



**COUNTER
CULTURE**

Christian Counter Culture

Matt: 5:17-48

Bessels Green Baptist Church

The Sermon on the Mount

- Best known and least followed!
- 31 verses – covering 6 topics

- **Anger/Adultery**
- **Separation/Swearing**
- **Revenge and Relationships**

Jesus proposes a 'third way'



- ❑ Pharisees said 'follow the rules'
- ❑ Others wanted to ignore tradition

- ❑ We face similar challenges today:
- ❑ People dislike rules
- ❑ Some say 'no moral absolute's
- ❑ Situational ethics says...
- ❑ 'If it feels right, do it'



Jesus proposes a 'third way'



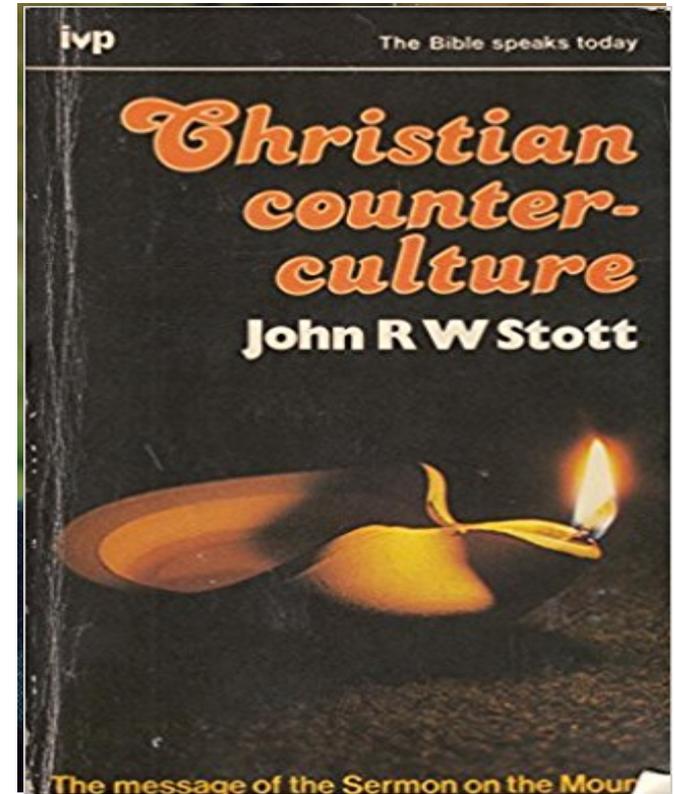
- He does **not** say we must follow the law
- He does **not** say we can ignore the law
- He tells us to **rise above the law** – and be even better!



- *'I haven't come to abolish the law, I have come to complete it'*
Matthew 5: 17
- *'Unless your righteousness is better than the Pharisees you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven'* *Matthew 5:20*

Our problem is conformity!

“Probably the greatest tragedy of the church throughout its long and chequered history has been its constant tendency to conform to the prevailing culture instead of developing a Christian counter culture”



This could be a long sermon...

- Anger 21-26
- Adultery 27-30

- Separation (divorce) 31-32
- Swearing 33-37

- Revenge 38-42
- Relationships (love your enemies) 43-48



Anger Management

- ❑ We murder people when we get angry...
- ❑ Or call them names...

- ❑ If you have 'something against somebody', sort it out **now**

- ❑ Before you stay for coffee...



Even when you are in the right...

NOTICE

**I AM NOT ARGUING,
I'M JUST EXPLAINING
WHY I AM RIGHT!**

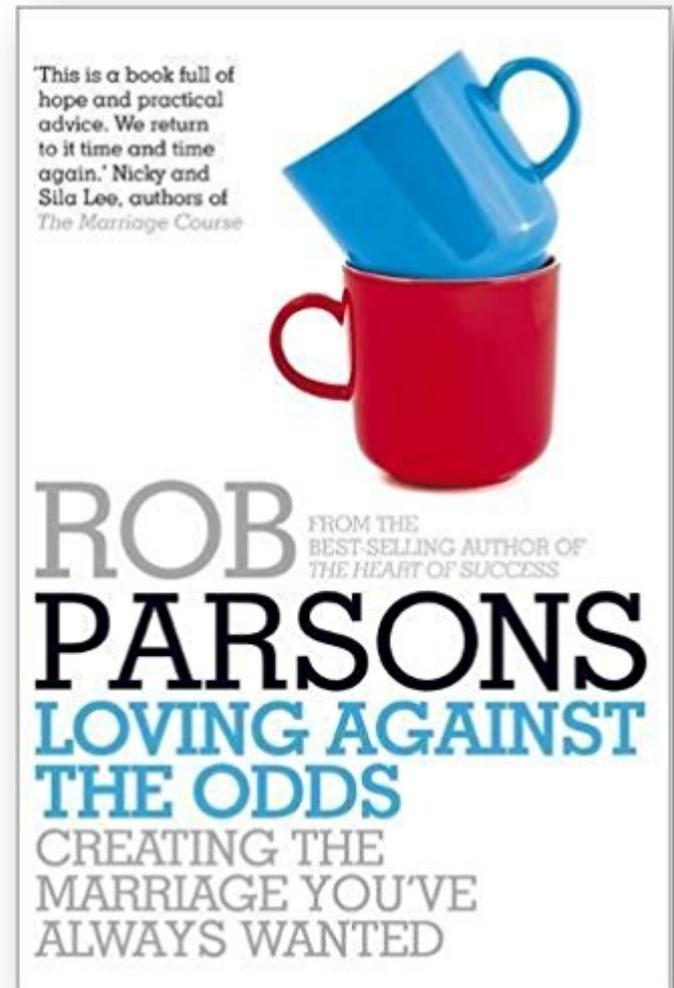
Adultery

- We live in a sex mad society
- Sex sells and its everywhere!
- Some talk about the 'pornification' of society



Sex was God's idea!

- Song of Songs rejoices in sexual pleasure
- But sexual thoughts need control
- Just looking lustfully is adultery –
Matthew 5:28
- David fell for Bathsheba
- *2 Samuel 11*
- Christians need to discipline their thoughts
- Follow the 'ten second rule'



Separation and Divorce

- Two difficult verses (5:31,32)
- Marriage is permanent
- Divorce is only allowable if there is unfaithfulness
- If divorce *is* allowable, so is remarriage



So what should we do?

- ❑ Marriages fail for many reasons..
- ❑ ...with difficult consequences
- ❑ Jesus understands the pain and does not condemn
- ❑ Life isn't perfect
- ❑ Make every effort to reconcile



Love your enemies!

- Don't just love people who are like you
- Choose those you struggle with – and love them!
- Pray for those who are persecuted
- And pray for the persecutors!

release
international
voice of persecuted christians



Be perfect!

- 'Be perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect'

Matthew 5:48

- Jesus calls us to 'mission impossible'

We can make a start:

- Let Jesus fill our thoughts, words and deeds
- Make peace with somebody and apologise
- Discipline our sexual thought life
- Pray for people who oppose us
- Try to be more like Jesus

