

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: February 21, 2021

Sermon Series: What In The World Is Going On? Jesus' Words on the Future

Sermon Title: Persecution

Sermon Text: John 15:19-20

Bottom Line

Persecution is no longer something that other countries experience, it has washed up on our shores as well. We see it, hear it and we are beginning to feel its effects.

Scripture

John 15:19-20 (NLT)

19 "The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you."

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

Mark 7:20-23 (NLT)

20 And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. 21 For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

Pastor Dale began his sermon with a story of a lifeguard who was fired for saving someone who was swimming outside of the protected area. He compared this to Christians who are ostracized by family or peers for believing biblical teaching that offends them or being canceled or labeled a hater because you disagree and oppose culturally acceptable lifestyles. How have you seen Christians persecuted in our own culture?

Let's Talk

1. Read John 15:19-20. How do you feel as you read Jesus' words? How was Jesus persecuted? How were his early followers persecuted? What do you know of persecution of Christians around the world?
2. Pastor Dale recommended Dr. Carl Trueman's book, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*. In the book Trueman suggests that there are three root causes for what is going wrong in society today.
 - a. The belief that human flourishing is found in an inner sense of well being.
 - b. The belief that one should be able to act outwardly as one feels inwardly.
 - c. The belief that who you are should largely be a matter of personal choice, not the result of external pressure of imposition.

Why are these beliefs problematic to the biblical worldview?

3. Read Jeremiah 17:9 and Mark 7:20-23. How do these verses help us answer why the above views are problematic?
4. Dale said:

Modern culture wants to argue that people are born innocent and that it is society corrupts them. It is the culture that oppresses and squelches human freedom.

God's Word says we are born sinful and into a world that fans the flame of our sinfulness. We need a transcendent Compass and a Savior. The compass is God's word and the Savior is Jesus, the Son of God.

As believers we can't expect non-Christians to act like Christians. Seeing the two worldviews described by Dale, how can Christians help build bridges to our non-believing friends and family members?

5. Pastor Dale closed his message with nine ideas for staying faithful and true in a hostile culture. Let's review them as a group:
 - Recognize the depth and nature of the challenge we are facing.
 - Know what you believe and believe what you know!
 - Don't get preoccupied with the symptoms of a self-centered world.
 - Don't become inward focused or hateful towards the culture. We're supposed to love the world like Jesus did and He have his life that whosoever believes will not drown but have everlasting life.

