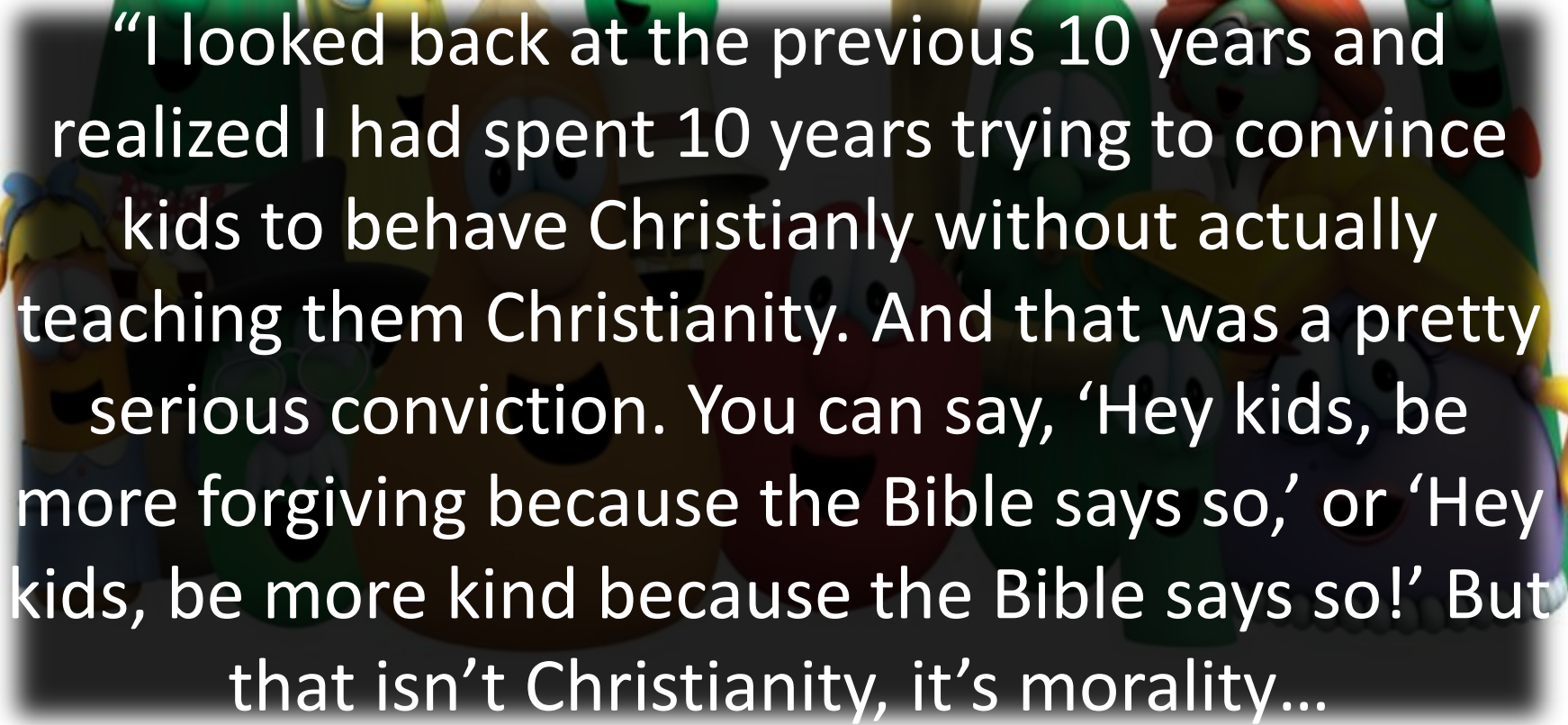
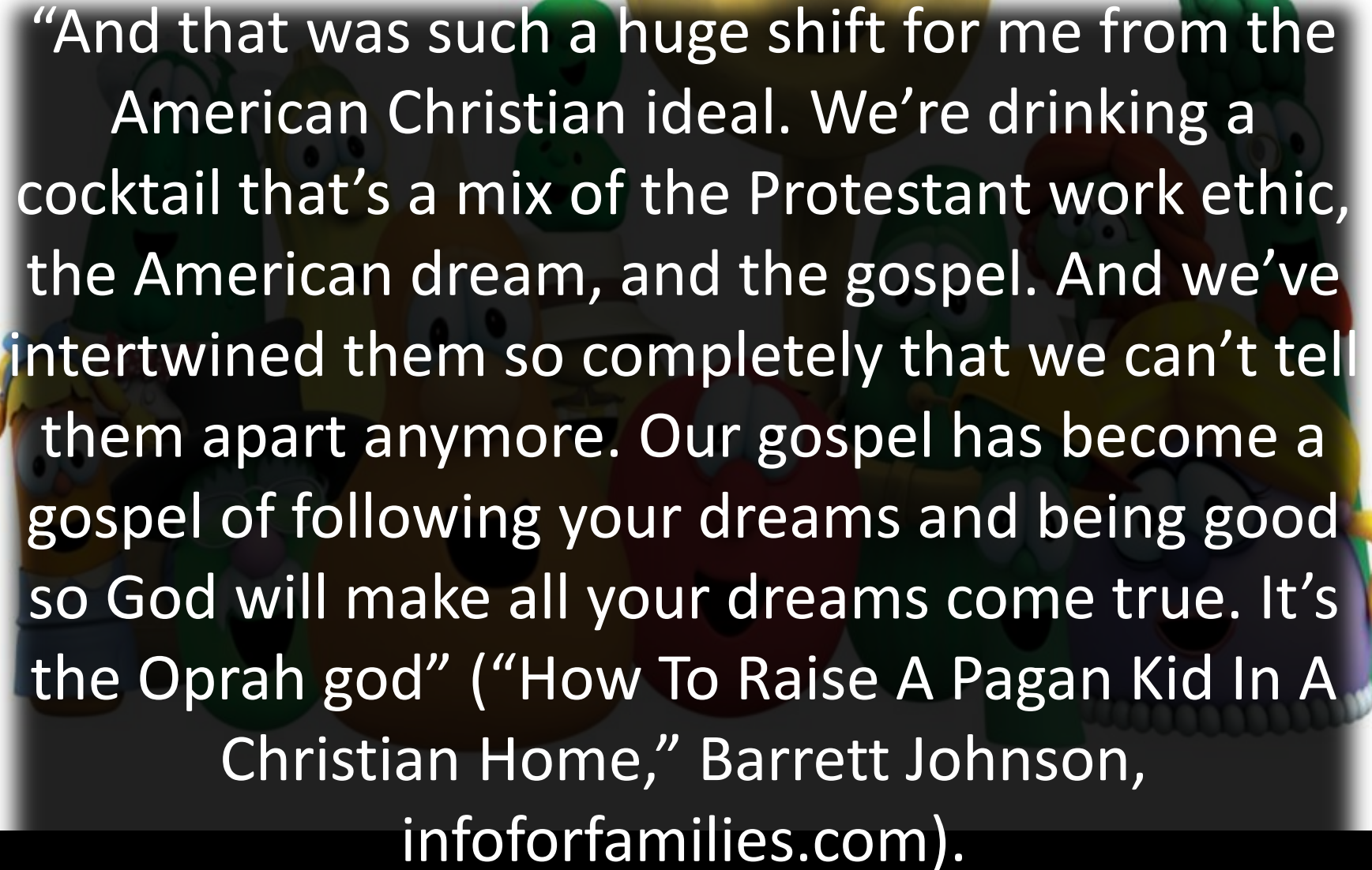




