



Destroying Every Argument

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Kick Start:

How did God speak to you through this message?

Main Point:

The culture around us continues to fall blindly into evil and turmoil. We have been called to stand up to our culture in love, tearing down false worldly philosophies and push back against what God clearly hates and what keeps people from surrendering to God.

Introduction:

We can't be a church that sits comfortably in the sanctuary passing judgement on the evils of this world. We can't be a people who don't want to ruffle feathers or stir up the waters because of the division it could cause. We can't buy into the lies that Satan politicizes to hinder us from standing up and speaking out against them. We have to be the church, allowing God to stir us up to consider what He wants us to do in this spiritual battle and to love more intently and compassionately those around us. **What are our roles of the church in this battle?**

Message Outline:

I. To Be A People of Action

Matthew 5:13-16

Believers in Christ are salt to the world, preserving it and slowing down corruption from the evil in our society that is corrupted by sin. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to Christ, the church inevitably influences the world for good, just as salt enhances the flavor of the food it seasons. We are to be a light in our culture and in our community doing good works that are beneficial to others and for which God gets the credit.

1 Peter 3:15; Luke 9:54-55

God is not looking for spectators but players who live for their King with righteousness and then give testimony about him. Believers should be knowledgeable about their faith and able to articulate why they hold their beliefs with gentleness and respect, not condemningly as is our natural default.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Humility was one of Paul's strongest weapons, for pride plays right into the hands of Satan. Paul used spiritual weapons to tear down the opposition against the knowledge of God—prayer, the Word of God, love, the power of the Spirit at work in his life—to defend the faith. He did not depend on personality, human methods, or even the authority he had as an apostle. However, he was ready to punish the offenders, if necessary, once the congregation had submitted to the Lord.

Talk About It:

1. How have you been influenced by the "salt and light" of a Christian and how did it impact you?

2. What are some ways Christians can actively engage with the world without conforming to it?
3. Reflect on a time when you had to share your faith. What did you learn from that experience, and how can it help you in future conversations?
4. What does Jesus' response to Luke 9:54 teach about how Christ handles opposition?
5. What are some common arguments or presumptions in today's culture that oppose the knowledge of God?
6. What role does spiritual discernment play in identifying false teachings or deception, and how can we cultivate this discernment according to Ephesians 6:12?

II. To Be A People of Love

1. Understanding our enemy, his goals, his strategies, his methods

2 Corinthians 2:10 -11; 1 Peter 5:8

Believers are warned to not be ignorant of Satan's tactics, which often involve using interpersonal conflict and unforgiveness to weaken the body of believers. The goal of the church is not retaliation but correction and restoration, leading to comfort and reaffirmation of love. The devil prowls like a roaring lion looking to destroy. He wants to keep us from advancing God's kingdom on earth, and don't think you can fly under his radar.

Talk About It:

1. In what ways does unforgiveness give Satan an advantage, and how can we practice forgiveness in our relationships?
2. What are some strategies Satan uses to hinder a godly life?
3. In what ways can Christians be vigilant against Satan's tactics?

2. Engaging the enemy on our knees, with passion, determination, and consistency

James 5:16 -18

Mutual honesty, openness, and sharing of needs will enable believers to uphold each other in the spiritual struggle. Coupled with the energetic, passionate prayers of a godly people have the power to accomplish great things.

"It's time for personal sacrifice: fasting, extra times of prayer, volunteering to make connections with those struggling with the decision to keep their baby—with the hopes of making a friend, earning their trust, leading them to Christ, discipling them to find forgiveness and peace with God." — PJ

Talk About It:

1. What practices help believers move from seeing prayer as occasional communication to persistent, humble, intercession that's needed in a spiritual battle?
2. What practices help believers move from seeing prayer as just occasional communication to persistent, humble, intercession?
3. How did this message convict or encourage you to prioritize praying for others, not just for your own needs?

3. Realizing that the lost who are involved are not the enemy but are being used by the enemy to carry out His plan.

Exodus 9:13-16; Exodus 14:17

The Egyptians would recognize that God was incomparable, that His sovereign power would be demonstrated through them, and that His name, character, attributes, and power, would be known everywhere.

Ezekiel 18:23

If people would truly repent and turn to the Lord, He would work on their behalf as promised. If they persisted in sinning, however, God would continue to deal with them as rebellious children. God has no delight in the death of the wicked.

Talk About It:

1. What is the significance of God raising Pharaoh for His purpose so we can apply it to ourselves?
2. How does remembering our own need for grace help us view others with more compassion rather than a critical or judgmental spirit?

Conclusion:

I want to encourage our family to be more involved in this battle for life, for protecting the unborn, and to challenge all of us to better understanding and praying for everyone involved—the unborn babies, the mothers struggling with decision, and the good-intentioned people who are involved in this industry. These people are not our enemies. We must never spread hate and anger toward them. Exposing the roots of the Enemy's strategies is not hate toward the ones who are caught in the lies and deceit of that movement—they need Jesus and salvation just as much as we did. I challenge us to be more burdened for them, more concerned for everyone involved, and more informed so we can have loving and respectful conversations with the discernment that the body of Christ must have. — PJ

Make It Practical:

IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD

To be in the world but not of it means Christians live among others while holding to values shaped by God, not by culture or sin. Scripture calls believers to be witnesses (Isaiah 43:10; Acts 1:8), shining light in a dark world without adopting its ways (John 17:14-16; Matthew 5:13-16). We are to engage with society—working, speaking truth, and loving others—while resisting conformity to worldly desires (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17).

- Believers were not to set themselves apart from the world and expect others to come to them to hear truth. We are commanded to "go" out into the world. (**Matthew 28:19**)
- We are to live differently than the world, giving testament to who God is. (**Acts 1:8**)
- Our light is to shine before others to point them to God. Allowing our light to shine requires us to be around people. (**Matthew 5:16**)
- Being not of the world requires us to be free of worldly influence (**John 17:14-16**). This does not mean that we do not participate in government or typical social processes (**Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 22:21**). It means that we do not act as the unsaved world does (**Ephesians 4:17-24; Philippians 2:15**).
- Believers are no longer slaves to our sinful natures but act in accordance with righteousness (**Romans 6:6, 11**).
- True transformation begins when we resist the pull of worldly thinking and let God reshape our minds to reflect His will (**Romans 12:2**).
- We submit to authorities and prepare ourselves for good works (**Titus 3:1**).
- Pursuing friendship with the world puts us at odds with God, revealing where our deepest affections truly lie (**James 4:4**).
- We are citizens of heaven, and as citizens of heaven, we live on earth with our eyes fixed on our true home and our coming King (**Philippians 3:20**).

When you scroll through social media, watch the news or television, or hear political commentary, are you absorbing the mindset of the world or filtering it through God's Word? When we remember our identity as citizens of heaven, we start to live here with eternity in mind. Don't run from the world—step into it with a new heart, led by the Spirit, proclaiming with our lives that Jesus is worth everything.

Prayer Points:

- We thank you for your sovereign control over everything. Help us to be more trusting of your sovereign control over everything.
- Thank you for your heart toward the lost and help us to see them through your eyes and not with our critical spirits.
- Help us to be bold to speak out against what you hate, but in love with the intent of bringing people closer to you.
- Help us to be more diligent in our prayer life, interceding for this lost world and those caught in doing satan's will.
- Help us to live in the world but not of it.
- Pray for the needs of the group