

Sermon

The Role of the Church in Culture Outline *2 Corinthians 5:11-21*

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹¹ Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. ¹² Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. ¹³ If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. ¹⁴ Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

I. LIVE PERSUASIVELY (11)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Ellen G. White

A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which elevate and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world.

1 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

II. LIVE AUTHENTICALLY (12)

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Brene Brown

“Authenticity is a collection of choices that we have to make every day. It’s about the choice to show up and be real. The choice to be honest. The choice to let our true selves be seen.”

Exodus 3:13-14

¹³ But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”

III. LIVE REDEMPTIVELY (17)

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Ravi Zacharias

Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world. That cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel is the only hope for humanity. Wherever you go, ask God for wisdom on how to get that Gospel in, even in the toughest situations of life.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

IV. LIVE REPRESENTINGLY

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

C.S. Lewis

We must show our Christian colors if we are to be true to Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:6

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

V. LIVE GRACIOUSLY (21)

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Saint Patrick

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

Ephesians 4:32

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

CONCLUSION

19th-century British evangelist Rodney (Gypsy) Smith:

‘There are five Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the Christian—but most people never read the first four.’