



## Steps to Jesus' Reality

### 1. Admit I'm broken

In a recent interview with Adam Herz, writer of the American Pie series of movies, he said "It's hard to find someone who admits to being a winner in high school." Most of us, even the most popular, can have a sense that we don't fit in. Does this mean everything is falling apart in your life? Not necessarily. You might have a good life right now, or maybe the opposite. Even in our best moments though, many of us have a feeling that imbalance pervades our world life falls short. Does this sound like you?

An ancient book describes our situation. It says all people have fallen short of perfection—no one has the ability to be totally good. Left to our own resources, we don't even have the ability to be *pretty* good. This book goes on to say that

everything in the world longs for something different.

Is something different possible? Even if most of us fall short of this possibility, even way short, would you like to have another option? Would you like a world where greatness becomes possible, where that nagging sense of things not being right in your life disappears? The first step to Jesus' reality occurs when we admit the world's brokenness—when we admit the brokenness in our lives. Really this step recognizes that we long for a better place in our lives than we live in today.

## 2. Realize Jesus can fix me

Even in the first man and woman this sense of imbalance existed. Thoreau said, "The mass of men (and women) lead lives of quiet desperation." Desperate Housewives? Over thousands of years people have tried to deal with this imbalance, this desperation. People have erected great structures, developed elaborate ceremonies, and in some instances have even gone crazy

trying to make things right. Some were even given instructions on how to make things right, but they just didn't get it.

To tell the truth, we can't live up to such an immense task. None of us has the power for such an undertaking—we don't even come close. So what do we do? Could there be a power that is greater than us? Yes, the G-word. God knows how to bring us into balance—he can make things right because he invented right and balanced. A gap exists between God and us, and it is much bigger than most of us think. To make contact, God had to reach out to us.

After a series of band-aid attempts, he finally took an amazingly dramatic step he sent Jesus. God sent Jesus to live, die, and rise from the dead. In these actions Jesus showed us how to overcome the imbalance and desperation in our lives. He shows us God's reality—a reality that goes on for all time. Jesus' life, death, and rise from the dead show us a glimpse into his new reality. While this means living forever, it also means encountering Jesus' reality in our daily lives.

### 3. Accept Jesus as new ruler

We're not built to set our own rules. If my two young children were allowed to set their own rules they would either starve to death in a few weeks or get hit by a car. I show my love for my children by setting rules for them, so they might not only survive, but they might even thrive. Jesus wants to show you a life of balance and even greatness. To achieve this balance and greatness we must recognize that Jesus' reality trumps the reality we invent in our own minds.

Most of have spent our lives trying to create our own reality and rules, so living in Jesus' reality can rub. At the same time, when we accept Jesus as our ruler he promises us we won't be left on our own. The Holy Spirit gives us strength and insight as Jesus' reality takes over our life more and more, if we'll let him. We can come to learn that there is a greater reality than one we simply see, touch, and smell—there is a spiritual reality that is beyond us. It takes work to really live in this reality. However, as we

live into the world of Jesus, the world we see, taste, and touch can seem like a shadow. This happens because the more we understand Jesus, the more we live into reality, not less.

#### 4. Pray to live Jesus' way

What if life was like the Matrix? What if a reality exists beyond us? A reality that is totally different from what we're used to? Would you take the blue pill or the red pill? The revolution Jesus started 2000 years ago makes this claim. He maintained we only see a shadow of true reality. Jesus' claim has a difference from the Matrix though. In the movie the real world looks worse than "the Matrix." Reality is darker, dingier, and less technologically advanced. Jesus describes the opposite though. Jesus describes a better reality, far better, than our reality. When we first look at Jesus' reality it can be hard to understand, things can even seem backwards. Yet, the more we live in Jesus' reality, the more it makes sense. Increasingly we come to see

that Jesus' way makes more sense, not less.

In addition to the Holy Spirit Jesus created a way for people to learn about his way. He named the group "the called out ones." Today we call the group "the church." People have a lot of misconceptions about what the church is all about. The church has the job of learning more about Jesus' ways so we can progressively grow into his reality. Now that Ancient Book tells us that if we have accepted Jesus as our ruler, one day, after we die, we will see Jesus reality in its fullness. But, if we truly understand Jesus' revolution we will see that we can start living into his reality beginning today. Jesus doesn't give a message just about death—he gives a message about life.

If you live in the Olathe area I would invite you to join us at FPC. We have committed to helping people live Jesus' way. As we gather on Sunday mornings, as we gather at other times and places throughout the week, we have a purpose: *Learning to live Jesus' way.* We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about Jesus' reality to journey with us as we learn to live

more into his reality. You can find directions [here](#). I look forward to meeting you.

You may not live in Olathe. Maybe you have never heard of Olathe. Well, this revolution Jesus sparked exists in most places in the world. I would encourage you to find a church in your area that takes Jesus' way seriously and takes that Ancient Book, the Bible, serious too. The Bible is the testing stone to know if a group is serious about Jesus' way or not. I would also love to meet you too—feel free to drop me an [e-mail](#) (even if it is an imperfect meeting!).

May You Know the Fullness of Jesus'  
Reality,

Mark



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