



James Prosoco

Following Christ Beyond Denominations: A Journey of Honest Faith



Are you searching for a deeper connection with Christ, beyond the boundaries of denomination? This course invites you to reflect honestly on your spiritual journey and discover the core questions that drive your faith. Through Scriptural exploration and personal reflection, you'll uncover what it truly means to follow Christ and learn how to move forward with courage, no matter where He leads. Whether you've been in church your whole life or are just beginning to seek, you'll find encouragement and practical guidance to pursue a closer, more authentic relationship with Christ.



Uncovering the Deeper Questions of Faith



Christ at the Center: Scripture and Salvation



Courageously Continuing the Journey

Lesson 1 of 3

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Uncovering the Deeper Questions of Faith

Why Do We Ask Spiritual Questions?

Behind every debate about denominations or religious labels, there are deeper, more universal questions that touch every human heart. These questions are about meaning, purpose, and belonging—questions that go beyond which church we attend or what traditions we follow. In

this lesson, we'll explore what truly motivates our spiritual seeking and set the stage for honest reflection on our faith journey.



"Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

— John 18:37

This lesson will guide you through a thoughtful exploration of the motivations behind spiritual questions. As you move forward, consider how these objectives relate to your own experiences and beliefs.

1

Explore the difference between denominational questions and deeper spiritual longings

2

Reflect on the universal human search for meaning and 'home'

3

Identify personal motivations and spiritual drivers

Often, debates about denominations—like whether you have to be Catholic to go to heaven—are just the surface of something much deeper. These questions can mask our real concerns about where we belong, what is true, and which direction our lives should take. Many people focus on religious labels, but underneath, they are searching for answers about their own place in the world and their relationship with God.

Questions on the path,

Seeking truth beyond the walls,

Hearts yearn for their home.

Common Denominational Concerns and Their Deeper Questions

Many of the questions people ask about denominations are really expressions of deeper fears or longings. Expand each item below to see what might be beneath the surface.

Only Catholics go to heaven? —

For some, this question reveals a fear of being 'wrong' or left out. It's not just about church membership—it's about the anxiety of missing out on something essential or being excluded from belonging.

Denominations don't matter? —

This statement often comes from a longing for unity and simplicity in faith. People may feel overwhelmed by division and wish for a faith that brings people together, rather than separates them.

Christianity is too divided? —

When people express this concern, they may be searching for certainty and clarity. The many branches of Christianity can make it hard to know what is true, leading to a desire for something solid and trustworthy.



The longing for home

A Universal Longing for Home

Beneath all our doctrinal questions lies a universal human desire: to find meaning, to belong, and to feel at home. This longing is not limited to any denomination or tradition—it is a deep part of what it means to be human, and it often drives our search for spiritual truth.

Root Questions in Spiritual Seeking

As you review each card, consider which questions have been most important in your own journey. These are the questions that often lead us beyond surface debates and into honest searching.

Is God real?

The foundational question about the existence of God and the reality of the divine.

Does He love me?

The personal longing to know if God cares for each of us individually.

Can He forgive someone like me?

The hope that forgiveness is possible, even for those who feel unworthy.

How do I find Him?

The search for guidance on connecting with God in a real and personal way.

Am I too far gone?

The fear that past mistakes might put someone beyond the reach of grace.

The journey of faith rarely begins with a commitment to a particular denomination. More often, it starts with a personal longing—a desire for something more, for connection, for hope. Seeking Christ is not the same as seeking a religious label. It's about responding to a call that goes deeper than tradition or affiliation.



The journey of faith

Your Turn: What Drives Your Faith?

Take a moment to pause and reflect. What are the questions or longings that have driven your own spiritual journey? Consider jotting down your thoughts in a journal or sharing them in a discussion forum. This is your opportunity to connect the lesson's ideas to your own life and experiences.

Pause and Reflect.

Have you ever accepted something simply because it was familiar?

Ask Christ to help you love truth more than comfort.



Continue

In the next lesson, we'll explore how Scripture places Christ at the center of our faith journey—beyond denominational lines. Get ready to discover what it means to follow Christ as 'the Way' and reflect on your own relationship with Him.

Christ at the Center: Scripture and Salvation

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Christ at the Center: Scripture and Salvation

Who Shows Us the Way Home?

As we search for meaning, truth, and salvation, it's easy to get caught up in debates about denominations and traditions. But at the heart of the Christian journey is a single, guiding question: Who truly shows us the way home? In this lesson, we'll explore what it means for

Christ—not any denomination—to be at the center of our faith, inviting you to reflect on His unique role in your spiritual journey.

This lesson will guide you through key concepts about salvation, Christ’s unique role, and personal faith. You will engage with Scripture, consider important distinctions, and reflect on your own spiritual journey.

1

Examine core Scriptural passages about salvation and Christ’s role as ‘the Way’.

2

Explore the difference between following Christ and following a denomination.

3

Reflect on your own relationship with Christ and what it means for your faith journey.

