

Christ Was Narrow-Minded
Matt 7:20-21, Jn 6:65
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of being “scripturally” narrow-minded.

- Intro: 1. What does it mean to be “narrow-minded”?
2. Narrow minded: having restricted or rigid views, and being unreceptive to new ideas
3. Was Christ narrow-minded (**Matt 7:20-21, Jn 6:65**)?
- I. He was narrow-minded in who was acceptable to His Father.
- A. **John 3:16-17** are two verses that are rarely read together.
1. The word “should” in verse tells us that all “should” be saved, but it is only available to those who submit to God.
2. One word, “should”, changes the verse drastically.
- B. How is the world saved?
1. “the world through Him **might** be saved.” – It is only through the Son of God, Christ, that the world can be saved.
2. Even then its up to man to accept and be faithful to the Father’s will, this time instead of should the word, “might”, is used. The world might be saved, **IF**, the people obey His commands.
- II. He was narrow-minded in how one finds salvation and in worship.
- A. Christ made a decree in **Mark 16:15-16**
1. All who believe AND is baptized will be saved.
2. It included two steps, both are necessary, only one was not enough.
3. How are we put into Christ – **Matt 22:8-14 – We cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven unless we are clothed in Christ – Gal 3:27**
- (**ILL** – If you were a child, and your father told you to do two things and you only did one, did you obey him? No, for us to obey Christ we too must do all He tells us that is necessary for salvation. Same idea just different application right, your given directions and unless you do them all, then you didn’t do as you were told, correct?)
- Does Matt 15:8-9 fit here? Certainly so.**
- Do some today teach baptism isn’t necessary, obviously so?
- (Use Study bible **ILL**)

B. Christ was narrow-minded in how we worship.

1. **Col 3:16**, we must praise Him with all our hearts. (*ILL – Tyler visited a Methodist church, unable to hear the voices cause of the music*). The thing about instruments in worship is, God never commanded it, He allowed it for a time, but He never commanded it. In **Col 3:16** we see He wants praise to be from the heart, to sing with feelings not with instruments.

2. We are to worship with the right attitude and in truth with the word of God (**Jn 4:24**)

A. We worship with all our heart and with a attitude that pleases the Father.

B. We worship Him in 5 ways song, prayers, the Lord's Supper, preaching, and contribution.

III. He is narrow-minded about sin and repentance.

A. Christ says "repent or perish" (**Lk 13:3**)

1. Jesus warned people what would happen if they didn't repent of their sins.

2. Either repent and receive forgiveness or perish.

B. What is true repentance?

1. Repentance is a 3 step process.

2. It involves a change of mind, a change of heart and a change of action.

3. We must have works that show we have truly repented and turned from our ways (**Matt 3:1-8, Rom 6:1-2**)

IV. Christ was narrow-minded about MDR. (Matt 19:3ff)

a. He gave one reason and not any more than one.

1. Irreconcilable differences was not one of them but that's a popular term that is used.

2. Many today who have problems are unwilling to stay and work things out so as to save the marriage which is what God intends.

b. Only those who are scripturally divorced may be remarried.

1. One who was divorced for unscriptural reasons commits adultery.

2. Thus the right thing to do is to reconcile with your partner, thus leaving their unscriptural marriage. (**Ezra 10:10-12,17,19**)

V. Are you willing to pay the price of being narrow-minded?

(Jn 6:65-66)

- A. Christ paid that price (**Jn 6:66**).
- B. Many wanted to stone Christ for His teachings (**Jn 11:8**).
- C. Christ knew all along He would have to pay the price for teaching the truth (**Isaiah 53**).

V. Why should we be “scripturally narrow-minded”?

- a. The Father simply wants us to obey His word, is that too narrow-minded (**James 1:21**)
 - b. He wants us to do so because His word is what is able to save our souls.
- II. He wants us to receive salvation. (**Lk 19:10**)
- a. The Lord reminds us, few will be saved (Matt 22:14)
 - b. The Lord wants us to be clothed in Christ (Gal 3:27).

CORE BELIEFS ILLUSTRATION – UNITY IN DIVERSITY

- *Reach the Lost – HOW DO WE DO THAT?*
- *Teach the Word of God – What’s truth?*
- *Prayer and Worship – How do we worship?*
- *Discipleship – What does discipleship really mean?*
- *Commitment to Children and Young People – how are you committed?*
- *Prepare People for Works of Service (Volunteering) – how do we prepare them correctly?*
- *Encourage People*

- Conc:
1. Are you narrow-minded.
 2. Are we willing to stay the course and follow the commands of the Lord no matter how others view us.
 3. Invitation