



Speaker: Jeff Almquist

Series: Christians in the Public Square

Sermon Title: Ambassadors for Christ

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7-21

Main Idea: The LORD has commissioned us His Ambassadors to restore the world unto Himself by fulfilling the very purpose for which we were created:

- To exalt Him
- To build up the body of Christ
- To evangelize the world

1. Exalt our Lord (Romans 11:36)

- Everything God has done, from the creation of the universe, to the creation of angels, to the creation of man, even in allowing Satan to influence this world; everything God has done is to bring praise, glory, and honor unto Himself (Romans 11:36).
- Since everything exists for His glory, then our human existence is also for His glory. God created you and I for the sole purpose of bringing praise and glory onto Himself.
- Because we will stand before Christ to be judged (2 Cor 5:10)

2. Build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-15; 2 Cor 5:11)

- The “fear of the Lord” - the Greek word for fear is “*phobos*” and in this context it means to have a “deep and reverential sense of accountability” to God. This is where the need for a reverent fear of the Lord comes from.
- Reverent fear is a healthy respect of God, where we honor God, stand in awe of God, and tremble before God at His greatness.
- We persuade others, v 11
- Focus our efforts on transformed sincere hearts, not spectacular ministry, v 12
- Glorify God even if the world thinks we are crazy, v 13
- Christ’s love controls us, v 14 (John 21:15-17)
- We no longer live for ourselves but for Christ, v 15

3. Evangelize the world (Mark 16:15; Jn 14:6; Ps 119:160; John 17:17)

- For unbelievers, need to persuade them of the truth of Scripture
- Two scriptures you need to memorize so that you can easily recall them:
 - 2 Peter 1:21 *For no prophecy of scripture was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God*
- We are Christ's ambassadors reconciling people to Christ, being used by Christ to get His message out v 18-21

FREE RESOURCES (Also at table in back):

1. Owen Strachan, *Voting and the Church: Why Christians Engage the Public Square* (<https://www.drjamesdobson.org/voting-and-the-church-ebook>).
2. Rick Thomas, *Politics and Culture* (<https://lifeovercoffee.com/product/politics-and-culture/>).
3. Christians Engaged, *Biblical Roadmap to the Party Platforms: A non-partisan reference guide for the 2024 General Elections* (<https://christiansengaged.org/platform-roadmap>).

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Who is winning the public culture war in America, the forces of Satan or the forces of Christ? And what size of role should Christians play in shaping the dialog and influencing our culture in the public arena? How are we to accomplish this?
2. Do you agree or disagree that the top three priorities of the church and the christian life are to exalt our Lord, build up the body of Christ (which would include our own families), and to evangelize the world? Are there others that you would have put in front of this list, why or why not?
3. Do you agree with the statement that everything God does and has done is to bring praise, glory, and honor unto Himself? If yes, do you then also agree that God created you and I for the sole purpose of bringing praise and glory onto Himself? If yes, how might that change the way you look at how you prioritize your life's goals?
References: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 3:21, Revelation 4:11
4. Do you think the church today has a good balance between its efforts to glorify God, build up the body, and evangelize the world? Can you provide some examples of each?
5. What role does a fear of the Lord have on our growth as Christians and as a church?
References: Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 31:19, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Luke 1:50
6. It was stated that God has given us the ministry of restoring non-believers to God and that God isn't going to do it directly Himself. Do you believe this, why or why not? If you do believe it, how might that change the way you look at evangelizing God's word? 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

7. What is our role in shaping the culture and what is the most effective tactic we have?
Reference: Ephesians 6:10-20
8. How does Colossians 1:28 reflect the three primary purposes of the Christian life?