

Who I Am and My Goals for this Website

By Dan Jensen (2021; Updated 2023)

I want to take the opportunity in this essay to help people get a better idea of who I am. Any time I read or listen to a teacher in the church, I want to know a little bit of his or her background. My guess is that most of you are the same and so the hope is that this essay will give that to you regarding me. With that said, I'm not going to give a lot of personal details. This is because, whether anyone believes this or not, I don't like talking about myself. I wrote so much testimony, with a lot of detail, in my book *A False Kind of Christianity* for very specific reasons. But, it was very hard for me.

I am a 44 year old white man of British and Danish descent. I grew up in a wonderful, albeit unbelieving and semi-secular home. My parents, who are still married, are positively amazing people. I have two younger brothers, both of whom are now Atheists (my youngest brother was an Agnostic for a long time). After a long period of sin and rebellion, with a fairly long period of spiritual searching towards the end of that period, God powerfully saved me just before my 21st birthday. I was married at 19 because my ex-wife was pregnant with my oldest son. She later made a profession of faith, and joined me in the church. But, it never seemed very sincere. Many years later, she became an alcoholic, fell away from Christ, had a relationship with another man, and finally left us. This, after 18 years of marriage, led to a divorce. I have 4 children, and was given custody of them in my divorce. My oldest (a son) is 24, walks with God, and is in Bible College. My daughter is 19, and attends the University of Utah. She does not walk with God, but her and I still have a great relationship. My next son is 17. His walk with God is strong, but he's had a lot of difficulties over the years. My youngest son is 16. He does not walk with God, and my relationship with him can be patchy at times. If you would like a lot more information on me before my conversion and shortly after, you can read about that in the book mentioned above.

After my conversion I entered into an intense searching period (not to be confused with the searching period mentioned above; this was a search for sound biblical teaching) and eventually became a Confessional Presbyterian. For more information on what it means to be a Confessional Presbyterian, and what my positions are on important matters where Confessional Presbyterians don't all agree, see my *Doctrine: Going Deeper*.

I was either in or connected to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) for almost 20 years. Huge swaths of that denomination are still very, very faithful, but I watched as she became more and more liberal. I recently left because of this and I am now part of a church plant in Cedar City, UT. I moved to St. George, UT in 2015 to be closer to my parents who retired there. I needed their assistance as we were at the tail end of my ex-wife's downfall. Cedar City is about 30 minutes away from St. George, where I still reside. The church is called "Christ Presbyterian," and is part of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). I take pastoral oversight and authority very seriously. The only reason I am not a member of this church is because the church has not reached that point yet. But, I will of course be joining as soon as that is possible. For now, I consider myself under the authority of the Pastor, Jason Wallace. He can easily be found on Google. Simply type in "Jason Wallace Christ Presbyterian." This is not to say that he agrees with everything I write or say on this website or elsewhere. I do not speak for him, or the OPC, or Christ Presbyterian. He and I have minor theological disagreements here and there. With that said, if I ever really stepped out of line either theologically or practically, he would be there to correct me.

After becoming a Confessional Presbyterian, I was involved in countless ministries for years. I earned my BA from Bethany University in Social Science with a minor in Biblical/Theological Studies. I then went on to earn two Master's in theology, the second being a ThM in Systematic Theology. The first was from Reformed Theological Seminary, and the second was from the University of Aberdeen. All three of these are fully accredited degrees, and the University of Aberdeen is one of the highest ranked universities in the world. Ever since becoming Confessional Presbyterian I have known

that my primary calling is to be a theologian. Beyond my degrees, I have read and studied all areas of theology, but my two areas of expertise are in systematic theology and church history. It is impossible to study every area to the point of expertise, but I am fairly well-versed in most subtopics of theology. I was originally going to seek my PhD in Aberdeen, but was unable to do so because of the beginning stages of my ex-wife's decline.¹ Thus, I am not a scholar, but I am a very scholarly individual.

