

S A L V A T I O N H K  
L Y K S B R E S T O I  
L I D S U U T V F P N  
A P F S X T R O C K G  
R E F E H H P E A C E

**I R R E L E V A N T ?**

F A I T H F U L O W R  
T A L I V E Q J F O Q  
M E S S I A H G E R W  
E S A V I O U R A D A  
L O R D K S X T R H Y

The accusation of being irrelevant is not new. Just two decades after the death/resurrection of Jesus, Paul found that his testimony was considered “foolishness” (*1 Cor. 1*), and the gospel was “veiled” or camouflaged to those who were perishing (*1 Cor. 4*)

Double edged sword:

- a) We should seek to relate (be relevant) to people outside the church [as Jesus did].
- b) We cannot compromise the truth [message] in order to be accepted/liked/included.

As we attempt to meet needs, show compassion, and be respected/relevant to unchurched or unbelieving folks, we should NOT assume that we will EVER remove all obstacles, excuses, friction, opposition, or apathy from those we hope to win.

The gospel message is SIN,  
REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS,  
HOLINESS. This message will always have  
resistance. It happened to Jesus, to the first  
century church and will happen in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century.

STATEMENTS given by people who do not attend or participate in CHURCH.

1. Everything is based on **fear** and **prohibitions**.  
Over-protective!

**Galatians 3:21-25** Is the law opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! If a law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. But the Scriptures say that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promises for freedom only by believing in Christ. Before the way of faith was made available to us, we were placed under guard by the law, kept in protective custody, until the way of faith could be revealed.



The law was our guardian until Christ came. It protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. Now... we no longer need the law as a guardian. For we are children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Church is unrelated to my  
**goals** or **career**... unneeded.

**Luke 12:16-21** Jesus told them this parable.

The ground of a rich man produced a good crop.

He said, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops... I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. And I’ll say, You have good things laid up for many years... Eat, drink, and be merry.”

But God said, “You fool! This very night your life will be required. Then who will get these things? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself *[goals/career]* but is not rich towards God.”

3. I'm not impressed. Church people  
are no different... hypocrites!

**Timothy 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying... “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst. But that was the reason I was shown mercy! That in me, the worst of sinners he might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.”

4. I believe in God and the Bible, but I do not care for **organized church**... religion!

**1 Corinthians 12:27-30** Now you ARE the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed prophets... apostles... teachers... miracle workers, etc.

... **Matthew 16:18** I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell will not overcome it.



# **1 Peter 1:5-11**

Knowledge of God cannot be static or irrelevant. It produces fruit... **effective** and **productive**.

\*As I cannot **share** God in isolation, so I cannot **learn** God in isolation.

Failure to pursue spiritual growth  
[ignoring church] **progresses** into  
blindness and feebleness.

Doubting the relevance of the Christian church to your life is exactly opposite of **eagerness** and **excitement** toward growth.

God's eternal kingdom is your CALLING.  
It cannot possibly be irrelevant .  
It is your **identity** and **destiny**. OR NOT.