



It's Time for the People of God to Act Like the People of God!

October 16, 2016

TODAY'S TEXT:

1 Pe 2:9-10; Mt 28:18-20; 2 Pe 3:9

In the last three years or so the church has been under attack and getting hit on all sides. Whether its government interjection of what you will and won't do, social rhetoric proclaiming the church is unloving, redefining God's order of marriage (which has been in place for hundreds of years) or God's church disagreeing with what says the Lord—it is truly time for the people of **God** to act like the people of **God**.

As we read in our text, it is evident what the Father's feeling is and His desire for us:

- The promise of being with Him forever.
- The patience He has to give all the opportunity to be with Him forever.
- The pain He feels knowing some will reject His love.
- He specifically chose us to be with Him forever.
- The commandment to go and reach, teach and release hurting people through the power of Jesus Christ.

I submit to you today that the main reason we do not act like the people of God is because we have **forgotten** who God is and this has led to all kinds of foolishness we see in the world now. Just a reminder who God is:

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| - God our Creator (Gen 1:1-31) | - A Wonderful Counselor (Is 28:16, Is 9:6) |
| - A Sovereign God (Matt 10:29) | - God our Deliverer (Rom 11:26) |
| - A Mighty God (Job 9:4) | - A Jealous God (Ex 34:14) |
| - A Holy God (Ps 22:3) | - King of Kings (1 Tim 1:17) |
| - An Awesome God (Ps 68:35) | - Lord of Lords (1 Tim 6:15) |
| - A Righteous God (Ps 119:137) | - God our Provider (Gen 22) |
| - A God of Grace (1 Pe 5:10) | - A Healing God (Ex 15:22-26) |
| - A Merciful God (Eph 1:6f; 2:4-10) | - A Loving God (1 Jn 4:8) |
| - The Bread of Life (Jn 6:33) | |

This is just a short list of who God is and He has never stopped being our Father. The love He has and continues to show for us is immeasurable. His heart breaks when we willfully walk in disobedience for a few moments of pleasure. What He wants for us is something eternal not temporal.

IT IS TIME TO **ACT**:

1. It doesn't matter whether you are poor, rich, black, white, young, old, where you live, what you drive, your educational level, etc... All **lives** matter to God.
 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)*
 - *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
2. Too many of us are not **equipped** with the right tools for fighting or in some cases you have the right tools but are afraid to use them in fear of the world not liking you. News flash, they did not like Jesus Christ and look at what He still did for us.
 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)*
 - *The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me (Lk 10:16)*
3. In a world with so much tolerance, sensitivity and desire to not offend, the real **truth** has been lost. According to the world's philosophy there are many truths as it relates to religion. Maybe this is why we are so scattered. There is only one truth and His name is Jesus Christ.
 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
 - *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn 8:31-32)*
4. We still have a **universal** problem called sin and we must continue to push the Gospel not just in America but all around the world. God is not limited to a place He is omnipresent!

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:6-14)
5. Jesus **saves!** Not Buddha. Not Muhammad. Not any other name but Jesus the Christ.
 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)*
 - *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves (Matt 7:15)*
6. We have become a nation where people in a _____ are vilified for doing their job. This includes mothers and fathers who feed, clothe and house; teachers, police officers, government officials and, even more shocking, our spiritual leaders who are appointed to watch after our souls.

- *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Rom 13:1)*
 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (Eph 6:1-3)*
7. We are living in a **chaotic** and **confused** world. A world where morality is looked upon as evil and amorality is looked upon as good. Are you kidding me?!
- *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! (Is 5:20)*
 - *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (Rom 12:9)*
8. The **time** is now! Stop procrastinating! No one is guaranteed tomorrow or even the next few minutes. How will God find you on His return? Will you be doing the work of the ministry in which you were commanded to do?
- *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (Jam 4:13-14)*
 - *Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. (Prov 27:1)*
9. If **not** you then who? These are our brothers and sisters figuratively, literally and spiritually. By acknowledging they are our brothers and sisters a certain level of compassion should develop within us because we love them.
- *My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (Jam 5:19-20)*
 - *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. (Matt 7:13)*
10. People who have no truth in them are very **outspoken** about things **opposite** of the Word of God and sadly, many are attentively listening as though it were the Gospel.
- For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2Tim 4:3-4)*
11. Too many of our young people have been **written** off by the world--making them feel like they are not valuable and worthless. This has pushed them into doing counter-productive things, associating with bad company and even blaspheming the name of Jesus Christ.
- *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1Cor 6:19-20)*
 - *Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Lk 12:6-7)*

TOOLS FOR ACTING:

1. Open up your Bible and read/study it.
2. Spend some quality time in prayer with the Lord.
3. Call a fast.
4. Come to church regularly to get encouragement.
5. Listen to your leaders.
6. Get involved in your communities, schools and church.

IN CLOSING:

It's time for the people of God to act like the people of God. **Let us act now!!**

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We will always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. (2 Cor 4:7-10)