I know that a lot of people in the church, including many, many leaders, believe that one cannot truly be a theologian unless one is also a pastor, has a PhD, and is a professor. With all respect to those who hold to this position, I strenuously disagree. This is an entirely man-made notion with no foundation in Scripture. I agree that true Christian theologians should not be ivory tower academics, and this is why I have raised 4 children in the Lord, and was heavily involved in ministry work for over two decades.² With all that said, I am in a place now where I feel strongly that God is calling me to just write. Because of some serious health issues that have developed in the last few years, and the needs of my 17 year old son, I can no longer labor in ministry as I have before. Further, I have been blessed by very generous donors in the church, who believe in me

¹ To those who know me well, or who have followed my writing ministry very carefully, or both, it may seem that this does not add up when I said in the acknowledgements of my *Harmonizing the Gospels* that at that time I still considered my ex-wife to be a godly woman. The reason this may not seem to add up is because that book was published shortly after I left Aberdeen. To be clear, I still believed my wife was saved until the summer of 2013 when I started to have very real doubts. Up to that point, I had always had my concerns but was trying very hard to give her the benefit of the doubt. She did start to become an alcoholic towards the end of our time in Aberdeen, which would have been the winter and spring of 2011. That was the primary reason I chose not to move forward with my PhD. I was still very much in denial at that point though, believing that she would get help and that God would deliver her from this. That is why I wrote what I wrote in the acknowledgments, but she only continued to decline and became extremely abusive and out of control by 2013. She eventually left us in 2016.

² I do want to clarify one item from this time in ministry. One of the coolest ministries I ever had the privilege of being in was as a military chaplain. I have talked about this in some of my writings. I do want to make it clear that technically on paper I was only a chaplain candidate. This was because I did not have an MDiv. I was told that I should just become a chaplain candidate and that with my credentials, I would probably function as a chaplain and that eventually the Army would give me a waiver on the MDiv requirement. The first part of that ended up being the case, but the latter part did not. My superior and I quickly became close and he had me pretty much function as a chaplain. The soldiers called me chaplain. I was allowed to enter a hospital chaplain program that was only for full chaplains. My superior and others helped secure me that opportunity. I was *de facto* a chaplain and that is why I refer to my time in the Army as such. I am not in any way trying to be dishonest with this language. But, I felt it important to clarify this point here.

and want me to focus on writing and making my writing as accessible to all as possible. Thus, this website.

I understand that I am not very well-known. I understand that my writing isn't the most exciting. I understand that I am not the most charismatic person. I understand that most people today don't have the time or patience to do a lot of theological reading, and that most prefer to watch the teachers in the church. I understand that simply because I am a divorced, white, middle-aged, man, a lot of people won't give me the time of day as far as speaking on theological matters. I understand that because I'm not an official scholar and because I am going about my writing in a non-traditional manner, a lot of folks won't take me seriously. All I can say is that John Calvin did not have a PhD. AW Pink was not a scholar or traditional theological author, and was almost entirely unknown in his day. Enough said as far as I'm concerned. I'm not at all trying to compare myself to those two giants, I'm simply saying that I believe them to be more than enough to dispel the objections discussed above. I don't at all mean to sound defensive either. That is not my heart at all. But, I do feel that I need to explain why I feel justified in pursuing this ministry. I know that this is what God has called me to do and I trust Him to use this ministry as He sees fit. And I couldn't be more pumped about it and that is the honest truth.

I ask for the patience of my readers. Because the essays and books on this site are being written in a freelance manner, they will not be proofread by others. Therefore, the chances of small mistakes is much, much higher. Again, I'm not an official scholar and I'm not an English teacher either. All of my professors over the years commented upon the fact that my papers were always very clean. Even when some of my professors strongly disagreed with the content of some of my papers, I consistently was told this. Hence, if people want to nitpick over minor errors, that is fine, but I will consider it nitpicking. I ask my readers to give me the benefit of the doubt and focus upon the content.

