
Overcoming The Sin of Silence

Witnessing To The Culture

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August 5, 2018

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Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Overcoming The Sin of Silence

Lesson Text

Romans 1:16–17 (AV)¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Acts 1:6–8 (AV)⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.** ⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Luke 10:17–19 (AV)¹⁷ And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. ¹⁸ And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.** ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Introduction

I want to start an new series today that is a natural continuation of our previous two series, and a direct reflection of our Midweek Teaching

- **Engaging the Culture:** was about Resisting the Culture, Preaching in season or out, Lord open our eyes, and Is there not a cause
- **Influencing the Culture:** was about Salt of the Earth (Seasoning & Preservative), and Light of the World (Vision, Steps, Marvelous, Glorious, & Fire of God’s Light)

Now I want us to look at **Witnessing to the Culture**

Witnessing is about our Great Commission. And by commission we mean Directive, Instruction, Assignment, Charge, or Command that we’ve been given from our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Witnessing, Sharing our Faith, Winning Souls don’t just happen, we must be intentional about it!

Matthew 28:18–20 (AV)¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** ¹⁹ **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** ²⁰ **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

The Great Commission teaches us three things: 1) To Go, 2) To Teach, and 3) To Baptize

1. **“To Go”** reveals the fact that we can’t fulfill the commission by sitting in the comforts and confines of the four walls of our church, our neighborhood, or our even our community.
2. **“To Teach”** lets us know that we have a requirement to learn so we can teach.
3. **“To Baptize”** tells us that we are called to persuade, influence, encourage, and change.

I have a few questions for us:

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- How many of us know someone that we'd like to see get saved?
- How many of us know someone that we know needs to be saved?
- How many of us know that if these individuals got saved, their lives would be better?
- So finally, why are so many not getting saved?

The problem is not that God isn't saving, it's that too many of us that are called are not actually performing our commission.

Paul said one plants, another waters, but God gives the increase. It's not the lack of increase that's the problem, it's the lack of planters and waterers.

Only 5-10% of people in church on average share their faith, which means that 90-95% of people who should hear the Gospel are not getting planted and watered.

So why are so many not sharing the Gospel? **We've Found The Rock and Became Rock People**
We're Christians, but we've become Silent. And since we're not doing what we're called to do, our Silence becomes a Sin.

- For some they are silent because they are ashamed
- For others they are silent because they don't know how
- And for others are silent because of weakness and fear

So although we have all these mega churches, too many of us are living in the Sin of Silence.

The good news is that God has given us the Power to overcome our fears, overcome our ignorance, and overcome our shame, weakness. Today we will talk about three powers

Series and Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Overcoming The Sin of Silence

To overcome the sin of silence we must overcome our shame, our ignorance, and our fears

I. Overcoming The Sin of Shame

Romans 1:16 (AV)¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is *the power of God unto salvation* to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The first challenge to keeping our commission and overcoming the sin of silence is shame.

It is our human nature to conform, follow, adapt, and agree.

We hate being different, weird, strange, peculiar, or ostracized.

This quirk in our nature gets in the way of our commission, and we become ashamed.

The net result is although we've been called by God, to many Christians conform to this world

We've got to stop being concerned about people that don't pay our mortgage or rent, don't buy us houses or cars, don't protect and watch over our lives.

“Spend money we don't have, to buy things we don't need, to impress people we don't even like”

Overcome the Shame by Transforming the Mind

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Romans 12:1–2 (AV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To overcome the shame and not be conformed to this world, we must

- Present our bodies a living sacrifice of holiness
- Transform our mind to the perfect will of God

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AV)¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Philippians 2:5 (AV)⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

When we are walking in holiness, and have a transformed mind of Christ, and we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ because we live, breath, and have our being in Christ.

II. Overcoming The Sin of Ignorance

Acts 1: ⁸ **But ye shall receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The first challenge to keeping our commission and overcoming the sin of silence is ignorance.

In our second lesson text, the disciples thought that their calling, their purpose was to restore the Kingdom of Israel. But they lacked true knowledge of their calling.

They were ignorant of the purpose of their calling and their power.

Hosea 4:6 (AV)⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Like the disciples without knowledge, many people look at their calling and power as a source of getting their wants and desires!

James 4: ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Overcome the Ignorance by Embracing the Word

Man looks at power as a source to get what he wants but God gives us power to do what he wants.

Romans 8:28 (AV)²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

The power is not for our purpose, it is for God's; and we get the knowledge of that purpose through the Word of God.

Psalm 1:1–2 (AV)¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 8:32 (AV)³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

III. Overcoming The Sin of Weakness and Fear

Luke 10: ¹⁹ Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The Enemy wants to keep us operating in the Sin of Silence

- Satan wants to keep us ashamed, but we overcome our shame by embracing our Calling
- Satan wants to keep us ignorant, but we overcome our ignorance by embracing the Word
- Satan wants to keep us weak, but we overcame our weakness by embracing our Anointing

The final challenge to keeping our commission and overcoming the sin of silence is weakness.

We must understand that our spiritual power to dominate people, places, or things, but to overcome any power of the enemy.

When we are weak to people, we become silent; When we become weak to places, we become silent; When we become weak to things we become silent.

- We don't want to be hurt, so we remain silent
- We don't want to be depressed, so we remain silent
- We don't want to be angry, so we remain silent

But God gave us power to overcome any obstacle that would prevent us from doing what he called us to do

Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Revelation 12:11 (AV)¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

1 John 4:4 (AV)⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8:³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

2 Timothy 1:7 (AV)⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.