Many foundational questions about salvation become tangled with denominational debates, leaving us uncertain about what truly matters. Yet, when we turn to Jesus’ own words, we find a deeper, more universal answer that transcends religious boundaries. Instead of relying on opinions or traditions, we are invited to return to the source—Christ Himself—for clarity about salvation and the path home.



Scripture Illuminates the Path

Scripture Illuminates the Path

Scripture provides us with direct insight into Jesus' teachings about salvation. When we open the Bible, we find words that speak across centuries and denominations, offering hope and direction to all who seek. These teachings invite us to look beyond labels and discover the heart of faith in Christ Himself.

Key Teachings of Jesus on Salvation

Let's look closely at two of Jesus' key teachings about salvation.

JOHN 3:16 - THE DESTINATION

JOHN 14:6 - THE JOURNEY

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

This passage reveals God’s promise of everlasting life to all who believe in Christ. It shows that the destination of our faith journey is eternal life with God, offered freely out of love. The focus is not on religious achievement, but on receiving the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus.

JOHN 3:16 - THE DESTINATION

JOHN 14:6 - THE JOURNEY

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Here, Jesus identifies Himself as the exclusive path to God, emphasizing that salvation is found in following Him personally. This teaching highlights that the journey to everlasting life is not about joining a particular group, but about a relationship with Christ Himself.

What Do These Verses Teach Us About Salvation and Following Christ?

Expand each section to explore the deeper meaning behind Jesus’ words and how they shape our understanding of salvation.

Salvation is a Gift, Not an Achievement —

Salvation is rooted in God’s love and Christ’s sacrifice, not in our ability to earn it or belong to a specific denomination. Jesus offers everlasting life as a gift to all who believe, reminding us that faith, not works or membership, is the foundation of our hope.

Christ, Not Denomination, is the Way —

Jesus does not point us toward a particular church or tradition. Instead, He invites us to follow Him personally. The path to God is not found in a set of rules or religious systems, but in a living relationship with Christ.

Truth is Personal and Relational —

Truth is not just a set of doctrines or teachings—it is embodied in the person of Jesus. To know truth is to know Christ, and to follow Him is to walk in the light of that truth every day.

Following Christ vs. Following a Denomination

Consider the difference between following Christ and following a denomination. Review each flashcard and reflect on what truly centers your faith.



"Christ as the guiding compass amidst the diverse lighthouses of denominational faith."

Consider the difference between navigating a vast ocean and following a specific lighthouse. While each lighthouse represents a denomination, the ocean symbolizes the journey of faith where Christ serves as the true compass.

As you review each flashcard, reflect on how Christ, as your guiding compass, leads you toward deeper understanding and connection, keeping your faith centered on Him rather than the lights that may guide you temporarily.

Attending a specific church guarantees salvation.

Following a denomination—this view misses Christ’s central role in salvation.

Believing in Christ as Savior brings everlasting life.

Following Christ—Scripture teaches that faith in Jesus is the way to eternal life (John 3:16).

Salvation is earned by religious rituals alone.

Following a denomination—Scripture emphasizes salvation as a gift, not something we can earn through rituals.

Jesus invites you to relationship, not just religion.

Following Christ—He calls us into a personal relationship, not simply adherence to rules.



Where Is Christ Leading You?

Where Is Christ Leading You?

Take a moment to pause and consider your own walk with Christ. Are you following Him personally, or relying mainly on external structures and traditions? True faith is a journey with Jesus at the center, inviting you to trust Him with each step.

Salvation is found in Christ, not in denominational affiliation or religious achievement. Each of us is invited into a personal, ongoing relationship with Jesus—the One who calls us home. As you reflect on your faith journey, consider where you are with Christ today, and how you might take the next step in following Him more closely.

Christ, our guiding light,
Leads us home through faith and love.
Step closer each day.

Continue



Pause & Reflect

Following Christ is more than agreeing with His teachings—it's trusting Him enough to go where He leads.

Take a moment to reflect:

- Have you ever asked Jesus to lead you into a deeper understanding of your faith?
- If His answer challenged something you had always believed, would you be willing to follow Him?

Take a moment to pray:

"Lord Jesus, give me a humble heart, a willing spirit, and the courage to follow You wherever You lead. Let my desire always be to know You more fully and to live in the truth You reveal. Amen."

In the next lesson, you'll learn how to courageously continue your journey of faith—evaluating your spiritual progress and embracing growth, wherever Christ leads.

Courageously Continuing the Journey

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What Does It Mean to Keep Walking with Christ?

What Does It Mean to Keep Walking with Christ?

Every spiritual journey is ongoing—marked by seasons of clarity and times of uncertainty. Following Christ isn't a one-time decision, but a continual process of growth, courage, and honest self-reflection. Sometimes, the path leads us beyond what's familiar, asking us to trust

even when we can't see the whole road ahead. In this lesson, you're invited to reflect on what it means to keep walking with Christ, embracing both the challenges and the rewards of a faith that grows deeper with every step.

