



SHEPHERDS

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

Men and Truth!

Psalm 112:1-9

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on September 20, 2025



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- I don't know how it hit you, but it shook me when an assassin's bullet took the life of Charlie Kirk a week ago Thursday.
- Let's open with a word of prayer for his family. **Pray.**
- Charlie Kirk was a man of God.
- He wasn't perfect but he was living a life that was worthy of being imitated.
- He knew, believed, and lived the truth in a way that could be admired.
- There are many in the world who are trying to turn this into a political conversation, right versus left, or conservative versus liberal, or straight versus transgender.
- That is the wrong conversation – this is a spiritual thing. **Ephesians**

6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- This is a spiritual battle of good versus evil, truth versus lies, light versus darkness.
- Jesus warned us this would be the reality of living in this world. **John**

3:19-21

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.

- When someone chooses to walk in truth and the light of Jesus Christ, the world will respond.

- Some will be drawn to the light and the hope of heaven in Christ Jesus.
- But others will be offended by the light and truth and may respond to the love of God with hate and violence. **John 15:18-19**
¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
- At times like this it might seem that darkness is winning and driving out the light.
- That is impossible. Light always defeats darkness, both in the physical realm and in the spiritual.
- There seems to be a cultural shift taking place.
- People who are trying to walk in truth and light are waking up to the spiritual reality of the culture around them.
- As men of God, we ought to be walking in truth and light in a way that others can follow us to Christ.
- As men of God, we know we are called to be like Christ.
- But what does that mean? How do we do that?
- What does Christlikeness look like when my wife is in a bad mood or fearful about the future.
- Or when my kids are making bad choices?
- Or when your boss is being unreasonable, abusive, or unfair?
- How do we walk in the light when life throws something really hard at us unexpectedly?
- Like getting injured, sick, or someone close to us dies.
- How do we act like Christ in a state where they are passing laws that say they can take your kids away if you don't affirm them in whatever delusion the culture is pushing this week?
- Often when we think about or talk about being Christlike, we will use general terms, be more holy, obey God more, or share Jesus.
- Those general terms may be true, but they are not always helpful.
- And that is a problem for a message like this because the specific things you need are not the same as the specific things the man sitting next to you needs or the man watching this online.
- The same thing is true for any woman watching this online.

- My hope is to be able to point you in the right direction of the specific, practical ways you can be more like Christ.
- The fact is that no man or woman has the answer to the question of how do I live like Jesus.
- Only God, the Holy Spirit can answer that question.
- All man will ever be able to do is give you a general idea of how to do it or how they have done it.
- Those kinds of things help, but it is not the answer we need to live a life that is worthy of imitating and admiring.
- If you don't want to live a life that glorifies God, a life that matters, a life that impacts the world, then none of this really matters.
- Or if you are unwilling to put in the work to be a better man of God, well, at least you had a decent breakfast.

- The apostle Paul gives us a starting point for this conversation. **1 Corinthians 13:13**

¹³ **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

- These are the three things we want to see manifesting in our lives if we are walking with Jesus.
- But where do they come from? **John 15:4-5**
- ⁴ **Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**
- The fruit of abiding in Christ is faith, hope, and love.
- The apostle Paul commended the Thessalonians for these fruits. **1**

Thessalonians 1:2-4

² **We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.**

- Notice that their faith was working, their love was laboring, and their hope was causing them to be patient.
- Both faith and love must be expressed to others, and Christlike faith and love works hard to touch the lives of others.
- Christlike hope is confidence that God is faithful and will keep His promises.
- A Christlike life is one that is bearing the fruit of faith, hope, and love.

