



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Transformed by Christ - Part 2

"What does a transformed life look like that impacts the culture?" Over the last three years, this country and the world has faced tremendous challenges. Covid has caused havoc for people all over the world. Here in America we have a political culture that has been nasty, toxic, and divisive. Nations are at war with each other and inflation has skyrocketed. We as a church are faced with tremendous opportunities in the midst of these challenges. I don't know about you, but I am tired of the media and or politicians controlling the narrative and the church not leading. The church in America has been so reactionary to everything instead of leading the way. I want to present three challenges for us as a church to embrace in our desire to impact the culture. Here's the first two. Next week I will give the third one.

Challenge #1: Pray that God would provide at least one other believer in your life who's from a different ethnic background that you can be friends with and do something for Jesus with!

With His blood Jesus purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation. As a result, the picture of worship in heaven we are given in Revelation 5 shows us that worship includes every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Acts 17:26-28 tells us that we all as humans are descendants of Adam and Eve. We know from God's Word that every human ever born has been created in the image of God with a mind, emotions, and a will. This means that everyone has dignity, value, and worth in God's eyes. The problem is that sin messed this whole thing up! Throughout history there has been conflict, discrimination, and unrest because of race, tribes, and nations. Why? Because where there is sin there will be racism. We've seen this in our own country. We must not ignore the past nor the displays of racism today. We must also recognize that politicians like to use race to divide and get votes. The only solution to this is the Gospel. Jesus transforming my heart so that I see people the way He sees people. The church must start leading when it comes to matters of race. Back in 2020, I heard Tony Evans interviewed and he offered a practical way for the church to lead. He said, this is not about where you go to church. People have different preferences where they want to go to church, but here's what needs to happen. Every follower of Christ needs to get together with someone from a different ethnic background and they need to do something for Jesus together! I've thought about that a lot over the last couple of years and have come to the conclusion that if even 75% of Christians in America would have a friendship with a person of another ethnic background and if they did something for Jesus together, it would be a game changer for our country. At that point, the church would be able to look at the world and say, "Follow us!" When racially charged events take place, the church would be able to say why it's wrong and give a picture of what is right. For those of you who are questioning whether this is really that important and that there are bigger issues to deal with, I have a couple of questions for you. If Christians, in the power of Christ, don't demonstrate how God sees people, why would we expect the world to do

anything different? If it's a big deal in heaven, don't you think it probably should be a big deal here on earth?

Challenge #2: Pray for at least one lost person and that God would give you the opportunity to share Jesus with at least one person this year.

What would have happened over the last three years if Christians would have been as outspoken for Jesus as they have been about politics? What would have happened if Christians had been as intentional about sharing the good news of Jesus with people as they have about talking about their opinions of how the whole covid situation has been handled. Many of our actions would say that we care more about lost things than we do lost people. How can we say as Christians that we are concerned about our country and never share Jesus with anyone? Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). There is a massive celebration in heaven every time a person recognizes their sin and believes in Jesus to be their Savior (Luke 15:1-10). If we want to impact our culture, we better get busy sharing Jesus with people because the root problems in our country are not political, they are spiritual and moral. The only One who can transform a heart is Jesus! Will you embrace the challenges?

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