“GOOD” OR CHRISTIAN?

A collection of colorful, anthropomorphic cartoon vegetables and a large golden trumpet. The vegetables include a green bell pepper with white wings, a yellow corn cob, a green pea, a green pea pod, a green asparagus, a red chili pepper, and a purple eggplant. They are all smiling and looking towards the center. The trumpet is positioned in the upper center. The background is white.


“I looked back at the previous 10 years and realized I had spent 10 years trying to convince kids to behave Christianly without actually teaching them Christianity. And that was a pretty serious conviction. You can say, ‘Hey kids, be more forgiving because the Bible says so,’ or ‘Hey kids, be more kind because the Bible says so!’ But that isn’t Christianity, it’s morality...”

The background features a collection of colorful, stylized Easter eggs in various colors like yellow, green, red, and purple. Interspersed among the eggs are several cartoon bunnies with large, expressive eyes and colorful bodies. The entire scene is set against a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area that serves as a backdrop for the text.

“And that was such a huge shift for me from the American Christian ideal. We’re drinking a cocktail that’s a mix of the Protestant work ethic, the American dream, and the gospel. And we’ve intertwined them so completely that we can’t tell them apart anymore. Our gospel has become a gospel of following your dreams and being good so God will make all your dreams come true. It’s the Oprah god” (“How To Raise A Pagan Kid In A Christian Home,” Barrett Johnson, infoforfamilies.com).

AN UNCLEAR OBJECTIVE

- I would never assert that *Veggie Tales* or any similar programming is a bad thing. It does, however, leave us questioning whether or not we are being clear in our primary objective as parents:
 - *“Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4).
 - Are you teaching your kids to be “good” while neglecting to teach them about Jesus Christ.



**WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU A
“SUCCESSFUL” PARENT?**

1 John 2:15-17 & Matthew 10:37-39

“GOOD” IS NOT NECESSARILY SAVED

- Acts 10:1-2, 22 – Cornelius fit every worldly measure for being a “good” person. He still needed to hear “words by which he would be saved” (Acts 11:13-15).
- Ephesians 2:8-10 – Our greatest good only comes about when we are saved (Rom. 4:1ff).
- Romans 3:9-27 – Quoting Psalm 14 and 53, the apostle explains how far we have fallen short of God’s glory. Without Christ, we have no “good.”

