



The Spirit of The Age- Disengagement

MAIN THING

Feeling Overwhelmed Leads To Disengagement, but Jesus Calls Us To Stand Firm

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 5:20, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Matthew 24:12-13, Psalm 16:11, Acts 2:42-47, Colossians 1:9-12

ICEBREAKER

Sum up the last nineteen months in one word. One word only. Why did you choose that word?

OPENING THOUGHT

Many people have been talking about a “culture war” going on. The question isn’t whether there is one- there probably has ALWAYS been one- but rather “How does the Christian respond?” How do we, in the words of writer John Bunyan, remain “In the world yet not OF the world?”

The first step is to realize what is happening around us. We need to be discerning. There is a lot of false information, boys who are crying wolf, and chicken littles running around telling us the sky is falling. There is also a lot of true information about evil going on. So, it is incumbent upon the Christian to know what is going on, to recognize truth from falsehood, and discern, “The Spirit of The Age.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend’s message?
2. There is a three-part strategy that the Spirit of the Age is using- 1) Change the definition of Evil and Good, 2) Diminish God’s glory by deception, and 3) Overwhelm and discourage God’s people with evil so they disengage. Which do you see most clearly around you? Do you find yourself falling victim to it?
3. The Spirit of the Age’s goal is for God’s people to disengage- from what they love, from their community, and from God’s work in the world. Satan’s goal is to immobilize God’s people so that people find no joy, the church is scattered, and no kingdom work is done. Where is he succeeding? Where is he NOT succeeding?

LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus tells us that there will be a seemingly overwhelming onslaught of evil in the last days right before His return; there will be so much that most Christians will simply check out. Game over. Jesus referred to this as “love growing cold.” However, He calls us not to allow that to happen, but to stand firm to the end. What is one way you sense your love growing cold, and what is something you can do to “stand firm to the end?”

CHALLENGE

One of the most pronounced “disengagements” that we’ve seen since March 2020 is disengagement from church. Churches all over America have seen precipitous drops in attendance since this time last year. Make a commitment to stand against this- engage in your church family, make an even firmer commitment to engage with your church in worship and mission and service. Our churches don’t exist without faithful Christians. Don’t let your love grow cold and disengage- stand firm to the end.