

Change Agents: Impacting Culture

Speaker: Dr. Mark Pfeifer

Main Text: Matthew 28:16–20

Central Idea: If America is going to be changed, the Church must first embrace its calling to become God's change agents—demonstrating a superior way of living through biblical wisdom, compassion, service, and hope.

The Great Commission Is a Commission to Nations

- Jesus possesses authority in both heaven and earth.
- Believers are commanded to make disciples of all nations.
- The Great Commission is: Multigenerational, Worldwide, Continuing until the end of the age
- Every believer has been invited to participate.
- “Everybody gets to play.”

America Needs Saving—and the Church Must Lead

- America as a nation, culture, idea, and people is worth saving.
- Before the Church can reform society, it must address its own condition.
- Larger churches and better programs have not automatically produced greater cultural influence.
- The Church must demonstrate a superior model of living.
- Our lives should cause people to ask about the hope within us.

1 Peter 3:15

- The “scattered Church” must carry hope, joy, and biblical truth beyond the Sunday gathering.

Four Adjustments Change Agents Must Make

1. Rethink Spirituality

- Spirituality is not limited to church services, preaching, worship, or other religious activities.
- The sacred-secular divide comes more from Greek thought than from a biblical worldview.
- In the biblical understanding, our work and everyday responsibilities can be sacred.
- Every believer carries the name and authority of Jesus.
- A salesperson, teacher, doctor, tradesperson, or business owner can use their gifts for the Kingdom of God.
- When our lives are surrendered to God, everything we do can become spiritual.

2. Rethink Ministry

- Ministry means service.
- Church leaders are called to equip believers; believers are called to perform the work of ministry.
- Ministry happens wherever believers serve people—not only inside the church building.
- Cultural influence should not depend primarily upon political power or legislation.
- The early Church transformed the Roman world through wisdom and compassion.
- Wisdom without compassion can use truth like a club.
- Compassion without wisdom can enable destructive behavior.
- Wisdom and compassion working together become an undeniable force.
- When people experience our compassion, they become more willing to hear biblical wisdom.

3. Rethink the Church

- The Church is not a building, service, or organization; the Church is God's people.

- Believers are called to engage the world without becoming like the world.
- “Isolation without integration produces degradation.”
- God told His people in Babylon to build, plant, prosper, and seek the peace of the city.

Jeremiah 29:4–7

- The Church must enter culture as salt, light, and healing medicine.
- God strategically places believers in business, education, government, medicine, arts, entertainment, and every other area of society.
- We must prepare the next generation to become successful, godly influencers whose lives point people to Jesus.

4. Rethink the End Times

- A defeated and pessimistic view of the future can cause the Church to retreat from its assignment.
- Jesus is not returning merely to rescue a worn-out and defeated Church.
- The Church should live with a victorious expectation and prepare the Bride of Christ.
- Believers must approach the future with faith, hope, and a determination to make every day count.
- A victorious outlook empowers the Church to build, serve, and influence culture.

Conclusion

We are the Bride of Christ, the children of God, and His change agents in the earth. We are called to carry hope, wisdom, compassion, salt, light, and healing into the world. As the Church aligns its thinking with Scripture, believers can influence culture and help bring meaningful change to America.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from this message, and why?
2. According to Matthew 28:16–20, what role does the Church have in influencing nations?
3. Dr. Pfeifer said the Church must demonstrate a “superior model of living.” What should that look like in everyday life?
4. Has your understanding of spirituality ever been limited to church services or religious activities? How does this message challenge that view?
5. How could your current job, education, skills, or responsibilities be used for God’s purposes?
6. What is the difference between attending church and doing the work of ministry?
7. Why must wisdom and compassion work together? What happens when one is present without the other?
8. The message states, “Isolation without integration produces degradation.” What does that mean for Christians living in today’s culture?
9. How can believers engage culture without compromising biblical truth?
10. Where has God strategically placed you to serve and influence others?
11. How can the Church better prepare children and young people to become godly influencers in society?
12. How does our view of the future affect the way we live and serve today?
13. Which of the four areas—spirituality, ministry, the Church, or the end times—requires the greatest adjustment in your thinking?
14. What is one practical way you can demonstrate both biblical wisdom and genuine compassion this week?
15. What would change in our community if every believer truly understood that “everybody gets to play”?