- And the verse in John 15 said that happens through abiding in Christ.
- That leads us to the natural question, how do we abide in Christ.
- It is not possible to answer that question in the limited amount of time we have.
- If you want to challenge yourself and grow in your knowledge of what it means to abide in Christ, I suggest Andrew Murray's book *Abide in Christ*.
- One of the things Charlie Kirk's assassination reminds us of is that the darkness hates the light of the truth.
- So, what do we do with that? How do we respond to the darknesses hatred of the light of the truth. **1 John 1:7**
⁷ **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- We walk in the light, abiding in Christ.
- The light is the truth.
- Twice in John's gospel Jesus said He was the Light.
- He also said He was the truth. **John 14:6**
⁶ **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**
- As we abide in Christ, we will walk in the light, we will walk in the truth.
- One of the realities of abiding in Christ is that it is Christ who does the work of bearing fruit.
- Just as the branches on the vine simply abide in the vine and take nourishment from the vine.
- The vine provides everything required to bear fruit.
- The difference between Jesus and the vine is that Jesus is not stationary.
- When we walk with Jesus, that means we are going where He is leading us.
- And that is very personal to every believer.
- I can't follow Jesus where He is leading you – He is not leading me there.
- While abiding in Christ implies resting in Him, it is not inactive resting.

- To walk with Jesus, we need to be busy doing those things that help us to walk with Him.
- The first of those things is **Know the Truth.**
- Jesus is the truth so knowing the truth means knowing Jesus better and better.
- Jesus tells us how we can do that. **John 17:17**
¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**
- One of the primary ways we get to know Jesus better is reading, studying, memorizing, and teaching God's Word.
- I can tell you your commitment to Christ by your commitment to the Word of God.
- The Bible is truth, it teaches us everything we need to know about Christ.
- And if you are going to tell me you are too busy to read your Bible, say it the right way, you are too busy to for Jesus.
- You are too busy to get to know Jesus, who stepped down out of heaven to let His creation crucify Him for you.
- I learned an acronym for busy a long time ago: Bound Under Satan's Yoke.
- Everyone has seasons where it is exceedingly difficult to make time for God's Word, I have.
- Jesus sacrificed His life to make a way for you to get to know Him so you can live a life that glorifies God.
- Is it unreasonable for you to sacrifice something so you get to know Him better?
- To walk with Jesus, you need to know Him.
- The main way we get to know Jesus is through His Word.
- The second thing you need to do is **Believe the Truth.**
- Is God's Word true? **Psalm 119:160**
¹⁶⁰ **The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**
- If God's Word is true, then we should believe it.
- Even if the rest of the world disagrees.
- Even if our own heart disagrees.

- You will never walk with Christ if you don't believe every word in the Bible is true.
- The third thing we need to strive for if we want to walk with Jesus is to **Live the Truth.**
- Three quick things, about living the truth.
- First, to live the truth, **It must be visible.**
- You cannot really claim to be walking with Christ if no one can see Christ in you. **Matthew 5:13-16**
¹³ You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Walk with Jesus means walking in the truth, walking by faith.
- James tells us that faith that cannot be seen is dead faith.
- Second, **It must be motivated by love.**
- The purpose of taking the light out into the darkness is so the lost can see their way to Jesus.
- God is love and everything He does is motivated by love.
- If we are going to walk with Jesus, we are going to love the one Jesus loves – all of them.
- The better we know Jesus, the more we want others to know the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- But they are living in the spiritual blindness and darkness, and someone needs to love Jesus enough to show them the way out of the darkness.
- The third and last thing, **It must point them to Jesus.**
- Jesus came to change the lives of everyone on earth. **John 10:10**
¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
- We are in a battle for the souls of every human on this planet.
- The devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy every good thing God made – namely humans made in the image of God.
- Jesus wants them, every one of them to come out of the darkness and experience His abundant life.

- When we walk with Jesus, that's what we want to.
- I can't say whether Charlie Kirk's death is going to spark a revival, but I do now that now seems like a good time for God's people, especially God's men, to take their faith more seriously and walk more closely with Jesus.
- The darkness is already beaten – walk in the light!
- **Let's pray!**