

LIFE GROUP LESSON

What Happened to Civility • Week of October 14

The lack of civility we see today is a precursor to what will one day be unleashed. The apostle Paul tells the church in Thessalonica: “Don’t you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? And you know what is holding him (the man of lawlessness) back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of His mouth and destroy him by the splendor of His coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:5-8).

1. The lawlessness in our world today is concerning. But there is coming a ‘great rebellion against God’. What concerns you most regarding the lack of civility in today’s world?

How has it affected you in recent months?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11

2. Paul says: ‘Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun’ (v2a). Refer to the following Scriptures that speak of ‘the day of the Lord’ and note at least one take-away from each passage that gives insight to you personally. What in each passage is convicting? What is comforting?

Malachi 4:1-3 Daniel 7:13-14 Matthew 24:37-44 Acts 1:6-11
Hebrews 12:25-29

The day of the Lord is coming. It is a date set on Heaven’s calendar. As Christ-followers we must remain alert and full of love and hope—always ready to share the truth with those around us. We must not forget “A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 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... our Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved” (2 Peter 3:8b-9, 15a).

3. As we are patient with one another, we emulate the great patience of our Lord. What we speak reveals our heart, and our actions reveal our faith. Discuss how patience – listening, understanding, speaking with love and a genuine heart of compassion – can foster civility at home, in the workplace, or marketplace, wherever.

Practicing civility actually honors Christ. How is civility a precursor to the coming Kingdom of our Lord?

No matter what our station in life, there are certain boundaries to which we must adhere. To live with an attitude of lawlessness is to align with the ‘man of lawlessness’ the one who “will come to do the work of Satan” according to 2 Thessalonians 2:9. Rules are necessary for order and laws are in place to protect us—so that everyone has an opportunity to live into their purpose, enjoy life, and live peaceably with our neighbors.

4. God says: “But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve” (Jeremiah 17:10). How are your actions speaking these days – do your actions reveal *faith*?

What areas/attitudes need to change in you? Do you need to tune out of some things in order to tune into the things of God?

“Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, ‘Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.’” Ephesians 5:10-14



Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11

PLAIN TRUTH:

What we _____ reveals our _____,
and our _____ reveal our faith.

1. Your words either feed _____ or
attract people to the _____.
2. You say what you _____ and you reveal
your _____ in what you _____.
3. Whatever you find _____ (alarming),
gets your _____ and
_____.

One Year Bible Reading

Oct. 14: Jeremiah 23:21-25:38, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17, Psalm 84:1-12, Prov. 25:15
Oct. 15: Jeremiah 26:1-27:22, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18, Psalm 85:1-13, Prov. 25:16
Oct. 16: Jeremiah 28:1-29:32, 1 Timothy 1:1-20, Psalm 86:1-17, Proverbs 25:17
Oct. 17: Jeremiah 30:1-31:26, 1 Timothy 2:1-15, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 25:18-19
Oct. 18: Jeremiah 31:27-32:44, 1 Timothy 3:1-16, Psalm 88:1-18, Prov. 25:20-22
Oct. 19: Jeremiah 33:1-34:22, 1 Timothy 4:1-16, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 25:23-24
Oct. 20: Jeremiah 35:1-36:32, 1 Timothy 5:1-25, Psalm 89:14-37, Prov. 25:25-27

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