaxing in Jesus, relinquishing for Jesus, and receiving from Jesus.