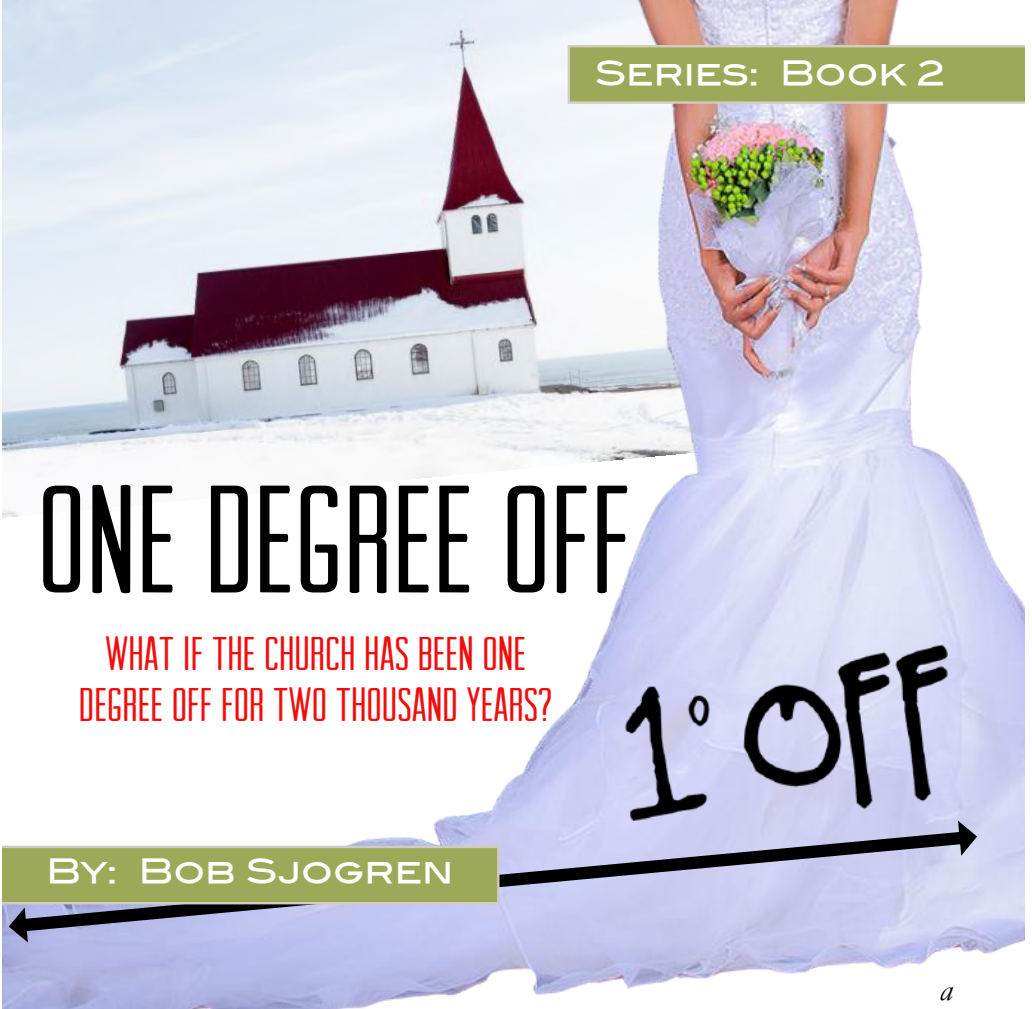


# Maturing The Bride

SERIES: BOOK 2



# ONE DEGREE OFF

WHAT IF THE CHURCH HAS BEEN ONE  
DEGREE OFF FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS?

1° OFF

BY: BOB SJOGREN



UnveilinGLORY is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based out of Virginia. It is a ministry committed to helping the body of Christ discover the Glory of the Lord in new ways and to see His glory go to all the nations of the earth.

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Maturing The Bride  
is a series of teachings by Bob Sjogren.

The concept is simple.  
God doesn't want an immature bride for His Son,  
He wants a mature bride.  
A primary goal of Christianity is to mature!

This series is found in both audio, video and book form. Currently (as of May of 2024), there are seven sets of teachings.

**Book 1:** God Is Looking For A Bride For His Son

**Book 2:** One Degree Off

**Book 3:** Cat and Dog Theology

**Book 4:** Eternal Security

**Book 5:** Grace vs. Works

**Book 6:** Judgment 1 and Judgment 2 (J1 and J2)

**Book 7:** The Broken Engagement

You will be notified via email when future teachings are created (as long as we're not in your spam folder!)

If you're not on our email newsletter list, email Bob at [1JealousGod@gmail.com](mailto:1JealousGod@gmail.com) and ask to be put on it.

Check out the series at [www.MaturingTheBride.com](http://www.MaturingTheBride.com)

*One Degree Off Bride*

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*One Degree Off Bride*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Why Have We Missed This?**

Victoria settled into her first class seat. She knew it was going to be a long flight. Even in the best weather, Atlanta to Tokyo was at least a 14 hour flight.

A flight attendant appeared and took her jacket. She also asked her if she wanted a drink.

“Water with lime for now,” Victoria answered.

Passengers were still boarding, but that was a minor inconvenience compared to the large space she had for sleeping. She got out her laptop and began to work while the plane was still on the ground.

“Here’s your water with lime,” the flight attendant said with a smile.

“Thanks,” Victoria replied while barely looking up.

Before she knew it, all of the passengers had boarded. And then something happened that she’d rarely experienced. The captain came out and greeted the first class passengers.

