

How To Maintain Your Witness While Everyone Loses Their Minds

Acts 24

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / July 19, 2020

*“So I always take pains to have a clear conscience
toward both God and man.”*

~ Acts 24:16 ~

I. You'll maintain your witness by connecting with your Savior regularly and consistently.

A. Don't believe the lie that you can see clearly without God's Word.

1 Cor. 13:12 “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. **Now I know in part**; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

B. Don't believe the lie that you can do rightly without God's Word.

Psalms 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Proverbs 6:23 “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life...”

C. Don't believe the lie that you are the one best acquainted with your own motives.

Psalms 139:23, 24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

II. You'll maintain your witness if you humbly admit when you're wrong in the way you were right.

Acts 23:3-5 “Then Paul said to him, ‘God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?’ ⁴ Those who stood by said, ‘Would you revile God's high priest?’ ⁵ And Paul said, ‘I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

Paul was not wrong in what he said. He was wrong in how he said it. When he realized that, he didn't defend himself. He humbly admitted fault by quoting Exodus 22:28 to them, showing he knew he was wrong in how he said what he said.

**If you're wrong in the way that you're right,
you're wrong even though you're right.**

III. You'll maintain your witness if you use your God-given voice to stand out among the noise with the message of the Gospel.

Romans 1:16, 17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

Mark 8:38 “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

1 Cor. 1:18, 19 “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. ¹⁹ For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group discussion:

- (1) Pastor Peter spoke of the importance of connecting with Christ regularly and consistently. What is your practice of connecting with the Lord? How's it going?
- (2) 2020, amirite? How have the multitude of events that have unfolded throughout this year impacted your walk with Jesus? Explain the positive and the negative impacts they have had.
- (3) Recall the last time you were right in what you said, but wrong in how you said it.
- (4) Do you find it hard to seek forgiveness when you were wrong in the way you were right? Why or why not?
- (5) As a Christian, how are you different from those in your “tribe” who might see things similarly to you but don't love Christ?
- (6) Do you do a mental eye-roll when you hear someone mention the hope they have in the Gospel over every other human institution and solution? Why or why not?
- (7) Honestly - is the Gospel still glorious to you? Is grace still amazing? Are those present realities in your walk with Christ or is that a part of your past?