Before I wrap up this essay, I want to say that I know I can come off as rather sharp towards the enemies of the faith in many of my written works. One of the major drawbacks of a writing ministry is that most will not be able to see my countenance and demeanor and won't be able to get a feel for who I am very well. I understand that I may come off as too strong for those who don't know me and who have not interacted with me. I know I say a lot of things that are very unpopular in our culture today, including within much of the true church in America. I am begging you to please understand that at every point my heart is only to be biblical. I am not at all trying to be judgmental when I say this, but most Christians in America do not actually know the Bible all that well. Many are only going by what their pastors say. And even many truly godly pastors in our nation right now, those I would wholeheartedly accept as my brothers and sisters in Christ, unfortunately, often water things down a lot so as to be more popular.

Please watch the YouTube video I did on Progressive Christianity. It can be found on my website. Just go to the section on the religions of the world and then go to the subsection on Progressive Christianity and you should be able to find it from there. It is titled "Understanding Progressive Christianity."³ Even if you are not terribly interested in Progressive Christianity at this time, I would still really encourage you to watch it because it will give you a much better feel for who I am. And please, please remember, as I have said in many of my works and speaking engagements over the years, the prophets in the Bible were for the most part not very popular. I am no prophet. However, I do believe very strongly that I am called, along with many others, to call the church back to full biblical faithfulness as I do not believe the church is very healthy right now. I know that sounds harsh, but that is my position. And in that sense, I do believe I have a "prophetic" calling.

³ I do want to apologize for not giving a more explicit statement on the resurrection of Jesus in this video when I am laying out the basic beliefs of Conservative Evangelicalism. It was my intent to do so, but I just got talking too fast and this was a terrible and embarrassing oversight on my part. The resurrection is clearly implied by what I do say in that section, but I still blew it there. Anyone who may be tempted to say that this was a Freudian slip and reflects that fact that I have a low view of the resurrection should not go there as nothing could be further from the truth. It was nothing more than me going too fast. I easily could have accidentally missed a different key point.

Finally, the best way you can help me maximize the impact of this ministry for the kingdom of God is by recommending it to others. I would especially love it if you would do this regarding my works for beginners. I truly believe those can be very, very helpful to many in the church. And while I am Confessional Presbyterian, I am not solely writing for that audience. I am simply being honest about where I am personally coming from theologically. I write for everyone. I especially write for those that truly know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but I am also writing for seekers in the hopes of God bringing them unto Himself. You do not have to agree with me over Confessional Presbyterianism to highly benefit from this ministry. Most of what I say will be explaining and defending Biblical Christianity as a whole. And I am writing for the naysayers as well. My hope is that at the very least they will be more cautious in their statements against the faith.

Thank you so much for supporting this ministry!

Appendix: My Beliefs

I am not putting out a statement of faith for this website since I hold to the Westminster Confession of Faith as a Confessional Presbyterian, and thus that confession can largely serve that purpose. I hold to the slightly revised American version of the Confession, other than a few very minor exceptions. This version can be found at either the PCA website or the OPC website. On the core issue of abortion that is not addressed in the Confession, I hold to the Conservative Evangelical view that life begins at conception and thus abortion is murder. On some issues that are debated among Confessional Presbyterians, I am young earth, amillennial, cessationist, I hold to the continental view of the Sabbath, and I hold to a revised version of the classical approach to apologetics. More specifics on my views on apologetics can be found in my *A False Kind of Christianity*.

Politically, I am very closely aligned with Ben Shapiro and the Daily Wire. I of course do not agree with everything Shapiro or the Daily Wire says (Shapiro is an Orthodox Jew after all), but in the main that is where I land. I also strongly disagree with and dislike the bad language, harsh tone, and occasional inappropriate material that is sometimes found over there. I don't always agree with their approach, but I for the most part agree with their views.

For any further questions about my doctrine or politics, please feel free to email me any of them. My email can be found on my website.