

## **“The Battle That Rages”**

Slaying the Dragons of Deception #1  
2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12; Titus 2:10

### **“Christianity has an image problem.”**

David Kinnaman, The Barna Research Group  
Unchristian – What a New Generation Really Thinks About  
Christianity ... And Why It Matters, Baker Books, 2007

**John 13:34-35** (Jesus) So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other**. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.**

**Matthew 5:15-16** (Jesus) **No one lights a lamp** and then **puts it under a basket**. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, **where it gives light** to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, **let your good deeds shine out for all to see**, so that **everyone will praise your heavenly Father**. Titus 2:10

*“Outsiders feel that Christians have become ‘unchristian,’ and they no longer represent what Jesus had in mind.”*  
Unchristian, pg. 15

### **Losing Involvement, Influence, and Interest**

*“There are 24 million outsiders in this country who are ages 16 to 29. ... ‘Outsiders’ make up about one quarter of ‘Boomers’ (ages 42 - 60) and ‘Elders’ (ages 60+). But among ‘Mosaics’ (born ’84 – ’02) and ‘Busters’ (born ’65 – ’83), more than one-third are part of this category, a number that increases to two-fifths of 16 – 29 year olds.”*  
Unchristian, pg. 18

*“Christianity seems like an old, broken-down building that I have to drive by every day. I don’t even notice it anymore.”*  
Eric, age 29

## **So, How Did We Get Here?**

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**Genesis 3:1** Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”** Ephesians 6:12; Romans 1:21-22

**Matthew 13:19a** When anyone **hears the message** about the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil one comes** and **snatches away what was sown in his heart**.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** The **god of this age** has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they **cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. 2 Timothy 2:25-26; Hebrews 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:14

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**Matthew 24:4** Jesus answered: **“Watch out that no one deceives you.”** Matthew 23:13

### **How Are We Perceived? Are We Guilty?**

*Hypocritical, Judgmental, Sheltered, Too Focused on Getting Converts, Anti-homosexual, and Too Political.*

**Ephesians 5:13-16** Everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for **it is light that makes everything visible**. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” 15 **Be very careful, then, how you live**--not as unwise but as wise, 16 **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil. Psalms 40:1-3; Psalm 51:1-2, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 4:22-24; Isaiah 58:6-12