

LIFE Huddle: *Getting together to talk through issues of life*

Subject: Compassion Without Compromise

Psalm 119:9: *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”*

Background: The book of Psalms is considered wisdom literature, and this particular one (119) celebrates God’s Word. The aim of this text is that we might aspire to obey God’s Word more faithfully. This is the longest chapter in the bible (176 verses).

Purity: *“The condition of being free from anything that contaminates or pollutes.”*

We’re in a day & age where following Christ faithfully and standing for truth is not popular, nor is it encouraged. But this life is NOT about this life. It’s about the life to come. And just because you’ve been exposed to biblical truth & maybe even intellectually agree with what you’ve heard doesn’t mean you truly believe it. All of us are wrestling with “purity” at some level because there’s very little in society that encourages us to die to ourselves & live fully for Christ. I’m talking absolute surrender & complete allegiance to the King of Kings.

Unless you are diligent in meditating on what you’ve heard and applying it to your life, the truth you’ve heard is just a bunch of good information. So until you actually start living out what you’ve heard, the scriptures would say that you don’t really believe it.

Key Takeaway → LIVE LIKE CHRIST!!

We need to live like Jesus now MORE THAN EVER. One of the best, most effective ways to live like Christ is to VOTE! If you have the privilege (and it is a privilege, not a right) and don’t utilize it, then when stuff like the government passing laws that clearly go against the Word of God happens, you really don’t have anything to complain about. We have a great opportunity staring us in the face because a sifting is taking place. And those who are not fully committed will soon be exposed as pretenders.

LIFE Huddle: #Pursuit

February 6, 2016

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I believe you all are going to be the first generation in the Western Christianity that experiences persecution for your faith like the rest of the world. I also believe that persecution is a whole lot closer than we think. I'm not saying this to cause you to be fearful. I'm saying it that you might be prepared. I'd like to submit to you some realities related to persecution:

Persecution: *"The act of being pursued with harassing or oppressive treatment, to be annoyed or troubled persistently."*

- 1) It's impossible to read church history without coming to the conclusion that what gas is to a car is what persecution is to the Kingdom; it fuels its spread.
- 2) One of the most accurate ways to detect the activity of God is to note the opposition that is present. The stronger the persecution, the more significant the spiritual vitality of the believers.
- 3) If you're doing what you're supposed to be doing, then persecution will find you. I heard a story of a fighter pilot once saying *"You always know you're flying over the right target because that's when you're being shot at."*
- 4) It's one thing to say 'Jesus Christ is Lord'; it's altogether different to surrender to Him & obey Him as Lord. The truest indication of your faith in Christ won't be seen in what you say; it'll be seen in how you live & what you do.

Rick Warren has said, *"Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's belief system or lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."*

Compassion without Compromise: *"I don't hate you, but I do disagree with your stance. I love you enough to stand up for what I know to be true according to God's standard. You're wrong, but you're loved."*

Everything is impossible until someone actually does it. Will you be man enough to walk with compassion but not compromise your beliefs in the process? Living by faith is very risky in this day & time. But make no mistake about it, our Heavenly Father wants more from us than we're currently giving Him.

Closing Thought: What would happen if bibles were all of a sudden outlawed? You do realize there are parts of the world where it is illegal to print or own copies of the bible, right? If bibles were outlawed, having the Word of God hidden in your heart will keep you from drifting.