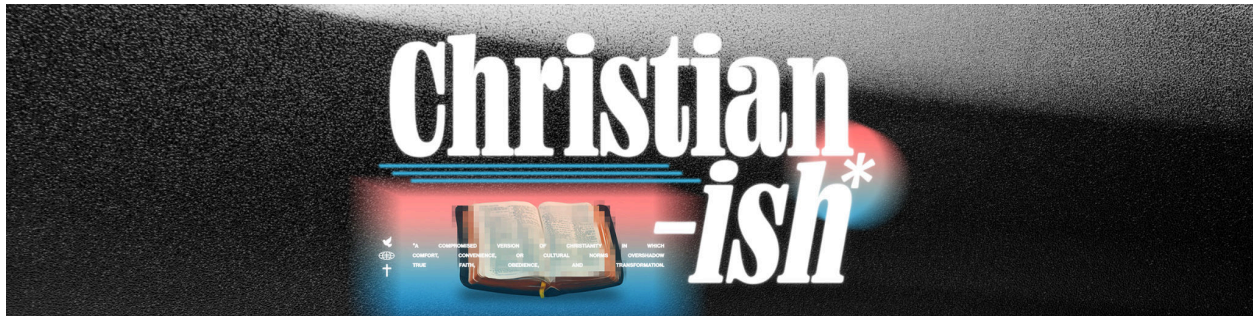




Part 1: God AND _____ // Jeff Brodie // October 11, 2026

We use the word “ish” all the time. It works when plans are flexible, but it doesn’t work nearly as well when we’re talking about commitment. That’s the tension behind *Christian-ish*. It’s possible to call ourselves followers of Jesus while slowly turning a relationship built on surrender into one filled with exceptions, conditions, and negotiations. Throughout this series, we’ll explore Jesus’ letters to churches in Revelation and ask an uncomfortable but important question: Are we genuinely following Jesus, or have we become Christian-ish? This week, the church in Thyatira challenges us to recognize where compromise might be quietly changing our relationship with God, and it reminds us that Jesus invites us back into a relationship defined by grace, love, and wholehearted commitment.

Scripture: [Revelation 2:18-29 NLT](#) // [Matthew 6:19-24 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Following Jesus is a covenant you commit to, not a contract you negotiate.

Digging In:

1. Where in everyday life do you find yourself using the word “ish”? Why does it work in some situations but not in others?
2. What’s the difference between a relationship built on a promise and one built on an ongoing negotiation?
3. Read Revelation 2:18-29 together. Jesus commends the church for its love, faith, service, and perseverance, yet confronts them for tolerating false teaching. How can someone be growing in certain areas of faith while compromising in others?
4. Jeff described “Christian-ish” as the moment our faith drifts from a covenant we commit to into a contract we negotiate. What does that distinction mean to you? What might it look like practically?
5. The Christians in ancient Thyatira faced pressure to participate in various practices connected to their work and culture. What kinds of pressures today can make following Jesus feel costly or inconvenient?
6. Jeff said, “Almost every compromise makes sense when you make it.” Why is it so easy to justify decisions that gradually move us away from what we believe? Where have you seen small compromises gradually lead to much bigger changes—in your own life or in the world around you?

7. In Revelation 2:25, Jesus tells the faithful believers to “hold tightly to what you have.” What do you think it means to hold tightly to Jesus and his promises in a culture that constantly pulls our attention and loyalty elsewhere?
8. Jeff suggested that compromise is often rooted in some sort of fear—missing out, losing approval, financial insecurity, sacrificing something meaningful, and so on. Which of those fears do you think most often tempts you to negotiate with Jesus?
9. What area of your life are you most tempted to grant “veto power” over God? Your career, finances, relationships, family, reputation, comfort, or something else? What makes that area difficult to surrender—and why?
10. Jesus’ words to Thyatira are strong, but the message ended by emphasizing his desire for repentance, forgiveness, and restored relationship. How does knowing that Jesus invites us back with grace change the way you respond when you recognize compromise in your life?

Moving Forward:

This week, spend some time asking one important question: Jesus, where am I negotiating with you? Pay attention to the places where your response sounds like, “I’ll follow you, except when...” or “I trust you, but surely you don’t mean...” Identify one area where fear, comfort, approval, success, or security may have veto power over your relationship with Jesus. Rather than simply feeling guilty about it, take one practical step of surrender this week. Remember, Jesus isn’t inviting you into a relationship where you have to earn his love. He’s inviting you to respond to the love he’s already shown you.

Prayer Prompt:

Invite everyone to take a quiet moment and reflect on this question:

Jesus, where have I been negotiating with you instead of trusting you?

After a moment of silence, invite anyone who feels comfortable to finish this sentence:

Jesus, help me surrender my _____.

Then close in prayer:

Jesus, thank you that you didn’t negotiate the cost of loving us. You gave everything for us. Show us where we’ve allowed compromise to take root, and give us courage to surrender those areas to you. Help us hold tightly to your grace, trust you with every part of our lives, and follow you wholeheartedly. Amen.