

# We are Christ's Witnesses

Acts 4:1-23

October 15, 2023 | Ken Lewis, Legacy Pastor

## Big Idea: You can boldly witness about Christ.

**Acts 1:8** | But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## Christ empowers you to:

### I. Share hope (vv. 1-2)

**1 Peter 1:3-5** | 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- The resurrection of Christ assures us of God's ultimate triumph.

### II. Endure persecution (vv. 3-7)

What Is Persecution?

Persecution takes many forms and often looks different in various contexts throughout the world. Believers might be separated from their families or ostracized by their communities. They may face discrimination in the workplace or education system. They could lose jobs or become the targets of extremists. They might have to flee their homes, or even face imprisonment, torture, or death.

- **International Mission Board**

### III. Speak the truth (vv. 8-12)

#### A. With boldness

**1 Peter 2:6-8** | 6 For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- The secular conclusion of today’s culture is that peace will come between all peoples not with the end of all religion, but with the blend of all religions.

The greatest challenge to this generation is confronting pluralism with an uncompromising commitment to [the] uniqueness of the Christian faith as God’s way of salvation. We will be seen as bigots and intolerant. You don’t need to blend. You need the blood. It is the blood that removes all barriers. – **Alistair Begg**

#### B. With humility

**1 Peter 3:14-17** | 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

- As Jesus’s witnesses, we must speak the truth boldly with humility, proclaiming the name of Jesus even though it brings persecution.

### IV. Reflect Christ (vv. 13-17)

## V. Obey God (vv. 18-23)

### Occasions for civil disobedience:

- The law being resisted must be unjust and immoral, clearly contrary to the will of God, and not just inconvenient or burdensome.
- Legal means of changing the unjust situation must have been exhausted. Civil disobedience is a method not of first resort, but of last resort.
- As you consider civil disobedience, you must be willing to accept the penalty for breaking the law.