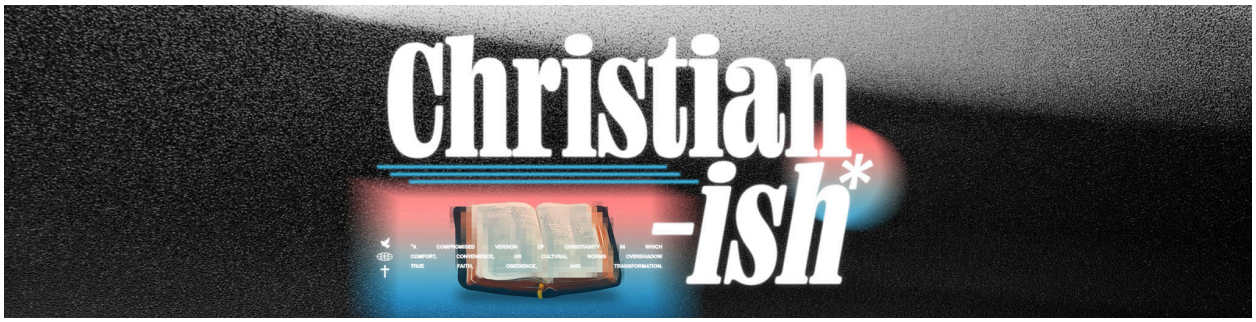


Part 3: God BECAUSE I _____ // Jeff Brodie // October 25, 2026

What if the thing everyone admires about you is the very thing keeping you from seeing what's wrong? You can have a great reputation, do all the right things, and still miss something essential. Jesus confronted a first century church that looked spiritually alive but had lost sight of what mattered most. This week, we're asking an uncomfortable question: Are we actually experiencing life with Jesus, or have we just become really good at looking like we are?

Scripture: Revelation 3:1-6 NLT

Bottom Line: You don't need to make a name for yourself when Jesus knows your name.

Digging In:

1. Have you ever met someone whose public reputation was very different from who they turned out to be? What surprised you?
2. Read Revelation 3:1-6 together as a group. Jesus tells the church in Sardis, "You have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead" (v. 1). What do you think a church or an individual could be doing that seems spiritually impressive without necessarily reflecting a healthy relationship with Jesus?
3. Jeff described three ways our faith can often drift: performance (seeking approval), accommodation (seeking belonging), and control (seeking security). Can you think of a time when you felt pressured to act in one (or more) of these ways? What happened? Looking back, what were you really hoping to gain or avoid?
4. In verses 2-3, Jesus calls the church to wake up, strengthen what remains, remember what they received, and repent. Which of these instructions stands out to you most? What might it look like in everyday life?
5. Jesus promises to acknowledge ("announce") before his Father those who belong to him (v. 5). How might that reality change the way someone thinks about success, failure, or other people's opinions/approval?
6. Our culture often suggests that compromising on the truth in order to be included is a way to belong. At the same time, much of what Jesus teaches is countercultural. How do you deal with the desire to belong while also standing for biblical truth? How do you share your faith in a cultural climate like that?
7. Jeff challenged the idea of protecting ourselves and our families so thoroughly that we stop engaging with people who believe or live differently. How can we distinguish wise boundaries from fear-driven isolation? What has this looked like in your life?

8. When you think about your relationship with Jesus right now, where might you be relying on outward activity or appearances rather than genuine trust? What would taking one step toward him look like?
9. Jesus tells Sardis to remember what they first received and heard. Whether you've followed Jesus for decades, recently started, or are still exploring faith, what's one thing about Jesus you'd like to understand, experience, or trust more deeply?

Closing encouragement: Keep bringing the discussion back to Jesus. The goal isn't for people to leave feeling guilty about not doing enough. It's for them to recognize where they've been looking for approval, belonging, or security, and to discover the freedom of trusting the one who offers all three.

Moving Forward:
This week, set aside five minutes on three different days to reflect on your relationship with Jesus. Look for where you are proving, accommodating, or protecting instead of pursuing a relationship with Jesus of grace, identity, and trust. Take a moment and reflect on the cross.

Prayer Prompt:
Invite group members to pray aloud, silently, or simply listen.

1. *Honesty:* Ask God to reveal places where you're trusting your reputation, achievements, or appearances more than him.
2. *Grace and belonging:* Thank God that forgiveness and a relationship with him are gifts made possible through the cross, not rewards we earn.
3. *Courage and trust:* Ask God to help you move beyond fear, compromise, or performance and take one meaningful step of faith this week.