

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking out over a vast landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the land. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The land is a mix of green grass and brown earth, with a river or stream winding through it. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

MESSAGE FRAMEWORK

ROMANS 8:19 • ACTS 17:26

THE WITNESS OF SONSHIP

Creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God

THE LIFT CHURCH • PASTOR KEITH NIX

THE BIG IDEA & THREE MARKS OF A WITNESS

BIG IDEA

Creation itself is holding its breath, waiting to see what mature sons and daughters of God look like walking the earth. Sonship was never meant to stay private. Wonder gave us identity. Weight gave us maturity. Now comes Witness — the part the world can actually see.

THREE MARKS OF A WITNESS

I

WORD — WHAT WE SAY

Our sonship changes our speech. Like Paul's claim in Thessalonica, "Jesus is King" — sons and daughters speak for Him, not just about other things.

II

WORKS — WHAT WE DO

The Thessalonians' faith "became known everywhere" not just because they talked differently, but because their actions turned from idols to serve the living God.

III

WALK — HOW WE LIVE OVER TIME

Word and Works are moments; Walk is the pattern. Mature sons aren't known for one good day — they're known for years of it (Gal. 5:22–23).

TURNING THE WORLD RIGHT-SIDE UP

"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also" (Acts 17:6). The Greek word behind it means to unsettle, to agitate — these believers weren't blending in; their lives disturbed the normal way the world runs.

KEY TAKEAWAY & PERSONAL RESPONSE

THE GANDHI CHALLENGE

A line widely attributed to Gandhi: "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Historians debate the exact wording, but the sting is real. It's not an excuse for our failures — Jesus warned false and half-hearted disciples would exist. But the Spirit's aim in our Walk is to conform us to the Son: not perfection, but progress people can see over time.

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Creation is groaning for sons and daughters who actually show up as sons and daughters
— a witness the world can't manufacture on its own.*

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- If a non-Christian described your life the way Gandhi described Christians, what would they say?
- Where is your Walk lagging behind your Word?
- What would it look like to let your Word, Works, and Walk turn your world right-side up?