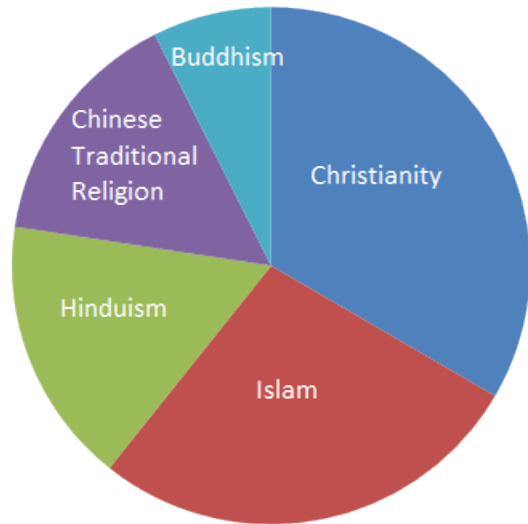

Solving the World's Greatest Puzzle

The “unloved God/unloved neighbor” enigma

by
Ben Baughman



Following Jesus isn't the same as being Christian, but it isn't often you'll hear that.



Christianity claims 2 billion plus people, making it the largest religion of this globe that 7 billion people call home.

Because of its immensity, it wields great power over the cultures it infiltrates.

“

It's tough to mess with the big guy.
But that's what I'm up to.
It's surgery I'm after.

”

It started simple. “Come, follow me”.

And they did. And the world they touched became a little more like Heaven with every loving caress that mirrored his.



There were two results:

1. People discovered and loved a God whose very description was Love, and
2. neighbors started acting... well, neighborly.

Treating others in the same way we'd like to be treated extends the very nature of God to them. It's a bit like making something invisible pop into view. God becomes tangible because I simply do for others what I inherently would like done for me.



Nothing else is needed. We know everything that's important to know. Everyone we encounter will know whom we follow because we love each other.

People religiously follow someone who lives and leads like Jesus did.

And therein lies the greatest hurdle.

Religious followers become followers of Religion when the spread of new followers exceeds the scope of personal touch.

So codifying starts, and words replace example and intuition and instinct that comes from watching and walking and listening and interacting.



“

“How” becomes “what” and we
ask all the wrong questions.

”

What do you believe?

About God?
About our doctrine?
About our issues?

Abortion?

Gay marriage?

Death penalty?

War?

???

And books and white papers and scathing reports are written, and anyone who doesn't get it "right" is duly marginalized. Words, doctrine and dogma are enthroned and all who believe the "right" things are exonerated in our eyes.

And an unloved God and an unloved neighbor go unloved still. And we justify our un-love and judging by the doctrines and dogmas that demand our loyalty.

And Religion has won and Love has lost!



And Jesus still hangs out with “disreputable sinners”.

He laughs with them and loves with them and treats them like he’d like to be treated. And tells the dogma people that these “disreputable sinners” are going to make it into the home of a loving God before they do.

Even that apostle we call Paul, whose writings we glean a pile of doctrines from, wrote in frustration: “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” He tells us in another place that overcoming evil is accomplished by doing good.

And another apostle named John says it clearly as well: “anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

Are we treating others like
we'd like to be treated?

Are we following Jesus?

Are we walking humbly with God?

Are we overcoming evil with good?

Are we living unselfishly?

Are we being wise?

Do we love mercy?

Are we living unselfishly?

These seem like questions that need our attention.

But they are not the questions of Religion.

“ Religion is like Bureaucracy. ”

It excessively complicates the simplicity of a bowl of water and towel and dusty feet and a gentle command to “love each other as I have loved you”,

to compiling sixty-six books and countless commentaries on nuances of what God meant by hundreds of commands and circumstances over every conceivable issue currently known to humanity.