“Hello,, everyone, I’m Captain Scolaro. We’re anticipating a fairly smooth ride to Tokyo today. We’re expecting a 14 hour and three minute flight from wheels up to wheels down. If there’s anything we can do to make your flight more enjoyable, just let one

of our expert Atlanta-based flight attendants know, and we'd be glad to help you out."

As the captain turned to go back to the cockpit, he stopped and then returned to the first class passengers.

"By the way, in case your interested, this will be my first time doing this route. I'm so excited. I may be one or two degrees off, but I'm sure we'll get you there on time."

With that, he turned and retreated back to the front of the aircraft.

Victoria hadn't been paying too much attention. She turned to one of her fellow passengers with a quizzical look.

"What did he just say?"

Her fellow passenger responded with the same quizzical look, "He might be one degree off?"

Victoria gave a greater look of disbelief and then began to think about it.

One degree off, one degree off? As a civil engineer, her mathematical mind began to do some internal calculations.

She knew that one degree off at 100 yards, you'd be five feet off. And after a mile you'd be 92 feet off.

Let me think, I just saw the distance from Atlanta to Tokyo when I was determining how many miles would be credited to my Sky Miles account. Now, how many miles was that? She closed her eyes and tried to focus.

Then her eyes opened wide.

Atlanta is 6,854 miles way from Tokyo. At 92 feet off per mile, that would put us roughly, her mind was racing, 120 miles away from Tokyo.



Her mind envisioned Tokyo on the map. Tokyo is right on the edge of the island it sits on and is only 60 miles from the opposite side. We would have to land in the ocean.

Victoria grabbed her laptop, put it back in her briefcase and then rushed up front looking for the nearest flight attendant.

“Get me my coat and stop the plane,” she screamed. “I want to get off right now.”

## **Just One Degree Off**

Being off by just one degree over a long period of time can make a big difference.

In you were in a rocket going to the moon—and you were off by just one degree, you’d miss the moon by 4,169 miles.

If you were one degree off going to the sun, you’d miss the mark by over 1.6 million miles (nearly twice the diameter of the sun).

If you were traveling to the nearest star, you’d be off course by over 441 billion miles (4,745 times the distance from Earth to the sun).

## **Were The Disciples Off???**

Did the disciples start off with 100% correct theology?

In Acts 1:6 they ask Jesus if it as this time that he is going to restore the kingdom to Israel. That was code for “Do get get to kick the Romans out now?” They started off thinking it was about a political kingdom, not a spiritual kingdom. They were off.

They also started off thinking that this good news was only for the Jews. No gentiles were allowed. But God cleared that up with a vision to Peter about four footed animals in Acts 10:9-33.

Even after Peter got the message, the other 11 disciples wanted to impeach him for going into a house of a gentile and eating with him (Acts 11). They started off denying 98% of the world (Gentiles) entrance into God’s kingdom. Finally they got it.

Let's be honest, the disciples started far more than one degree off.

## **Is The Church Off???**

Sometimes I wonder if our modern-day Church's theology is also off by just one degree. If that were the case, it would make a *huge* difference in what we are taught to believe.

To understand this one degree of difference, let's look at how some people in America view Jesus and Christianity. I have a friend who did just this. He took a camcorder and asked people on the streets of Denver, Colorado what they thought about Jesus. Their responses were all positive. They loved Jesus and what he stood for.

But when he asked them what they thought about Christians—their answers were all negative. They were the exact opposite to those about Christ. To them, Christians were known for three things: being hypocritical, being judgmental, and being full of hate.

To the average person in the United States, there is a huge difference between how they view Christ and how they view Christians.

All this makes me wonder if the church has one degree off for 2,000 years and we've simply been missing something very key.

## **Cracks In The Foundation**

I believe the Church has been one degree off—and there are reasons for it. And you find them in the very foundation of our faith.

In order to understand where we have veered off, we need to start at the very basics of Christianity. We need to look at the life of Christ and why he died on the cross. Paul gives us one reason for why Christ died in his letter to the Colossians.

In Colossians, Paul wrote these words;

*Why Have We Missed This?*

*For him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:16,17)*

Did you notice the words all things?

“What are all things on earth?” I ask my audience.

***Let's Be Honest,  
The Disciples Started  
Far More Than  
One Degree Off***

They usually start out by saying “everything.” But I ask them to be more specific. Eventually they say things like: plants, animals, mountains, rocks, oceans, marine life, clouds...the list is endless. And

when they give that list, they are right.

But that is just on the earth. It also says “all things...in heaven.” What are all things in heaven? That would be planets, comets, asteroids, stars, galaxies, etc.

Paul is trying to tell us that Christ died for everything—not just us—everything: the plants, the animals, the mountains, the oceans, the fish, the clouds, the sun, the moon, comets, asteroids, the stars...everything.

But why would he do that?

In the creation story, we learn that God created all things perfectly. If they were perfect, Jesus wouldn't need to die for them. (See Genesis 1:4, 12, 25, 31.)

But something happened after the first seven days of creation that ruined everything. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. God issued four curses as a result of their sin.

First, snakes would have to crawl. Secondly, women would have pain in childbirth. Thirdly, men would have difficulty in their work. And there was a fourth curse found in the Bible.

## **Epilogue**

To my dear readers, I want you to be aware of how easy it is to slip into a people-centered theology. It's all around us. And it is in all the churches around the world. It is screaming silently from just about every pulpit around the world.

And this is due to a very simple reason. Most Christians think that Jesus died solely for them.

Though he did die for them, that was not his primary purpose for dying on the cross. His primary purpose was to restore the glory to His Father once again.

Once you see that difference, everything changes.

I am praying that God will give you the grace to see this in your church. And I am praying that you will help others see this same revolutionary idea in their lives as well.

The pages 6-72 are not included in this sample.

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