

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Message Summary

This week, Pastor John Carter looked back on the major world events leading up to and surrounding the first World War. The parallels between this past history and our current cultural crisis are remarkable. Then, examining Philippians 4, Pastor looks at how Paul described how we should live amongst the world. We have to let our internal balance be seen before all people by living moderate, considerate, balanced lives in our relationships with the world. How do we live our Christian freedom but balance it with the freedoms of the people around us? How do we create balance between our behavior and a hostile world? What should Christians do in their relationship with the world? They must stop arguing, fighting, quarreling and slandering. As a Christian, we don't have the right to say anything that we want to say. Instead of violent yelling, protesting and name calling, we must be gentle, moderate, balanced and show genuine humility to everyone. Because we represent Christ *first* and our opinions, our words, should be subject to the reign of our King.

Pastor John Carter: *"There is one thing that Christians are not called to do, and that is to be accusers of the world. Just remember, you stand by the grace and mercy of God alone. You are not qualified to judge anyone."*

Key Scriptures

- [Philippians 4:4-5 NKJV] 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.
- [Titus 3:1-2 NLT] 1 Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. 2 They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should Christians avoid arguing, fighting, quarreling and slandering with the world?
2. How can this type of behavior affect our ability to witness to the people around us?
3. What do gentleness, moderation, balance and genuine humility communicate instead?
4. How do we live our Christian freedom but balance it with the freedoms of the people around us?
5. What does a balanced life really look like?

Life Application

As you study this week's key scriptures, ask yourself if you are living a life full of gentleness, moderation, balance and genuine humility before the world, as Scripture commands us. Or are you more concerned with your freedom of speech? There are things the Bible actually says we are not supposed to say. There is a way to speak and a time to speak. We must be more aware of how we use our words and the impact they are having on our witness, on our ability to minister to other people. So this week, go on a **WORD FAST**. Consider your words. Cut back on speaking everything that comes to your mind. Say only what needs to be said. And watch how the *moderation* of your words impacts the overall quality of your life.