

Acts 21:27-22:22
Sermon Notes
October 14, 2018

Don't confuse zeal for God with fear

Romans 10:2-3 ESV

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

"Despite God's commands to trust him in times of despair, evangelicals have always been very fearful people, and they have built their understanding of political engagement around the anxiety they have felt amid times of social and cultural change."

Believe Me, John Fea

Isaiah 43:1 ESV

1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

"Fear's a dangerous thing. It can turn your heart black ... It'll take your God-filled soul and fill it with devils and dust."

Bruce Springsteen

Pursue intellectual curiosity rather than the crowd

2 Timothy 2:7 ESV

7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

John 1:9-10 ESV

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

Matthew 5:14 ESV

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Instead of trying to change the world, be a faithful presence

Luke 4:18-19 ESV

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

"When we, the Church, stop expecting people to fit our mold, agree with our politics, or live up to our social expectations, we extend freedom and joy to all of God's people."

Steve Austin

Matthew 11:28 MSG

28 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

"In grasping for political power, evangelicals have made it more difficult to spread the gospel, promote justice for the poor and oppressed, and pursue human flourishing in the places God has called and placed them. The proclivity toward domination and toward the politicization of everything leads Christianity today to bizarre turns, turns that transform much of the Christian public witness into the very opposite of the witness Christianity is supposed to offer."

James Davison Hunter