

Acts 24:1-27
Sermon Notes
October 28, 2018

1. Christ-followers pursue intelligent engagement for the good of the city in which they find themselves.

Jeremiah 29:4-5 ESV

4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

Jeremiah 29:7 ESV

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

1 Peter 2:12 ESV

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Paul's practice of "reasoning":

Acts 17:2

Acts 17:17

Acts 18:4

Acts 18:19

Acts 19:8

"Living as light in a fallen world involves (in part) actively striving to promote the welfare of the larger society - seeking its good, its justice, its shalom. In my view, perhaps the most obvious and concrete way that Christians living in the US can apply this principle is to think more deeply about gun violence in America and strive more conscientiously to connect our theological convictions to our social-political policies."

Moyer Hubbard, Professor of New Testament, Talbot School of Theology

2. Christ-followers must communicate the whole truth of the gospel regardless of what others think of that message.

1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Preaching the gospel must include the lostness of man and God's universal moral demands. If we leave this out, we are not preaching the authentic gospel of Christ.

John 15:18-19 ESV

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

1 Peter 3:15-16 ESV

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

3. Christ-followers live not with fear but rather a hope of future perfect justice.

"Hope does not demand a belief in progress. It demands a belief in justice: a conviction that the wicked will suffer, that wrongs will be made right, that the underlying order of things is not flouted with impunity. Hope implies a deep-seated trust in life that appears absurd to most who lack it."

Christopher Lasch

Matthew 20:16 ESV

16 So the last will be first, and the first last."