

THY KINGDOM COME #22
Developing A Biblical Worldview

Introduction

My title for tonight's teaching is...

"You Cannot Be Neutral In This War"

I have 3 points and a conclusion:

The Christian Worldview

- 1. We are in a spiritual war**
- 2. Neutrality is not an option**
- 3. Anyone not with Christ is against Him**

Theme

The intensity of the spiritual warfare we are witnessing today will reveal those who stand with Christ and those who stand against Him. There is no middle ground. There can be no neutrality.

I. You Cannot Be Neutral In This War

A. Our Text

1. I'm taking my text from Matthew 12, on the occasion of His casting out demons and being accused of doing so by the power of the Devil...

Matthew 12:24-25

Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."

Matthew 12:26, 28

“If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Jesus tells us that all spiritual warfare is a clash of 2 Kingdoms; the kingdom of Satan against the Kingdom of God; then, He closes the discourse with a somewhat startling statement that’s our subject tonight...

Matthew 12:30

He who is not with Me is against Me and he who does not gather with Me, scatters abroad.

2. Notice! In the context of casting out demons and the spiritual warfare between 2 kingdoms, Jesus says that anyone who is not ‘with Him’ in the war, is actually involved in the war against Him!

- a. Not to be ‘for’ Jesus is to be ‘against’ Him.
- b. Not to choose to be with Christ is to choose sides with the Devil

3. Notice that there is no place for neutrality! The Church used to understand this...

Matthew Henry

Christ describes a holy war, which He was carrying on with vigor against the devil and his kingdom, *a war that would not allow any neutrality*. In the great quarrel between Christ and the devil, no peace is to be sought...

Matthew Henry

...Nor can there be any indifference in the matter; he that is not hearty for Christ, will be accounted as against him: he that is cold in the cause (of Christ and His kingdom), is looked upon as an enemy.

4. If we are not with Christ, we are against Christ. If we are not His friends, we are His enemies. There is no neutrality.

Albert Barnes

Jesus gives this principle, that there can be but two parties in the universe. If anyone did not act WITH him, he was AGAINST Him. If one does not gather with Him, he scatters.

The Biblical Illustrator

The principle illustrated is the impossibility of a state of neutrality in the service of Christ. All not with Christ are, of necessity, against Him.

5. Friends, for me, the full force of this passage has come to clarify the nature of the spiritual warfare of we are witnessing today, where the demonic powers have come out of the closet to wage war on everything we hold dear.

a. Demonically driven politicians, pundits and government agencies are attacking the institutions of our families, churches, and our constitutional freedoms while millions of professing Christians are committing the sin of silence by seeking to sit on the sidelines.

b. History is repeating itself. Germany fell to the Nazis because German pastors and Christians tried to take a position of neutrality on the subject of politics.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

c. Most of the Christians in Germany were deceived into thinking they could remain neutral in the face of evil; they didn't realize that in seeking to take no side they were actually taking Satan's side in the struggle.

6. We have a similar situation in America today. Millions of Christians don't even vote. Thousands of Pastors are committing the sin of silence by refusing to speak God's word to power; they think they are being neutral while they are really being duped by the devil.

a. This is not some new satanic strategy. Congregationalist pastor Joel Hawes preached this back in the 19th century...

Rev. Joel Hawes

There is no device by which the god of this world more fatally deceives the souls of unwary men, than by leading them to suppose that they can take neutral ground in regard to the character and cause of Christ.

7. What else but demonic deception can explain how 80% of America's Christian pastors seek to sit silently on the fence while the forces of darkness attack everything we hold dear.

Adam Clarke

When Christ, his truth, and his servants are assaulted, he who does not espouse their cause is not on Christ's side but incurs the guilt of deserting and betraying him. Many ministers who flatter themselves as friends of Christ are really against Christ and are scattering abroad.

8. Many ministers today consider themselves to be 'friends of Christ' but have unwittingly become His enemies; the same could be said for many in the pews.

a. Brandon Clay, host of the 'TruthStory.org' website has a word for us...
young man

Brandon Clay, TruthStory.org

Neutrality is impossible. Either you follow Christ, do what he says, and let your life be reordered by his teachings OR you are against him. Be his friend or be his enemy, but you can't be anything else. Jesus didn't acknowledge any category of 'fence-sitters'.

