

FUTURE CHURCH



A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

A Community of Orthodoxy in a Culture of Ideological Idolatry

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

04.18.2021

John Mark Comer

A community of orthodoxy in a culture of ideological idolatry.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

We live in the age of ideology.

Ideology:

1. It's when you take a part of the truth and you make it the whole.
2. When you take a good thing and make it ultimate.

Could it be that ideology is the idolatry of our generation?

“There is mainstream culture, celebrities, fashion, music, modish political activism and a message of self-love, but with a twist of Christianity. Most people stick with mainstream culture because they can have all those things and pre-marital sex. We can see the ‘...with a twist of Christianity’ trend elsewhere. [Jerry] Falwell was representative of the right-wing, business-oriented evangelicals who offer capitalist self-enrichment and hubristic jingoism...with a twist of Christianity. Then there are progressive Christians... who promote the usual left-wing causes...with a twist of Christianity. While different in beliefs, such people share patterns of thought: the former believe secular individualists mysteriously share God’s wishes for what should be done with money while the latter think that secular progressives mysteriously share God’s wishes for what should be done with bodies. So, if Christianity is such an inessential add-on, why become a Christian? I am not religious, so it is not my place to dictate to Christians what they should and should not believe. Still, if someone has a faith worth following, I feel that their beliefs should make me feel uncomfortable for not doing so. If they share 90 percent of my lifestyle and values, then there is nothing especially inspiring about them. Instead of making me want to become more like them, it looks very much as if they want to become more like me.”

- Ben Sixsmith, *The Sad Irony of Celebrity Pastors*

2 Corinthians 11:13

...false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away!

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

The world in the NT is a system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion against God and the redefinition of good and evil.

“Our cultural and social practices, that are under the control of Satan and, thus, opposed to God.”

- Dallas Willard

“The world is Satan’s domain, where his authority and values reign—though his deception makes that hard to realize. If you are of the world, then it all seems right.”

- Dr. Gerry Breshears

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

For though we live in the world...

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

...we do not wage war as the world does.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power...

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

...to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Orthodoxy

Paul calls on us as followers of Jesus to aim the deconstructionist impulse not at the orthodoxy of the way of Jesus but at the ideologies of the world.

Scripture

Scripture is a library of writings that are both human and divine that together tell a unified story that leads us to Jesus.

Scripture Entry Level: Seek to spend at least ten minutes each day in the scriptures, with BREAD as a guide — journaling if you're able.

Scripture Reach Level: Give as much time as you're able to BREAD each day — and do it before you turn your phone on.