THE GOSPEL DOES NOT

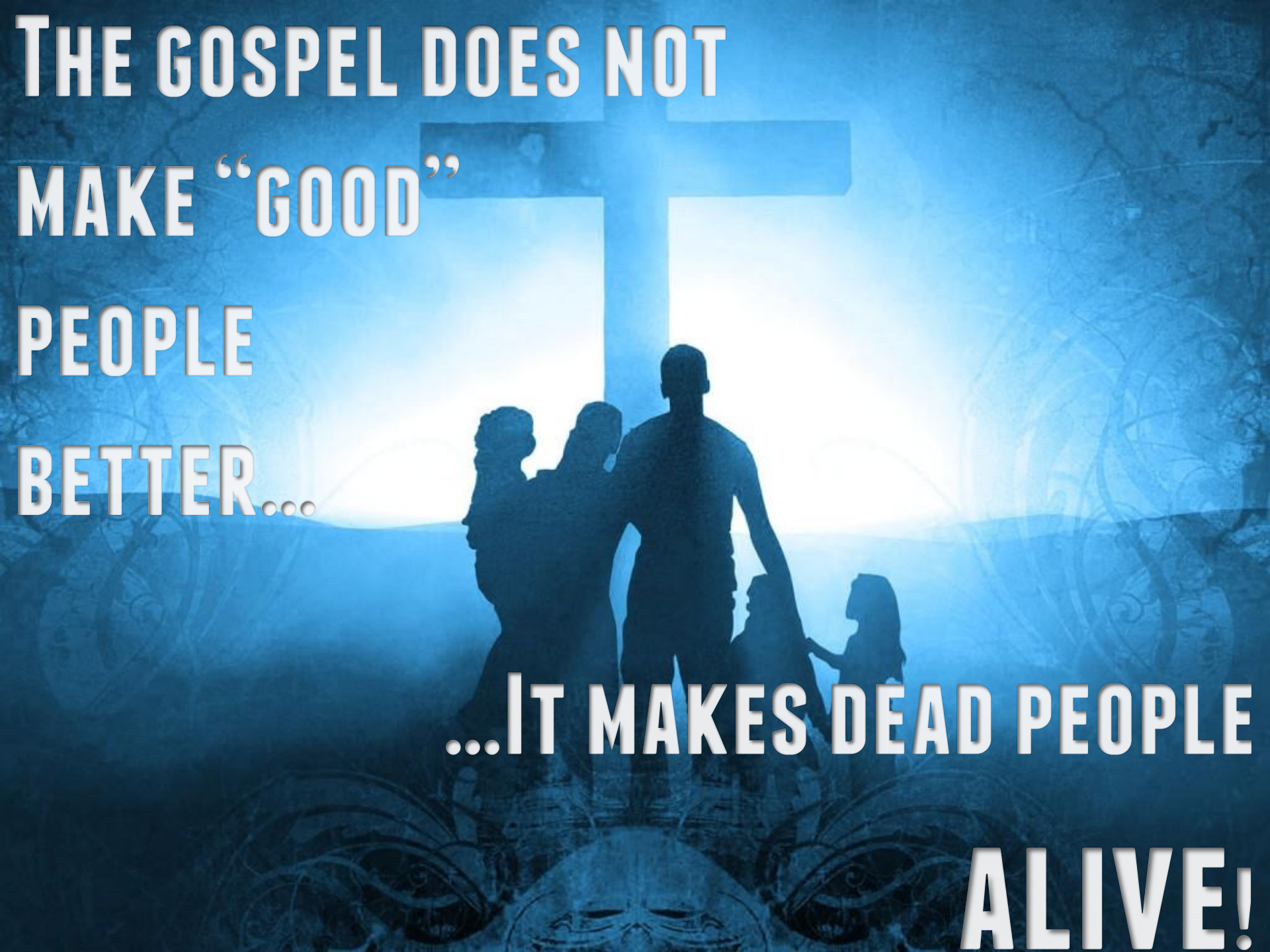
MAKE "GOOD"

PEOPLE

BETTER...

...IT MAKES DEAD PEOPLE

ALIVE!



IT'S ABOUT TRANSFORMATION

- Nothing I have said so far downplays the importance of “goodness.” Rather, we should be good as Christ defines it.
- Romans 12:2 makes it clear that goodness is found through transformation. It is the end result, the product, the destination.
- The message to our kids should not be “be good to prove what kind of person you are” but “be transformed so that God can prove what is truly good through you.”

HAVE A CLEAR GOAL

- “But I took them to church all those years! I taught them such good values!” When one merely adopts the façade of Christianity, the real problem is never confronted – a failure to love Christ more than anything in the world.
- Real intimacy with Christ can only be found in welcoming Him into our hearts through faith, rooted and grounded in love. I can never understand this as long as I am living by self-derived goodness.