Brandon Clay, TruthStory.org

The same is true today. Either you are a Christian and attempt to live by Christian principles or you're not. This is true of preachers, parishioners, politicians, pollsters, pimps, and prostitutes. Either you are for Christ, or you are against him.

B. Neutrality is a Myth

1. Many churchgoers believe they can sit on the fence; but the biblical worldview sees no way the human heart can be neutral.

The Biblical Illustrator

The human heart cannot be in a state in which neither Christ nor the world has the supremacy. Man must have a master and a God. Neither Christ nor His enemy will accept or allow neutrality -- serving both in turn, and hence warring against both in turn. Neutrality is impossible because Christ considers neutrality to be war against Himself. Christ requires the whole heart and life. Neutrality is seen to be practical hostility to the kingdom of Christ -- enemies of Christ.

2. Some of us are old enough to remember the struggle for civil rights back in the 1960's, led by a Christian minister, Dr. Martin Luther King.

a. King never condemned white people as racist; he condemned the white people who refused to speak up.

Martin Luther King

I agree with Dante, that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality. There comes a time when silence becomes betrayal.

3. Let me digress. Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me". So...

C. What Does It Mean to Be 'With Jesus?'

1. Some make the mistake of limiting the meaning of this to the matter of salvation; to be 'with Jesus' means that you are saved. But the context of the saying is not salvation; it is spiritual warfare!

2. To be 'with Jesus' means to agree with Him on everything He said about every subject He spoke about. And He spoke about everything!

3. To be 'with Jesus' means to say the same thing His word says about every subject:

- Marriage

- Good and evil; right and wrong
- Gender
- Abortion
- Homosexuality
- Civil government

a. To be 'with Jesus' means that we allow no neutrality when it comes to His word; we lay down our right to a private interpretation of scripture or to pick and choose our opinion on any subject.

Henry Meeter, "The Basic Ideas of Calvinism"

If God is Ruler, no man may ever insist that religion be a merely private matter and be divorced from any sphere of society, political or otherwise. God must rule everywhere! The State must bow to His ordinances just as well as the Church or any private individual.

H. Henry Meeter

This fundamental Christian principle maintains that God shall be Sovereign in all domains of life, is very insistent on having God recognized in the political realm also. For matters which relate to its own domain as State, it is as bound to the Word of God as the Church or the individual. A State is 'Christian' when it uses "God's Word as its guide.

4. In the same way there is no neutrality, there can be no compromise or accommodation to the enemy; no policy of appeasement. What is that?

"Appeasement"

A policy of pacifying an enemy or potential aggressor by making concessions; to calm or satisfy an enemy by giving what is asked for. Seeking to pacify an aggressive nation through negotiation in order to prevent war.

a. **The most infamous example of political appeasement was the 'Munich Pact' of 1938,** where the governments of England and France sought to pacify Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler who was militarily invading his European neighbors. But their weakness only emboldened Hitler who exploited their weak attempts for neutrality as he took the planet into WWII months later.

5. I recently came across an interview with actor Jim Caviezel, a devout Catholic who portrayed Jesus in “The Passion of the Christ”.

a. He gave an inspired speech warning Christian priests and pastors that there can be no compromise or appeasement with the spiritual forces of darkness that are currently coming to destroy the soul of our country.

Jim Caviezel

Every lesson in history tells us that the greatest risk lies in appeasement. And this is the specter our well-meaning Christian liberal, our bishops, priests and pastors refuse to face; that a policy of accommodation is appeasement, and it give us no choice between peace and war, only between fight and surrender.

Jim Caviezel

If we continue to accommodate, continue to back up and retreat, eventually we will have to face the final demand, Satan’s final ultimatum. But by then we will be so weakened from within our surrender will be voluntary. Satan knows this because voices from our side are pleading for peace at any price.

Jim Caviezel

The road to peace is where you and I have the courage to tell our enemies that there is a price we will not pay, there is a point beyond which evil must not advance. In the words of Ronald Reagan, “Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid.”

- a. The converse is also true: Evil is powerful where the good are afraid.
- b. Are we afraid to offend? Are we afraid not to comply? Are we willing to give up our freedom for their false promises to make us safe?
- c. What price will we have to pay to have peace with these people?

