

Love Wins: Being a People Who Delight in Jesus' Leadership

I. THE CERTAINTY OF VICTORY IN THE MIDST OF THIS CURRENT DARKNESS

- A. I am grieved that the highest court in our land has defied the authority of God's Word; yet I am filled with hope that the Lord will use what the enemy means for evil and turn it around for great good. We must see what God's Word says about the coming crisis while also seeing His glory in the crisis, so that we are spiritually prepared to trust His leadership and love well in all that is coming.
- B. *"We weep over our sins. We don't celebrate them. We don't institutionalize them."* —John Piper
- C. We are living in a critical turning point in human history. We see America in a time of transition. The coming season is an important step in training the Church to walk in faith and victory in the context of the events related to the Lord's return, when pressure will greatly increase.
- D. Love wins; it never fails. Love wins when it is in agreement with the One who is love incarnate. One of the foundations of Christian faith is that Jesus *is* love. He is the perfect embodiment of love, liberty, justice, grace, and dignity. All who resist Him are resisting true love, liberty, and human dignity. Humanistic approaches to love can never bring people to genuine love.
⁷*[Love]...bears all things...hopes all things, endures all things.* ⁸***Love never fails.*** (1 Cor. 13:7-8)
- E. Marriage is the only social institution ordained by God *before* the fall of man—the only means of procreation, resulting in eternal human beings. The new law in America will demand the promotion of homosexuality through the public school system; it will criminalize those who resist it, with new hate crimes bearing consequences—economic, children removed from the home, prison, etc.
- F. How we respond to the deep cravings of our heart or body is an important part of our relationship with Jesus. Our love for and commitment to His leadership is expressed when we face our cravings in a spirit of faith and obedience, knowing that this is the way to true love, liberty, and dignity.

II. SOME DYNAMICS TO CONSIDER IN UNDERSTANDING THIS HOUR

- A. ***Jesus' leadership***: We commit to His leadership and His zeal for love that flows from mercy.
- B. ***Institutionalized sin***: This results in an increase of darkness that defiles a nation.
- C. ***The coming crisis***: The crisis will include war, terrorism, economic pressures, and persecution.
- D. ***Preparing the Church***: God will overrule darkness to prepare the Church for great revival.
- E. ***The falling away***: Many will leave the faith in the end times (2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2).
- F. ***Compassion for pain***: the deep pain of people related to not experiencing romantic love
- G. ***Contend for democracy***: We recognize God's gift in granting us a democratic nation.
- H. ***Respond in love***: Respond to Jesus as faithful witnesses, to people in kindness, to society in service.

III. THE END-TIME DRAMA

- A. There will be a falling away in the end times (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-7).

³*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day [Jesus' coming] will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin [Antichrist] is revealed. (2 Thes. 2:3)*

¹*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...³ forbidding to marry. (1 Tim. 4:1-3)*

- B. The Lord has planned tribulation as the context in which *many* will be purified in love (Dan. 11:33; 12:10). The Lord's plan for His Church will greatly succeed—multitudes will love and honor Him.

³³*And those of the people who understand shall instruct many. (Dan. 11:33)*

¹*There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was...your people shall be delivered...³ Those who are wise shall shine...those who turn many to righteousness like the stars...¹⁰ Many shall be purified, made white, and refined...the wise shall understand. (Dan. 12:1-10)*

⁹*“...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...¹⁴ These...come out of the great tribulation.” (Rev. 7:9-14)*

IV. HOW TO RESPOND

- A. We are to respond by loving Jesus, as faithful witnesses of the truth, loving people with pastoral sensitivity, and loving our nation by our full engagement in the work of God's kingdom.
- B. God's people are to be faithful witnesses: we are to be bold, clear, and kind in speaking and acting with a spirit of love, confident in Jesus' leadership, which alone brings love, liberty, and dignity.
- C. We must boldly teach what Scripture says about sexuality, including the gift of sexuality and what the Word says about adultery, fornication, divorce, and homosexuality. Scripture prohibits same-sex intercourse (Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim 1:10; cf. Lev. 18:22; 20:13). It is a double standard to speak of homosexual immorality while not being zealous for heterosexual purity and honoring marriage. Jesus offers tender mercy to all who have yielded to homosexual or heterosexual immorality; He offers forgiveness, freedom and grace to repent and to walk in His ways

⁹*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*

¹¹*Such were some of you. But you were washed...you were justified. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)*

²⁶*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful...*

²⁸*God gave them over to a debased mind, to do things which are not fitting. (Rom. 1:26-28)*

- D. We can be faithful to the truth and show great kindness to people in immorality, both heterosexual and homosexual, and to Christians who understand the Word, as well as those who do not.