

This morning is all about being in alignment. It's also a lot about tires coincidentally. When your car is out of alignment, what happens? It veers left or right. When your life is out of alignment, what happens? It veers left or right. See where we're going with this?

By definition, a car "Out of Alignment" means force is required in order for it to drive straight, otherwise it veers. Conversely, a car "In Alignment" just goes straight. You can literally (though I don't recommend it...) take your hands off of the wheel on a straight road and drive straight.

Change out CAR with PEOPLE and we can answer question number 1 on the outline:

### 1.) Why Should I Align With Jesus?

Well, honestly? **Because you suck!** And so do I! And so does Paul, and everyone else who's ever tried to follow Jesus. We're naturally **misaligned** ever since Adam and Eve ate the wrong fruit. Left to our own power, we will forever be applying force to go straight though we naturally veer. Jesus pretty much tells us the same thing in John chapter 15.

Let's look at [John 15:4-5](#)

"Abide" in verse 4 is the Greek word '**Meno**' which literally means **live** or  **dwell**.

If Jesus is the vine and we are attached branches we bear fruit.

If we get cut off from the vine we can't grow fruit. Common sense. The branches depend on the vine and can't survive without it.

Why align with Jesus? Simple. Verse 5: **"For apart from Me you can do NOTHING."**

**When we are out of alignment with Jesus, we constantly fight to keep a straight line, and constantly veer off the road. When we are in alignment with Him, we naturally go straight.**

This is a pretty easy yet powerful concept, right?

**Out of Alignment:** you naturally veer

**In Alignment:** you naturally go straight

Misaligned, you end up going in circles: [Cue Chevy Chase in European Vacation](#)

Do you ever feel like Clark Griswold circling a roundabout?

1st you're going straight

next you veer onto it (it's cool, you'll get right off)

you can't get off (no problem, I'll get off the next time around)

you **STILL** can't get off (getting frustrated-feeling desperate)

you're stuck spinning in circles and can't get off no matter what you try!

Do you ever feel like that? JOIN THE PARTY! It's what happens when we're out of alignment.

**It's easy to veer off the straight path, but increasingly difficult to get back on.**

Simply put, you align with Jesus because you can't walk straight without Him.

And what's worse, over time, the CROOKED path that veers off of the STRAIGHT path becomes your **ONLY** path. What's the worst case scenario with tires out of alignment?

You veer, wreck and die. Worst case out of alignment with Jesus? You spiritually die-see

[John 15:6](#).

for further study see:

ecclesiastes 1:14, psalm 51:1-5, john 14:11-21, john 15:4-17, 1 corinthians 3:11-15

## 2.) How Do I Align With Jesus?

You “[Learn the Bible and submit to It's authority.](#)” Let's do a little back story and connect some dots here before reading from Joshua chapter 1.

- God created the world and people
- People went nuts
- God started flooding everything and started over with Noah and his family
- Then came Abraham and God began His “Chosen People,” the Jewish race
- God promised Abraham and his descendants to make them great and give them a land
- They ended up in Egypt by the millions, a great nation but without a home
- Got enslaved in Egypt
- Escaped from Egypt (a la Moses)
- Wandered in the desert for decades
- Came to the East bank of the Jordan river. On the West bank was their “Promised Land”  
God promised them centuries earlier to Abraham.

Enter the Book of Joshua. The Books before the book of Joshua are already written down: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. This is their Bible to date. Joshua is in charge and looks to his people and says multiple times...

“We're here! Now don't screw it up! Take your Bible, learn it inside and out, otherwise you're going to veer off into sin.” Look at [Joshua 1:6-9](#)

He says it a few more times and basically leaves them with an ultimatum at the end of the book in [Joshua 24:14-15](#) when they are safely possess the land, paraphrasing heavily... “Y'all do whatever you want. But let me tell you what I'M gonna do. I'm going to take my Bible, memorize it, and serve the God who wrote it, otherwise I'll never make it.”

I could define tons of things that would help us walk a straight path: pray, fast, serve, tithe, sacrifice (not animals...time and resources maybe), etc. We could make an exhaustive list and be here all morning, **OR we could just do what Joshua said to do and allow for all of these holy and good things to come naturally.**

He tells them over and over that if they don't stick to their Bible, they'll get it all wrong. This means SO much more for us today because we have a finished product now. The story of the Bible is complete! Here's why this is so powerful...

[Joshua 1:6-9](#) - *if you follow it you'll succeed*

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#) - *the Bible is ALIVE and ACTIVE*

[John 1:1](#) - *Jesus IS the Word and was written before time began*

It is NOT just a book. It is NOT a list of rules. It is NOT a “Roadmap for your life.”

**The Bible is a picture of Jesus and when you know it, you know Him; When you obey it, you obey Him; When you submit to it, you align with Jesus and naturally go straight.**

for further study see:

(obeying scripture) deuteronomy 30:4, joshua 23:6-11, luke 11:28, james 1:22-23  
(daily repentance) proverbs 28:13, psalm 32:3-5, romans 6, james 5:16, 1 john 1:5-10

### 3.) What Happens When I Align With Jesus?

You begin to look like Jesus.

Think about the Apostles in the Book of Acts. [Chapter 4 verse 13](#) tells us people encountered Peter and John and saw two ordinary men who had been with Jesus.

In [Acts 14](#) Paul and Barnabas looked so much like Jesus that a whole town tried to worship them as gods.

When you align with Jesus you don't need some lame rainbow colored WWJD bracelet to remind you to act like Jesus, because you're being transformed into Him all the time!

Transformation.

**Transformation is the God who loves, saves, and fills you, CHANGING YOU from the inside out.**

Let's just let Scripture wrap this up for us and explain it better than I can...

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) - *you're something brand new!*

[Galatians 2:20](#) - *it's no longer I that lives but Jesus who lives in me!*

[Philippians 2:12-15](#) - *God is at work in us doing as HE pleases!*

The natural result of alignment with Jesus is that you follow right in behind Him like you're on water skis tethered to a speed boat (or a redneck on a trashcan lid behind a 4 wheeler...) You naturally go where it leads you.

**When you're aligned with Jesus, you start living like Jesus not because a pastor tells you to, but because you can't do otherwise.**

**When you're aligned with Jesus you start naturally responding to people, circumstances, and temptations as Jesus would because you're following right in behind Him.**

Galatians 2:20 - It's no longer I who live, but JESUS who lives in me. What a relief huh?

So let's end this thing shall we? Keep in mind this is all a process. You won't start looking just like Jesus overnight (the Apostles spent years following Him before they started getting the big picture). It's a process of continuous alignment with Him. **But be encouraged: like any good process, it gets better and better over time.**

The 10 series has been a great starting point, and we see many of you starting to look more and more like Jesus. Keep going. Keep consuming Scripture. Keep following Jesus' lead in Scripture. Keep going to community groups. God will keep transforming you. Or, START going! Start consuming the Bible. Start following Jesus' lead in the Bible. Start at a community group so you're not alone in this. God will start transforming you!

for further study see:

psalm 119:9-16, romans 12:2, 2 corinth. 10:5; 3:18, galatians 5:16-26, philippians 1:6