

Redemptive Conflict

Sermon Series

November 19, 2023

I. How to Live Redemptively in a Conflicted World?

- Living in a conflicted world can feel uncomfortable and unpredictable.
- When we're in that environment 24/7, we can start to think and act in ways that are unlike how we usually think or act, that are maybe even unlike Jesus.
- Living in a conflicted world is something that Jesus and the early Christians had a lot of experience with. The early church didn't just survive in such a brutal world - they thived in it.
- In the midst of conflict, God challenges us to rise to our calling in both our attitudes and our actions.

II. Rising to the Redemptive Call (Acts 4:29-32)

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
(Acts 4:29-32)

- Fear can be a powerful motivator. It can keep us from fully living out our mission as Christians.
- The Holy Spirit that God gives us can help us overcome this fear and live in faith, despite what's going on around us.
- **"Consider their threats..."** God doesn't ask us to minimize reality.
- **"Enable your servants..."** We continue to ask God to use us as we reach out to the world.

III. The Redemptive Response for Followers of Jesus (Acts 4:32-35)

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. (Acts 4:32-35)

- **They stayed united.** They were "one in heart and mind."
- **They were generous.** They "shared everything that they had."
- **They became known for their care.** They had "no needy persons among them."
- Christians were sharing the hope of Jesus in both word and action.

IV. Conclusion

- God has given us what we need in order to live faithfully instead of fearfully.
- "It's not your fault but it is your responsibility."

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 4:29-35. From these verses, what inspires you or challenges you about the early church?
2. Can you think of someone you know who models living in faith rather than fear? How has their example impacted you?
3. What additional practical steps can you take to share Jesus with others who are hurting or afraid? Do you feel challenged to share more in word or in action?