



Collusion or Collision: Intro
From sermon 4.11.21

Read *1 John 2:15-17*

Review from Sunday's sermon: We now live in darkening and changing days. The safety and anonymity of historic American Christianity will be gone shortly. Unlike other eras and locations, American Christianity has allowed for "a foot in both worlds". The Bible says there will be a common experience of hostility, by the world and by worldly churches, toward those who are faithful to Scriptures and to preaching the whole counsel of God. It's time for the church to prepare. Christians need to make their decisions now, before the day(s) of great trial.

1. The repeated message on Sunday was: Everyone has a collision in their future. Explain what this means. As pre-end times people, everyone will be forced to declare an allegiance to either the world or to Jesus—as He is revealed in Scripture*. Alliance and commitment to one will bring an inevitable collision (enmity, the Bible says) with the other. There will be no more compromise, neutrality, or middle ground. What are your initial thoughts and fears when you hear this? Various Personal Answers.

2. What is meant by the term "private faith"? Biblically, what aspects of our faith are private, and which ones were never meant to be? We should all have daily, quiet, & private time with the Lord. All healthy relationships do. Although we go to corporate worship once a week, most of our worship and communion is alone with Christ. However, too many have made faith exclusively private. No one in our lives (co-workers, neighbors, associates, etc..) would even know we are Christian, because we look, act, speak, and respond just like the world. We fear being ousted from the "group" and so have no public witness of our salvation. See also and discuss *John 9:18-22 & John 19:38-39*

[the days are coming when an exclusively private/silent faith will equal collusion with the world.]

3. We said that the Bible points out that one good gauge of the authenticity of our faith is how the world likes us or treats us. Read *Luke 6:26 & James 4:4*. Discuss what Jesus and James are stating. Both of them are saying there are only two camps—the world or the Kingdom. You can no longer safely exist in both. The world will treat authentic Christians the way they treated Jesus. If they don't/aren't, maybe we are representing Jesus accurately.

4. Once again, we reviewed that most of what calls itself church has already chosen. Give some examples of the worldly values, goals, & structure that have been brought into the Church. Various personal observations. But, we'd include marketing, business, emotion, manipulation, denying the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture, making Jesus a champion for social justice and equality and church its rallying point. Worldly music, language, definitions, and dress.

5. Review each of the following terms/titles. Discuss their collision with biblical Christianity.

- Liberalism: adding reason, logic, philosophy, & "science" to Scripture. Making God relative to the day and culture. Abandoning the Scripture and labeling it human in origin.
- Pragmatism: saying what works/what's successful and fills seats must be right = God's blessing
- Prosperity gospel: promising the faithful health, wealthy, and victory...none of which are found promised in Scripture.
- Activism*: shaping the church and preaching to the current social causes in the world. Speaking a political opinion in the name of God.
- Universalism: an ecumenical unity movement that no group, church, denomination, or even religion has a monopoly on truth. God has revealed Himself in many ways and, in the end, all roads lead to the same God.