

Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Samuel Ruiz
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Called to Make a Difference

July 8th & 9th, 2017

Philippians 2:14-16

As we look at Philippians 2:14-16, there are some principles that we can learn.

- ❖ Our attitudes reflect our identity, and in Whom we believe.
“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God...” Philippians 2:14-15
- ❖ Our reputation makes a difference in the society in which we live.
“...Children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation...” Philippians 2:15
- ❖ Our identity shines as we hold fast to the Word of life.
“...among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the Word of life...” Philippians 2:15-16

Our attitude and reputation are characteristics of our identity in Christ, and they make a difference in the midst of this culture.

In the midst of evil ...

- ❖ In the culture in which we live, the practice of evil is a growing reality that is promoted through deception.
- ❖ Perversion has been a reality in the world since the fall of Adam and Eve. *Genesis 6:5-8*
- ❖ In our day, we live amongst a generation that invents forms of evil and promotes wickedness without any restraint. *Romans 1:28-32*
- ❖ Our culture encourages iniquity in a subtle way that appears beautiful and satisfying in the minds of people.
Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
- ❖ We are called to make a difference as we engage in a war against the corruption of the world and proclaim His goodness.
2 Corinthians 10:5 “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,”

As we shine as lights in the world ...

- ❖ God has chosen us out of the world, in order that we may proclaim the “marvelous light” through which we received mercy.
 - 1 Peter 2:9-12
- ❖ Although there is a time to proclaim the truth and to expose the unfruitful works of darkness, we are also called to go beyond proclaiming and shed light in a more active way as we leave our self-centeredness and focus on serving others.

- ❖ When the world around us is as dark as it is today, even a little light, by the grace of God, makes a big difference.
- ❖ We must be careful lest the light that we proclaim to have is nothing but darkness.
Luke 11:35 "Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness."
- ❖ There are visible actions that must take place as we shed the light of God around us.
 - Matthew 5:14-16
- ❖ In God's economy, a small action on our part can generate immense fruit in our area of influence.
 - Matthew 13:31-32
- ❖ Are we willing to act based on God's commandment and leave the results up to God, knowing that as we obey He will do the rest?
 - Matthew 14:13-21

Holding fast to the Word of life.

To shine as lights in the world is possible only by holding fast to the Word of life.

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

- ❖ Only Jesus has the Word of life.
John 6:68 "Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,"
- ❖ The Word of God is what gives us life.
Matthew 4:4 "But He answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'"
- ❖ The Word of God is what produces in us the fruit of life.
Psalms 1:2-3 "but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."
- ❖ The Word of God produces faith in us.
Romans 10:17 "So faith come from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."
- ❖ Persistence in the teaching of God's Word is vital!
1 Timothy 4:16 "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."

Endnote:

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