This lesson will guide you through important aspects of spiritual growth and following Christ. You will explore ways to assess your journey, stay receptive to transformation, and find courage in uncertain times.

1

Learn how to evaluate your spiritual progress honestly.

2

Discover how to remain open to growth and change.

3

Gain practical strategies for following Christ with courage—even when the path is uncertain.

Spiritual growth is rarely a straight line. There are moments of doubt, unexpected turns, and times when the next step feels unclear or uncomfortable. Evaluating your progress isn't about checking off a list of achievements—it's about honestly asking where Christ is leading you, and being willing to follow, even when it means stepping into the unknown. True growth often happens when we're willing to let go of what's comfortable and trust Christ to guide us forward.

Challenges of Following Christ Beyond Familiar Paths

Every journey of faith comes with its own set of challenges, especially when Christ calls us to move beyond what we know. Expand each section below to explore some of the most common obstacles and how they might show up in your own experience.

It's natural to feel uneasy when you don't know what's coming next. Following Christ sometimes means stepping into situations or beliefs that are unfamiliar, and that uncertainty can be intimidating.

Yet, it's often in these moments of uncertainty that we learn to trust Christ more deeply, relying on His guidance rather than our own understanding.

Attachment to Comfort Zones —

We all have traditions, routines, or beliefs that feel safe and familiar. It can be difficult to let go of these comfort zones, even when we sense Christ inviting us to something new.

Growth requires us to be open to change, willing to leave behind what no longer serves our journey, and to embrace the new steps Christ sets before us.

Worry About Others' Opinions —

Sometimes, following Christ means making choices that others don't understand or agree with. The fear of being misunderstood, judged, or even rejected can hold us back from taking the next step.

Courage comes from focusing on Christ's voice above all others, trusting that His approval matters most on our journey.



The Courage to Keep Walking

The Courage to Keep Walking

Courage in faith doesn't mean never feeling afraid. It means choosing to keep following Christ, even when the next step is unclear or the road ahead looks daunting. The journey may lead you beyond what's familiar, but each step taken in trust brings you closer to Christ and deeper into truth. Remember, it's not about having all the answers—it's about having the courage to keep walking.

Introduction to Evaluating Your Spiritual Progress

This lesson provides a step-by-step approach to help you reflect on and evaluate your spiritual journey. By pausing, reflecting, and seeking guidance, you can gain clarity on your growth and discern your next steps in faith.

Step 1

Pause and Pray

Begin by taking a quiet moment to invite Christ into your reflection. Ask Him to show you honestly where you are on your journey and to open your heart to His guidance.

Step 2

Reflect on the Past

Look back over your recent experiences. Where have you seen growth, change, or new understanding in your faith? Celebrate the progress you've made, no matter how small.

Step 3

Name Your Fears

Identify any areas where fear, doubt, or a desire for comfort might be holding you back. Being honest about these feelings is the first step toward overcoming them.

Step 4

Seek Discernment

Ask Christ for wisdom about your next steps. Consider seeking guidance from trusted mentors or friends who can help you discern where Christ may be leading you now.

Step 5

Take the Next Step

Choose one concrete action—however small—that moves you forward in following Christ. It could be reaching out for support, starting a new spiritual practice, or simply saying yes to the next invitation Christ places before you.

Summary: Ongoing Openness to Christ's Leading

Evaluating your journey is not about perfection, but about honest, ongoing openness to Christ's leading. Each step, taken in faith, brings you closer to Him.

Spiritual Growth and Courage: True or False

Reflect on these statements about spiritual growth and courage. Decide if each statement is true or false based on the provided explanations.

Following Christ sometimes means going beyond what is comfortable and familiar.

True. The source emphasizes that Christ sometimes leads us beyond what is familiar.

Spiritual growth is always easy and comfortable.

False. Growth often involves challenge and discomfort.

We should trust Christ even when the path ahead is unclear.

True. The narrative assures that Christ never leads us away from Himself.

We should compare our spiritual journey to others' journeys to measure our progress.

False. The focus is on personal honesty, not external comparison.



The Courage to Keep Walking

Your Turn: Commit to Growth

Take a moment to reflect on your own journey. Where do you sense Christ calling you to grow? Write down one area where you feel challenged to take a next step, or one action you can commit to this week. You may choose to share your commitment in a discussion forum or keep it private as a prayerful offering. Remember, even the smallest step forward is an act of courage and faith.

Continue



As you reach the end of this course, remember that spiritual growth is a lifelong journey. It requires honesty, courage, and a willingness to keep following Christ, even when the path is unfamiliar.

Don't stop following Christ. Don't stop because someone disagrees with you. Don't stop because the next step feels unfamiliar or because you're afraid of where He might lead. Keep opening His Word, keep listening for His voice, and keep walking in faith. Christ will always lead you closer to Himself.

Thank you for being part of this journey. You are encouraged to revisit these lessons whenever you need encouragement, and to share your story with others who are seeking. May God bless you as you continue to walk courageously with Christ.

Faith's journey unfolds,

Courage guides through unknown paths,

Christ leads us in love.