

What would happen if Christians quit living and speaking the truth about God's glory in Jesus Christ?

How has God used you to demonstrate Christian truth in a situation or to people that needed it? How did this affect your spiritual growth?

REFLECT

Rob quoted Chuck Colson's statement that "We must show the world that Christianity is more than a private belief, more than personal salvation. We must show that it is a comprehensive life system that answers all of humanity's age-old questions: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? Does life have any meaning and purpose? ...The church's singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview that governs every area of existence."

Does your faith in Jesus Christ govern your entire life? In what area(s) does it need to have greater impact? How can our church better demonstrate this to our community?

RESPOND

Discuss situations or relationships in which you feel called as a believer in Jesus Christ to stand for God's glory and truth. Pray Ephesians 1:17-19 for each other as you face such situations, and update each other as you have opportunities to be salt and light.

We're confused about where we came from and thus what we are.

Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Science is the new religion and technology our savior. It heals us, guides us, prolongs our lives, and increases greatly their quality, or so we believe.

We're confused about who we are and the value of life.

Psalms 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.

We are left with ethical relativism in which what is right is defined by what is right for me. Consumerism is our way of life and convenience is elevated as our new ethic.

We're confused about what's really right and wrong.

Isaiah 5:20-23

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.

Being existentially confused (about what and who we are) leads to being ethically confused (that what we do doesn't matter).
Morals blur when life is ill defined.

Woe to those who are wise in their
own eyes and clever in their own sight.

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking
wine and champions at mixing drinks,
who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
but deny justice to the innocent.

How are we to be Christian in this ethically confused culture?

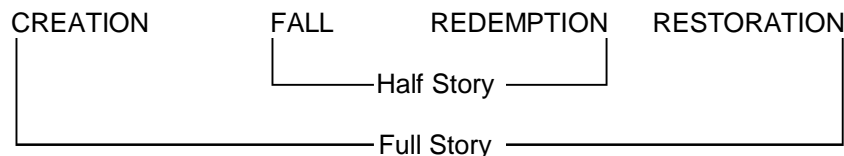
James Spiegel, How to be Good in a World Gone Bad

"Nothing is more persuasive than a life well lived. If this is so, then, as Christians, the primary focus in addressing our cultural moral crisis should be the ordering of our own lives. The contemporary testament to the truth of Christianity is only as strong as the moral character of Christians."

Matthew 5:13-16 (page 661)

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

What should we do? Tell our culture the whole story...



Being an Unconfused Christian

Life Group Study

RELATE

Has a recent news story broken your heart or made you angry? Can you see any of the moral confusion Rob spoke about involved?

Agree/Disagree: Christians are responsible for the welfare of society.

What principle, insight or idea from this sermon was especially important for you?

READ

Ephesians 1:1-2:10

What truths does this passage reveal about:

- How much people matter to God? (1:4)
- What God has done for those who believe? (1:3-14; 2:1-9)
- Our purpose—why we exist? (1:4-5, 11-12; 2:6-7,10)
- God's eternal plan for all? (1:9-10)
- Who Jesus is? (1:3, 10, 19-23)
- Our past and our future? (1:4; 2:1-2, 6)
- The resources available to us to fulfill God's purpose? (1:17-21)
- The importance of the church? (1:22-23)

Does this passage change the way you think about the cosmic importance of all life, or of your life in particular?