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Two Things Impassion Me



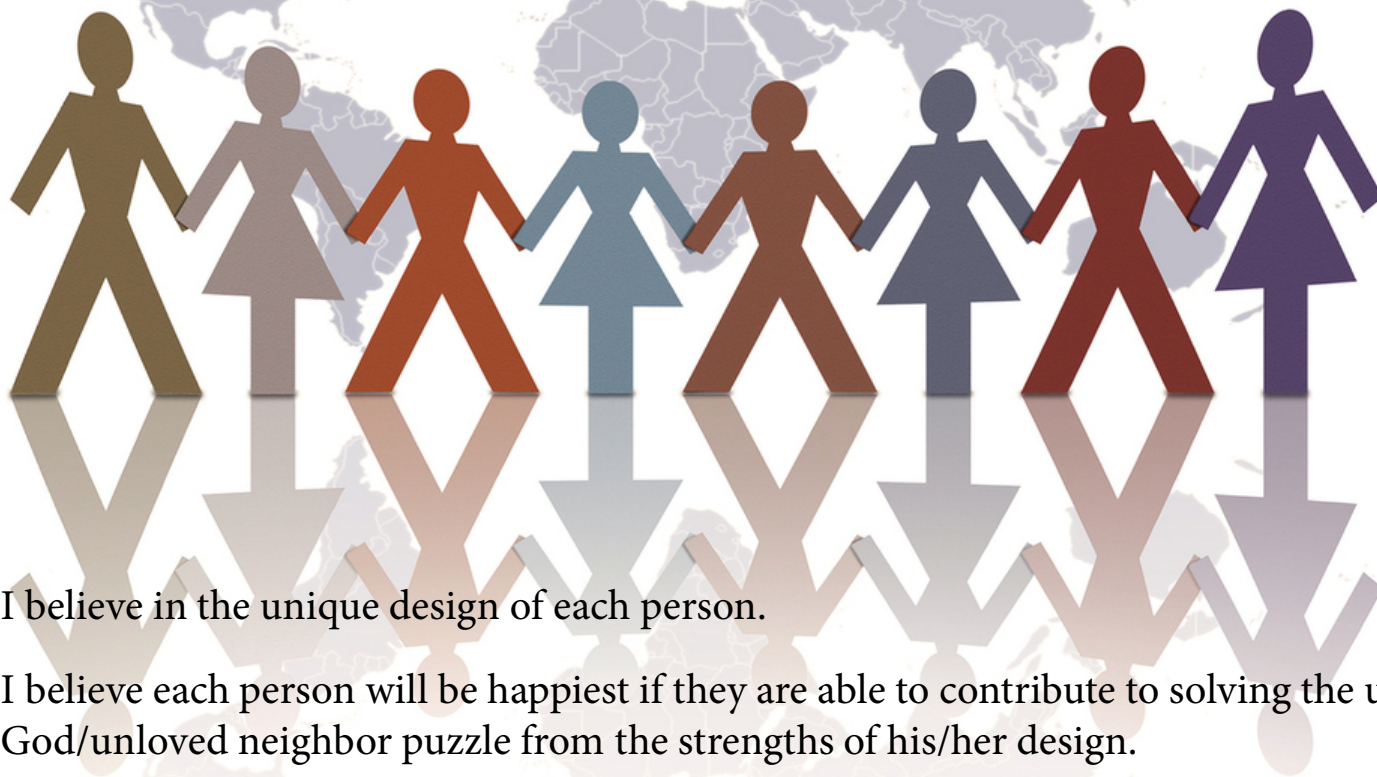
1) Removing Jesus from the bureaucratic pages of the Religion of Christianity.

So we can speak Gods' message of Jesus again, without the millions of legalistic explanations that make our eyes glaze over.

A loving God longs for a loving family in an incredible home we call earth.

That all people everywhere can be mentored by this incredible example of love, even if they didn't grow up believing they had to follow the religion of Christianity.

2) Being part of enabling a band of sisters and brothers across this world that long to follow the example of Jesus and numerous others who have followed him.



I believe in the unique design of each person.

I believe each person will be happiest if they are able to contribute to solving the unloved God/unloved neighbor puzzle from the strengths of his/her design.

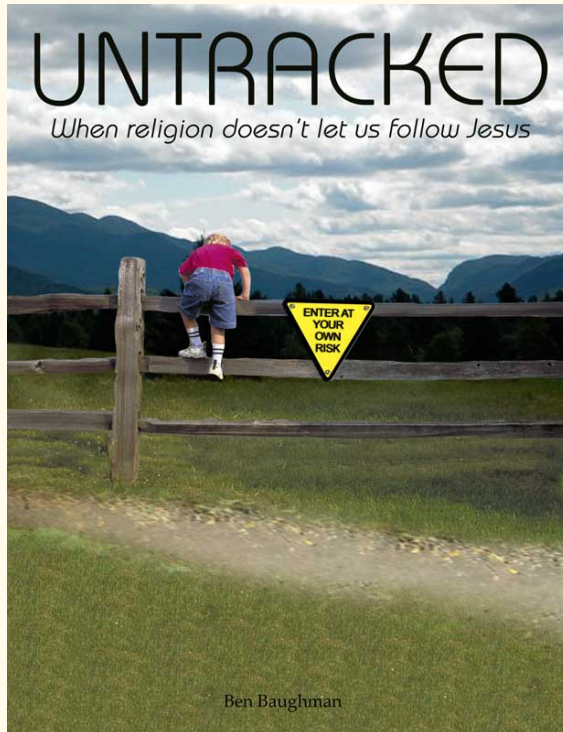
I long to be part of the immense eruption of creativity that will take place as people begin to believe they actually can help solve the puzzle.

“ I will die in peace if I can contribute to freeing Jesus from religion and unlocking the creativity needed for solving the “unloved God/unloved neighbor” enigma in this world. ”

- Ben Baughman

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