

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Beyond These Walls | Part 1: A Heart for the Nation

**We must remain focused on the unmet Jesus need of those outside our walls.**

*“In 2020 American evangelicals discovered what we value most: Winning. The world was watching. They weren’t surprised.”*

*“While our actions don’t always tell the whole story, our reactions most certainly do.”*

*“The reactions of prominent pastors, podcasters, television personalities and non-profit leaders to the events that defined 2020 revealed a disturbing reality lurking beneath our Bible laced rhetoric, faith claims, books, music and sermons. Namely, that what we claim is most important is not actually what we consider most important.”*

- **Andy Stanley**

*“When the church as a whole is no longer seen as speaking to questions that transcend politics, and when it is no longer united by a common faith that transcends politics, then the world sees strong evidence that Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx were right, that religion is really just a cover for people wanting to get their own way in the world.” — Timothy Keller*

**Let’s stop trying to win. Let’s forsake our fear of losing.**

**Let’s fix our eyes and our lives on Jesus.**

**Fixing our eyes on Jesus is how we build and maintain unity within.**

**John 13:34-35 (NLT)**

<sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

**Philippians 2:14-15 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining and arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

**Matthew 5:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

For many Christians this requires a significant change in our **Posture | Tone | Approach**

### **1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. <sup>20</sup> When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. <sup>21</sup> When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

<sup>22</sup> When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup> I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

***What if the greatest way of influencing people is to submit to and serve them?***

### **Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.  
<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.  
When he appeared in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

### **Matthew 5:47 (NLT)**

<sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

**Focus on becoming winsome over becoming winners.**

### **Proverbs 16:21 (GNT)**

<sup>21</sup> A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.

### **Colossians 4:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

***\*Special credit given to Andy Stanley and his book: Not in it to win it***