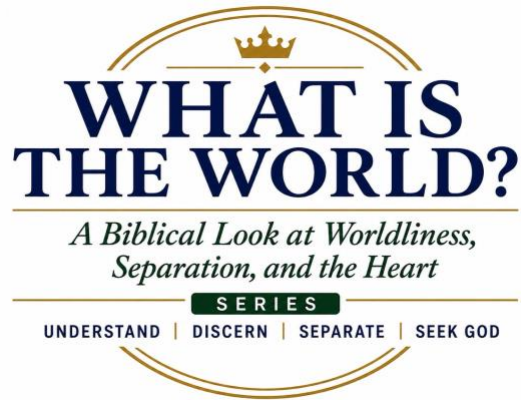




Lesson 8: You Can Leave the Amish and Still Miss Christ

1. What Does the Bible Mean by “The World”?	5. The Fear of Man and the Danger of Tradition
2. Plain on the Outside, Worldly on the Inside	6. Modesty, Technology, and Christian Liberty
3. The Sins We Do Not Always Call Worldly	7. Born Amish Is Not the Same as Born Again
4. Hidden Worldliness and the Lusts of the Flesh	8. You Can Leave the Amish and Still Miss Christ

Lesson Overview

A person may leave the Amish church, drive a car, use electricity, wear store bought clothes, and enjoy new choices, yet never truly come to Jesus Christ. Changing cultures is not the same as changing hearts.

This lesson explains that true freedom does not come from having fewer rules. Jesus Christ sets people free from the power of sin. Former Amish people still need God's Word, Christian fellowship, discipleship, and a life that is becoming more like Christ.

Main Scripture

John 8:34-36

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. ³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Main Truth

Leaving the Amish is not the same as coming to Christ. True freedom is found in Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and teaches us to follow Him.

Memory Verse

Galatians 5:13

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

Section 1: Leaving the Amish Is Not the Same as Coming to Christ

Eli begins to question some things he was taught. He learns that the Bible does not call cars, electricity, or store bought clothing sinful. He leaves the Amish church, buys a car, finds work outside the community, and starts wearing English clothes. Many people say, “Eli left the Amish.” Yet that statement tells us very little about his relationship with God.

The important question is not only what Eli left. The important question is whom he came to. A person may leave because he is angry, wants fewer rules, or wants things that were forbidden. He may even leave because he found serious errors. None of those reasons means that he has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior.

Come to Jesus

Matthew 11:28

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Christianity is not merely leaving something behind. It is coming to Someone. Jesus calls sinners to come to Him. A new place, new clothing, and new choices cannot forgive sin or give eternal life. Only Christ can save.

A New Identity

Some former Amish people build their whole identity around what they escaped. Every talk becomes about what was wrong with their old church, family, or community. But Christ offers a better identity. The most important thing about a person is not whether he is Amish or former Amish. The most important question is whether he is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

A person does not need to spend his life proving that he is no longer Amish. He can spend his life learning to know Christ and becoming more like Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is leaving the Amish not the same as coming to Jesus Christ?
2. What are some reasons a person might leave without truly seeking Christ?
3. Why can a changed culture never take the place of a changed heart?
4. Is your identity built around what you left, or is it found in Jesus Christ?

Section 2: True Freedom Is Not Freedom to Sin

Samuel grew up under strict rules. After leaving the Amish, he says nobody will ever tell him what to do. Soon he drinks heavily, watches harmful entertainment, spends carelessly, and lives for pleasure. He left the Ordnung, but he traded one kind of bondage for another.

A person can escape religious control and still become controlled by alcohol, lust, money, anger, entertainment, or selfishness. Having the freedom to do what we want is not the same as having the freedom to do what is right.

Every Person Serves a Master

Romans 6:16

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

Everyone serves something. Before salvation, we are servants of sin. When Christ saves us, we do not become people with no master. We receive a new Master. Christian freedom says, “Sin is no longer my master. Jesus Christ is my Lord.”

Grace Is Not an Excuse

Rebecca says clothing rules cannot save her, so she can dress however she wants. Daniel says alcohol was treated too strictly, so nobody can limit him. Another person watches anything he wants online. This is not biblical freedom. The flesh has become the new master.

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

Grace does not free us to live in sin. Grace saves us from sin and teaches us to live for God. We do not obey to earn salvation. We obey because Christ has saved us and has become our Lord.

Romans 6:18

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

Discussion Questions

1. How can a person trade religious rules for another kind of bondage?
2. What is the difference between doing what you want and being free to do what is right?
3. Why must Christian liberty never become an excuse for sin?
4. Is there any desire, habit, or pleasure that has become a master in your life?

Section 3: Follow Truth and Become More Like Christ

Leaving the Amish can bring many questions. Sarah hears one teaching from a church, another opinion from a friend, and something different online. Soon she wonders whether anyone can know the truth. Sarah needs the same thing every Christian needs. She needs the Word of God.

Replace Error With God's Word

John 17:17

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

We do not correct false tradition by replacing it with personal opinion. We correct error with Scripture. A former Amish person should learn to read the Bible carefully, understand the gospel clearly, and test every teaching by God's Word.

Do Not Walk Alone

Mose has trusted Christ, but he still carries habits and ways of thinking from his past. He struggles with anger and does not know how to study the Bible or lead his family. He needs mature believers who will walk beside him, teach him Scripture, pray with him, and correct him with love. That is not bondage. That is discipleship.

People who were hurt by religious control may become suspicious of every leader and church. The hurt is real, but living without all accountability is dangerous. Christians need a faithful local church and believers who will encourage them toward love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

More Like Christ

Jacob stays Amish after trusting Christ. His brother Peter leaves the Amish and also trusts Christ. Jacob drives a buggy and wears plain clothing. Peter drives a car and wears store bought clothing. We cannot tell which man is more spiritual from those facts. We must look at whether they are honest, humble, pure, forgiving, loving, and growing in obedience to Christ.

Romans 8:29

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The goal is not to make Jacob more like Peter or Peter more like Jacob. The goal is to make both men more like Jesus Christ. A person can stay Amish and miss Christ. A person can leave the Amish and miss Christ. The answer has never been Amish culture or English culture. The answer is Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should false teaching be replaced with Scripture instead of personal opinion?
2. How can mature believers and a faithful church help a former Amish person grow?
3. Why can clothing, transportation, and culture not measure spiritual growth?
4. Are you becoming more like Jesus Christ, or are you only becoming less Amish?