

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: The Conversationalist
Message: Why is the Church a Mess?
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: January 29, 2023

For us, as Jesus' church, to fulfill our mission to be light in the world, we must be diligent and focused. One of the consistent dings against the church is it is filled with hypocrites. To negate this claim, we need to be humble, honest, and open to change. The following are some key areas for us to focus our attention. As you prayerfully consider each, ask God to show you anything He wants you to do to make it a reality in your daily life.

Confessing and repenting of our own sin.

⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:8–9 (NLT)

Forgiving those who wrong us.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT)

Speaking the truth in love to each other.

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

Offering grace, truth, and love to our neighbors.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:39 (NLT)

Patiently explaining to those who don't know Him, who Jesus is and what He alone offers.

¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19–21 (NLT)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ²⁸ “An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹ “No, he replied, you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.”
Matthew 13:24–30 (NLT)

Evil in the world is not God’s fault and it will be with us until history wraps up.

God is neither blind nor incapable of dealing with it.

That He lets evil persist is evidence of His love and patience.

The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent.
2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

His church is called to be a “light in the darkness” showing people what God alone offers.

¹⁴ You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT)

We can only do this if we commit to...

Confessing and repenting of our own sin.

Forgiving those who wrong us.

Speaking the truth in love to each other.

Offering grace, truth, and love to our neighbors.

Patiently explaining who Jesus is and what He alone offers.