

# Confessions Of An “Extremist”

**Introduction.** Over the centuries, people acting in the name of the gospel have made decisions and acted in ways contrary to the gospel. An industry of anti-heresy institutions spread terror throughout Europe, resulting in the Dark Ages. Eight major Crusade expeditions occurred between 1096 and 1291, attempting to wrest control of the “Holy Land” from the control of Muslims.

In modern times, extremism has been seen all over the world along political lines. Whether you talk about right-wing or left-wing ideologies, both ends have been emboldened to commit acts of violence and atrocity against their perceived enemies.

It may seem that extremism isn’t a good thing, that a fanatic or radical should be rejected. However, there are concepts in the New Testament where we need to be extreme because that’s the way God is and He doesn’t accept compromise. I want to share five of these with you today.

## ***I. The Scriptures Are Perfect***

- A. According to a Cultural Research Center 2020 poll, only four out of every ten people (41%) believe that the Bible is the word of God and contains no factual or historical errors.
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. Psalm 19:7-11.
  - 2. Psalm 119:160.
  - 3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
  - 4. James 1:21.

## ***II. All The Truth Is To Be Taught***

- A. It might not be the most popular approach, but the entire truth has to be presented (on abortion, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, gender issues, etc.), no matter what the fallout may be.
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. John 8:31-32.
  - 2. Acts 20:26-27.
  - 3. 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
  - 4. 2 Timothy 2:24-25.

## ***III. God’s Word Is To Be Obeyed***

- A. Someone has to do more than pay lip service to the Bible. God wants people to follow the “perfect law of liberty” to be righteous.
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. James 1:22-25.
  - 2. Jeremiah 7:22-23.
  - 3. 1 Timothy 6:12-16.
  - 4. Luke 11:27-28.
  - 5. 2 John 5-6.

#### ***IV. Religion Is Joyful***

- A. While we may sometimes make the gospel out to be stuff that you can't do, the abstinence of sin, the pursuit of godliness, and the fellowship of the saints in worship produces joy in your life.
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. Romans 14:17.
  - 2. Philippians 4:4.
  - 3. Psalm 122:1.
  - 4. Romans 1:11-12.

#### ***V. Sin Is To Be Shunned***

- A. The gospel is intended to change people's behavior. A Christian becomes convicted of sin and leaves the works of the flesh and follows righteousness.
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:22.
  - 2. Acts 15:20.
  - 3. 1 Peter 3:10-12.
  - 4. Jude 23.

#### ***VI. Everyone Should Be An Extremist***

- A. God's children should be radical (compared to the world) when it comes to their devotion to Jesus and the will of God. It should mean something to them!
- B. Passages for study:
  - 1. John 17:20-23.
  - 2. Ephesians 4:4-6.
  - 3. 1 Peter 1:2.
  - 4. Philippians 1:27.

**Conclusion.** Let's be as extreme as the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19) — and no more. Christians fall into great danger when they are extreme over issues — which they then tie to religion — beyond the scope of God's will. Let God define your faithfulness, zealously, and devotion to discipleship, not man.