Jim Caviezel

Let’s set the record straight: there’s no argument over the choice between peace and war. But there’s only one guaranteed way you can have peace, and you can have it in the next second: surrender.

6. The sad truth is that the agents of Satan know more about the warfare than we do; they know there can be no neutrality. Their definition of peace is ‘when there is no one left to oppose them’.

Karl Marx

The meaning of peace is the absence of opposition to socialism.

a. Ever wonder why one political side never compromises or caves in or works to do the will of the people? The Marxist/Socialist worldview gives no quarter and no concessions. In this, as Jesus said, Satan’s kingdom is not divided!

7. Of course, they will never ever admit it; they will pretend they can unify us; they claim to believe in personal liberty and freedom of speech; but, as the late Francis Schaeffer pointed out, it’s only a myth!

Francis Schaeffer

There is a sad myth going round today—the myth of neutrality. According to this myth, the secular world gives every point of view an equal chance to be heard. And it works fairly well—unless you are a Christian.

a. This was written 40 years ago; he had no idea how the humanists would come to control the mainstream media and shut down conservative Christian voices on the social platforms.

8. They do everything they accuse others of doing; in the name of neutrality, they removed the name of God, public prayer, and the teaching of biblical creationism from America’s public school system. All in the name of neutrality. But they themselves were anything but neutral!

Ken Ham

“Divided Nation: Cultures in Chaos & a Conflicted Church”

Educators and legislators who removed any Christian teaching, the Bible, or prayer from our public schools did not make a neutral decision. And if the education system is not for Christ, it is against Him.

Ken Ham

The public education system, by and large, is now an atheistic system of naturalism. Naturalism is atheism, a system of belief based on the idea that man

by himself can determine truth. And because the system is not for Christ, it is against Him.

9. We lost the public school system because we went along with the myth of neutrality; we were willing to believe that the biblical worldview would have a hearing in the classroom. Gary DeMar sums up our situation today:

Gary DeMar

America's moral and cultural crisis is the result of Christians not applying the Christian worldview to every area of life. There is no such thing as 'neutrality.'

a. In his book, "Letter to the American Church", Eric Metaxas reminds us just as there is no neutrality, there is no safe middle road, no reward without risk.

Eric Metaxas, Letter to the American Church

In the parable of the talents, we see there is no safe middle path. Jesus abundantly praises the servants who risked what they were given, and unequivocally condemns the servant who has played it safe. But why?

Eric Metaxas, Letter to the American Church

For one thing, Jesus is saying that to play it safe is not to play it safe at all. There is no safe option, and if you pretend there is, you are deceived and a liar. There is no middle road, no safe road. There is no middle way. We sink or swim. We either step out of the boat and walk miraculously on the water to Jesus or we drown.

III. Close

A. Review: What Have We Said?

The Christian Worldview

- 1. We are in a spiritual war**
- 2. Neutrality is not an option**
- 3. Anyone not with Christ is against Him**

Theme

The intensity of the spiritual warfare we are witnessing today will reveal those who stand with Christ and those who stand against Him. There is no middle ground. There can be no neutrality.

1. Let me close with a word of encouragement from Voddie Baucham:

Voddie Baucham

We come to Christ with a worldview which we have never analyzed. Our worldview develops in the process of sanctification. We grow. We live in a world that sees things differently than we do...

Voddie Baucham

Maturing in Christ involves a process that overcomes our old worldviews and renews our minds. As we mature and know more of the word we come more and more into a conflict with the world. The more we know the more conflict we have.

2. The increasing conflict we feel in our day is not only the intensity of the warfare we're witnessing; it's the price you pay for developing a biblical worldview.

3. The more we know God and seek to apply His word to every area of life, the more we come to realize the nature of the warfare and the seriousness of the situation. But don't wish you knew less. God won't bless our ignorance.

Brandon Clay, TruthStory.org

Someone may say they don't know or they are unsure about Jesus. A person may be unsure about Christianity but that does not mean they are blameless. In matters of religion especially, God will hold that person accountable for their supposed-ignorance regardless of whether they've chosen to 'pick a side'. If someone says they are unsure about which side they are on, they are against Christ. Full stop.

4. I'll stop with that! Out title...

You Cannot Be Neutral In This War!

Closing Prayer