

HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE TO MY LOST CULTURE

Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

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- + John 17:11, 14-15, "Jesus said, Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, You have given Me Your name; now protect them by the power of Your name so that they will be united just as We are . . . ¹⁴I have given them Your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one" (NLT).
- + 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, "Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹²so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need" (NASB).
- + Colossians 3:23, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (NLT).

To Build A Bridge To My Lost Culture, I Must Remember These Truths

1. Because we are being watched, we cannot risk _____ ourselves only to our Christian community (vv. 9-10)

- + Luke 19:10, Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (NLT).
 - The Greek New Testament word Paul uses for "love" in verse 9 is [φιλαδελφία; philadelphia]. You know this word to mean "the city of brotherly love." The word originally referred to "the love that particularly binds together the children of one _____."
- + John 13:1b, Jesus said, "Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (NASB).
 - See the phrase "He loved them to the end"? When we read this, we tend to think that Jesus loved His disciples as long as He could or until His last breath. That is not what John means here in describing Jesus' love for His disciples. The phrase the phrase suggests Christ loved His disciples "to the farthest extent of their _____ and His _____."

2. Because we are being watched, we cannot risk _____ faith that creates doubt rather than faith. (vs. 11a).

- + 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, "Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night" (NLT).

3. Because we are being watched, we cannot risk _____ lifestyles because that creates an attitude of idleness (vs. 11b).

- + Proverbs 13:4, "Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper" (NLT).
- + Proverbs 18:9, "A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things and relationships" (PAR).
- + Proverbs 19:15, "Lazy people sleep soundly, but idleness leaves them hungry" (NLT).
- + Colossians 3:23, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (NLT).
- + 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12, "Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. ¹² We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living" (NLT).

4. Because we are being _____ with others which creates an attitude of entitlement (vv. 11-12).

- + 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, "Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care of your own business, and do your own work as we have already told you. ¹²If you do, then people who are not believers will respect you, and you will not have to depend on others for what you need" (NCV).
- + Colossians 4:5-6, "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person" (NASB).

Based On Colossians 4:5-6, How Do We Apply These 4 Truths?

1. We must remind ourselves that non-Christians are _____ and we must live our lives with wisdom.

+ Philippians 2:5, "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had" (NLT).

2. We must remind ourselves that non-Christians are _____ and learning to see if our words about grace match our actions with grace.

+ Proverbs 15:1, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (NLT).

+ Proverbs 15:28, Jesus said, "The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking" (NLT).

+ Matthew 15:11, 18, "It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth . . . ¹⁸ But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man" (NLT).

+ Ephesians 4:29, "When you talk, do not say harmful things. But say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will help those who listen to you" (ICB).

3. We must remind ourselves that all individuals are created in God's image, so we must respond to everyone with _____ and _____.

+ Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person" (NASB).

+ Matthew 7:12, Jesus said, "Treat other people exactly as you would like to be treated by them" (JBP).

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***** Next Steps Devotional Questions *****

1. Does your spiritual life reflect a "both/and" or an "either/or" approach to obedience in Christ? Why?
2. As you look over the 4 points on how to build a bridge to our lost culture, which one should you focus on more now and why? When will you begin?
3. As you look over the 3 points of application, which one should you start applying now and why?