

NOT/BUT STATEMENTS FOR CHRISTIANS

I. NOT HEARERS ONLY, BUT DOERS

A. **Romans 2:13**

We must not only be hearers of God's word, but doers of the same.

B. **Romans 10:17**

Hearing, the process of learning the gospel, is essential to faith.

C. **John 5:24; Hebrews 4:2**

Hearing ought to lead to faith, though.

D. **Matthew 7:21, 24**

There is a need for doing.

E. **James 1:22-25**

Those who hear without subsequent obedience make as much sense as the man who forgets what he looks like after walking away from a mirror.

II. NOT CONFORMED, BUT TRANSFORMED

A. **Romans 12:2**

Jesus wants Christians to be nonconformists in the world, which is not to say we should behave weirdly, but that our conduct should demonstrate a change, a transformation, as our minds are renewed in Christ.

B. **1st John 2:15-17**

Considering what the world consists of, and that its demise is imminent, why would anyone want to conform to it?

C. **Ephesians 4:17-24**

The gospel is a message of transformation. We must change our minds, our attitudes, and our behavior should change as a result.

III. NOT UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTANDING

A. **Ephesians 5:17**

It is unwise not to understand the Lord's will.

B. Matthew 7:24-27

Those who are wise will hear and obey, building on a sure foundation.

C. Ephesians 3:1-5

The process of understanding is simple: just read!

IV. NOT EVIL, BUT GOOD

A. 3rd John 11

We must imitate, that is follow after, good, rather than evil.

B. Psalm 34:14

There can be no good doing unless evil has been departed from. One foot on each side of the fence won't do.

C. 1st Peter 3:13

Who will do us harm if we do good? Realistically, evil people will harm us for it, but their harm is not lasting. God won't punish us for good doing, but reward us.

V. NOT OUTWARD, BUT INWARD

A. 1st Timothy 2:9-10

Women are encouraged to give less attention to their appearance and more attention to their behavior, their good works.

B. 1st Peter 3:1-6

God doesn't look at jewelry, cosmetics, wardrobe, or hairdo. He seeks out the beauty of the heart.

VI. NOT FOOD, BUT WORDS

A. Matthew 15:10-11, 16-20

Whether tofu or Twinkies, God does not care what we ingest. He does care what we expel, though. Our words are the products of our hearts, whether

good or evil. Those words that “just slip out” have slipped out of either a good or evil heart.

B. Matthew 12:34-37

The Lord will judge our every word.

C. James 3:6

Just as words are the product of the heart, so actions are the products of words, and they do defile.

D. 1st Timothy 4:4-5

So long as it is received with thanksgiving, what we eat is irrelevant.

E. Titus 1:15

Those who are purified will be so no matter what they eat, but those who are defiled will be so even to their very cores.

VII. NOT EARTHLY TREASURE, BUT HEAVENLY TREASURE

A. Matthew 6:19-21, 24

Material wealth will decay. Even the purest gold will someday melt with fervent heat. Thus, heavenly riches are more valuable because they can never rot.

B. Luke 12:16-21

Whatever wealth we attain in this life will be left for someone else to enjoy.

C. Luke 18:24-25

It's difficult for the rich to get to heaven.

D. 1st Timothy 6:8-10

Those who desire to be rich are discontent with God's providence. They drown in their own desires.

E. James 5:1-3

The rich have cause for mourning.

F. 2nd Corinthians 4:18

With another not/but statement, we are reminded where our focus ought to be.

VIII. NOT PERISHABLE FOOD, BUT IMPERISHABLE FOOD

A. John 6:27

Rather than a prohibition against justifiable hard work, this statement emphasizes our need to remember there are things more essential than even the most basic human needs.

B. John 4:7-14; 6:47-58

Jesus teaches us to seek our spiritual sustenance, to be nourished on living water and the bread of life.

C. Genesis 3:19; 2nd Thessalonians 3:10

Real labor for physical food is, of course, still required.

D. 1st Corinthians 6:13

We must remember though that God made food for our bodies and our bodies for His service.

E. Matthew 6:25-34

If we do God's will as our priority, He will certainly provide our basic needs.

F. Luke 10:40-42

Food is fine, so long as it does not become a distraction.

G. Hebrews 12:14-16

There are obviously more important things.

H. Colossians 3:2

Where is our focus?

IX. NOT MY BODY, BUT MY SPOUSE'S

A. 1st Corinthians 7:1-5

In marriage, no one owns his own body, but surrenders his wife.

B. Genesis 2:21-24; Mark 10:6-8

In marriage, two become one, so how could anyone claim authority over his own body?

C. [Philippians 2:3-4](#)

Seeking out the other's best interest is what a Christian does.

X. NOT SINNING AGAINST MEN, BUT AGAINST GOD

A. [Acts 4:32; 5:1-4](#)

When Ananias and Saphira lied, they did so, apparently, to gain approval from their peers, but it was God whom they most offended.

B. [1st Samuel 8:7](#)

Likewise, when Samuel was rejected by Israel in favor of a king, it was really God's will they decided against.

C. [1st Thessalonians 4:7-8](#)

All sin is sin against God.