

The Call to Be a Dangerous Church: Rising Into Our True Identity

What does it mean to be dangerous? In our world, the word carries negative connotations—reckless, harmful, threatening. But what if the church was called to be dangerous in an entirely different way? What if our danger was not to people, but to the systems of darkness that keep humanity from knowing God?

The truth is, we've become too comfortable. Too nice. Too neat and tidy. We've settled for church as a weekly gathering rather than a transformative force that changes lives and communities. But the call of Scripture is clear: we are meant to be salt and light in a decaying, dark world.

Salt That Has Not Lost Its Flavor

Jesus declared in Matthew 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth, but what good is salt if it loses its flavor?" Salt preserves. Salt flavors. Salt stands out. When salt loses its distinctive quality, it becomes worthless—good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

The church has been called to stand out, to be different, to be a light on a hilltop. Darkness exists only where there is an absence of light. The darkness we see spreading across our world is directly related to how dimly the church's light is shining. We are meant to be a threat to darkness, a threat to the plans of the enemy, a threat to everything that keeps people from the knowledge of God.

Ephesians 5:8 reminds us: "Once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light." This light within us produces only what is good and right and true. When our light shines authentically, darkness is exposed—not through condemnation, but through contrast.

Living With Eternal Urgency

One of the most sobering truths we must embrace is this: Jesus is returning. Matthew 24:36-42 paints a vivid picture of His second coming—unexpected, sudden, dividing those who are His from those who are not. The early church lived with this reality at the forefront of their minds. They spoke constantly of Christ's return, living each day as if it might be their last while simultaneously working toward future generations.

We've lost this urgency. We live as though we have endless tomorrows, as though this life is all there is. But Scripture is clear: this life is short, and eternity awaits. Jesus is not coming back to save people all over again—He's coming to judge the living and the dead, to wrap up history and usher in eternity.

When we truly grasp this reality, everything changes. Every conversation becomes an opportunity. Every day counts. Every prayer matters. Eternity should inform every decision we make because it changes the way we live.

Breaking Free From the Chains of Money

One of the greatest hindrances to people truly knowing God is money. The striving for things, the accumulation of wealth, the bondage of greed—these chains keep countless souls from experiencing the freedom found in Christ.

Second Corinthians 9 teaches us about kingdom generosity: "God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." God wants to give to us so that we can give away. He provides and increases our resources to produce a great harvest of generosity in us.

The prosperity gospel has twisted this truth, suggesting God wants to give us luxury for our own enjoyment. But that's not eternal thinking. God can entrust us with more when He knows we'll give it away for His glory. When

the church operates in true generosity—not controlled by greed or the love of money—we become dangerous to the world's systems.

Tithing is not generosity; it's obedience. It's giving back a tenth of what God has given us, not because He needs our money, but because He wants our hearts. When we can trust God with a tenth, He can trust us with more. Beyond the tithe, that's where generosity begins—and that's where freedom truly lives.

Equipped and Mature, Not Infantile

Imagine a church filled with mature, faithful believers who are equipped to serve God, who understand their calling, who are deep in their knowledge of God's Word, and solid in their relationship with Him. This is the vision of Ephesians 4—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers given to the church not to do all the work, but to equip God's people to do His work.

The church is not here to do one person's work or build one person's ministry. It's here to do the work of the kingdom of God. This continues "until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

If we're striving to be like any human leader, we're thinking too small. We need to think of the One we want to be like—Christ Himself. Maturity is what gets us there. When we're mature, we won't be "tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching." We won't be influenced by clever lies that sound like truth.

The only way to grow is through prayer, reading Scripture, worship, walking in obedience, trusting God, and getting around people who can help us grow. If we're not doing these things, it's time to start.

The Power of Dangerous Converts

Consider the demoniac in Mark 5—a man so possessed and violent that no one could restrain him. He lived among the tombs, cutting himself, crying out day and night. When Jesus set him free, the man wanted to follow Him. But Jesus said, "No, you need to stay. Tell people what I've done."

And he did. He went throughout the Decapolis—ten cities—telling everyone what Jesus had done for him. He didn't go to seminary. He didn't sit in church for thirty years. He got radically delivered, radically saved, and immediately went out and told people. When Jesus returned to that region later, the Gospel had already spread because one dangerous convert didn't wait to feel qualified.

Or consider the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. She was despised, an adulteress with a broken past. She came to draw water in the heat of the day to avoid people. But when she encountered Jesus, everything changed. She left her water jar—the very thing she came for—and ran back to the town that hated her, saying, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

Many Samaritans believed because of her testimony. That's a dangerous convert—someone who knows Jesus and immediately tells others, regardless of their past or qualifications.

Set Apart, Not Blending In

Christianity has been blending into the world for far too long. We're not meant to blend in. We're meant to be sanctified—set apart. This doesn't mean we act like weirdos or smack people over the head with Bibles. It means we live differently in the spheres of influence God has given us.

Ephesians 4:17-24 calls us to "live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness." Instead, we're to "put on your new nature created to be like God, truly righteous and holy."

Living set apart isn't elitism. The church's doors must remain wide open for people to come—but they should come into a community that's living according to God's plan by His strength, not into compromise. We need to

be different. We need to stop excusing sin and calling it grace. Jesus sets us free from bondage; we shouldn't invite people to stay in chains.

The Dangerous Power of Unity

Jesus prayed in John 17:23, "I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the whole world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."

Unity is powerful. Unity is dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. But unity requires fighting against offense, laying down pride, and choosing reconciliation over division. When the church can walk together despite differences, the world sees how real Jesus is—because it's impossible for humans to truly get along apart from Him.

The Call Forward

The call to be a dangerous church is simply the call to be who God has designed us to be. It's the Father saying, "Come, there is more. Take my hand, walk with me. Rise into who I've called you to be so that you can live the life, make the difference, bring glory to my name the way I designed you to do before you were born."

As we rise up and grow in our understanding of this calling, we will become a genuine threat to evil and darkness. Our lives will point people to Jesus in ways so powerful that chains will be broken, souls will be saved, and entire regions will never be the same.

No more settling for nice churches with nice meetings that say nice things and play nice with the world. We are meant to be the opposition to the devil and darkness. We are called to fight the good fight of faith and take hold of the eternal life to which we were called.

The question is not whether we can do this. The question is: will we?