



REAL MEN

Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!

Real Men are Conservative!

Jude 3

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on July 20, 2024



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the Men's Ministry series: **REAL MEN: Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer. **Pray!**
- Turn to **John 17**
- We are living in interesting times.
- The purpose of this series is about rediscovering how God expects His men to live in this confused and sin-wrecked world.
- 2024 is an election year and with last weekend's assassination attempt on former president Trump, all eyes are focused on this election.
- This is not going to be a political message, though we will touch on politics.
- In John 17, Jesus is praying to His Father in heaven for His disciples and for all believers after them.
- **John 17:13-16**
- God saves us and then leaves us in this world to be 'salt and light'.
- That means God wants us to influence this world.
- Jesus then tells us what the primary tool is for influencing this world.
- **John 17:17-21**
- Verse 18 says Jesus sent us out into the world.
- As believers, we are not to be isolationists spiritually.
- We exist, after we are saved, to carry the gospel out to the rest of the world in whatever way God made us.
- Turn to the short epistle of Jude – it is right before Revelation.
- The Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God carried faithfully by the people of God out into the world in the name of the Son of God is what changes the world around us.
- We begin doing that right here in the church.
- **Jude 3-4**
- That phrase, 'once for all', has the idea of once and never again.

- The faith that was handed down to the disciples by Jesus is same today as it was 2,000 years ago.
- Jude was inspired to tell us to contend for the faith.
- As believers we are to fight for the faith – to keep it pure and to share it with others.
- Now turn to **Jeremiah 29**
- The question before us this morning is, “Where does faith fit with politics?”
- Let’s begin with the etymology of the word politics.
Politics (etymology): politike, "pertaining to public affairs, concerning the governance of a country or people," from Old French politique "political" (14c.) and directly from Latin politicus "of citizens or the state, civil, civic," from Greek politikos "of citizens, pertaining to the state and its administration; pertaining to public life," from polites "citizen," from polis "city" (see polis).
- Politics is the device that is used to establish how the people are governed.
- The concept of the separation of church and state is older than this nation.
- Remember, the first colonizers came here to escape government-mandated religion that was contrary to the faith.
- The Establishment clause of the First Amendment was meant to keep the government out of the affairs of the church.
- But it was never meant to keep God out of the government.
- The declaration of Independence includes this:
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
- Jeremiah was a Jew in Jerusalem at the time Babylon conquered Israel and took many captives back to Babylon.
- God tells Jeremiah to write a letter to those in Babylon.
- **Jeremiah 29:4-6**
- God communicated to the Jews in captivity that they would be in Babylon for seventy years before God delivered them back to the Promised Land.
- Here God tells them to do everything they can to flourish while they are there.
- But also...

- **Jeremiah 29:7**
- ‘seek the peace of the city’ and ‘pray for it’.
- Seeking peace and praying for peace are two different but connected things.
- We will circle back to that in a minute.
- **Jeremiah 29:8-14**
- There is a specific application of those verses for the nation of Israel – God had a good plan for them that included bringing them back to the land of Israel.
- There is also an application for us as non-Jewish believers of the Messiah, Christ Jesus.
- God has a good plan for our lives and promises to come and deliver us from this world and bring us to be with Him forever.
- Let’s look back to verse 7.
- I believe this is a mandate from God for Christians to be involved in politics.
- **Jeremiah 29:7**
- Both ‘seek’ and ‘pray’ are in the imperative form, which means they are commands.
- We understand what it means to pray for peace, though we probably aren’t praying for the right kind of peace most of the time.
- To ‘seek’ means “to try to get or reach something one desires.”
- It includes action and involvement - in this case the peace of the city.
- But what kind of peace must we pray for – the absence of conflict?
- No, because even if you could achieve it, it won’t last.
- The peace we want is the peace of God.
- The peace of God is made possible through faith and obedience to God’s Word through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.
- We live in a nation that is divided just about every way it can be.
- And the conflict is not just about politics, but worldview, ideology, race, sexual identity, and many other things.
- What this world needs is Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

- But until He comes back, the world needs real men to stand and be salt and light in the darkness of this world, including in the area of politics.
- For the most part, our political system is divided into two parties; Republican and Democrat, with Independents making up a small percentage of those who don't want to associate with the other two.
- Should Christians be Republicans or Democrats?
- Should we be Conservatives or Liberals?
- Frankly, none of the above! We should be Christians.
- We should vote for the candidate that is closest to our values and beliefs.
- For example: one of our beliefs is in the sanctity of life.
- And we believe that life begins at conception (**Psalm 139:14-16**).
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.
- And that means that, with exceedingly rare exceptions, all abortion is evil and wicked.
- Our perfect candidate would be a man or a woman who held that same belief.
- But what if our only two choices are someone who believes in abortion up to the time a heartbeat can be detected versus someone who believes there should be no restrictions at all on abortion.
- We can't just not vote! If we are going to seek the peace of our city, state, or country, we must do something to try to influence the vote toward the light.
- We must choose the lesser of two evils so that the greater evil can be stopped.
- Any place the Bible speaks on an issue, God's men must be stand firmly.
- In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul describes the church as the pillar and ground of the truth.
- Every position we take in politics must be based on the revealed truth of God.

- There are some things that come up in politics that God didn't speak about.
- For example, Republicans/Conservatives tend to believe in small government.
- Democrats/Liberals tend to want big government.
- What does the Bible say about that? Nothing!
- The Bible teaches us that God establishes government and we are commanded to submit to the government, unless contrary to God's Word.
- I have an opinion. I believe big government tends to be more corrupt than small government.
- Also, all governments seek to rule over its people.
- Our founding fathers established the government of this nation believing that people should be self-governed.
- The government should only step in when bad actors try to take advantage of our freedom to hurt others.
- Because the Bible doesn't tell us which one is right or best, we can disagree with others and both be right or wrong.
- If the Bible doesn't say something, we use common sense and trust God.
- This would include things like immigration, the military, foreign affairs, and others.
- Where the Bible speaks about something like homosexuality, sexual immorality, sexual ideology, transgenderism, same-sex marriage, and other things like this – we must stand on the truth and against those things.
- Just in the same way we would stand against something that encouraged murder, rape, or other heinous acts.
- Listen, I am registered as a Republican, but I am not a Republican, I am a Christian who believes the Republican platform more closely aligns with my values and beliefs.
- But I don't agree with everything in the Republican platform.
- I am not a Democrat because a large part of their platform is contrary to my faith.
- I am not a liberal, but I am also not a conservative.

- I am a Christian man. Christianity is conservative. (**Glen Peoples**)
“The message of Scripture, and of the church that grew from small beginnings in the first century, is that this faith is one that is carefully handed down and must be carefully received and preserved, guarded against those who would seek to change it.”
- Christian men, Real Men, are conservative of the things of God.
- Gentlemen, we are less than four months away from what might be the most significant elections of our lifetime.
- Real Men seek the peace of the city, state, and country we live in.
- That peace will come as God’s people, especially the men stand on the truth and seek peace – the peace of God – found in faith and obedience to God’s Word.
- I don’t know if California can be saved, but I believe this country can be.
- Christians must be actively involved in politics.
- We must encourage Christian men to run for political office and support those men whose values most closely align with ours.
- If we aren’t actively seeking peace and praying for it, we will end up with the opposite of peace.
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be real men!
- **Let’s pray!**