

Reprove the World

“And when he is come, **he will reprove the world...**”

John 16:8

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them.**”

Ephesians 5:11

Introduction:

1. The first text above is the prophesied ministry of the Holy Ghost through the Lord's eleven apostles.
2. The second text is the duty of ordinary Christians by the Spirit to reprove the world by their actions.
3. Most churches make it their mission to fulfill the Great Commission, which is wrong several ways.
4. The Great Commission is fulfilled (PPT slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/great-commission.pdf>.
5. Due to their error, some Christians preach on streets, hand out tracts, speak out foolishly, debate, etc.
6. With the use of social media, Christians throw barbs and Bible verses equally, arguing and debating.
7. The N.T. epistles are quiet about verbal witnessing by Christians, but they are not about their lifestyle.
8. The N.T. epistles do not speak of full-time Christian service as many conservative Christians assume.
9. Therefore, let ordinary Christians fulfil their Spirit-led duties as well as the apostles of Jesus did theirs.
10. Let us try to accomplish our purpose here by focusing on no more than eight main points or passages.
11. Submit to scripture by rejecting any false concepts of evangelism and/or any foolish urge to debate.
12. How many colleagues have you converted, since you spend so much time with them for many years?
13. If you think you have zeal, where are the converts? If you think you are in the Vine, where is the fruit?
14. There are many links at the end of this sermon outline with much more for serious Christians to study.

#1 ... Proving Godliness & Reproving the World

- A. Ephesians 5:7-13 is a great passage within the larger great passage of Ephesians 5:1-17.
- B. 5:7 ... start by not partaking of worldly sins – your sinful living is over (I Peter 4:1-5).
- C. 5:8 ... God chose us out of the world, so let us live like His children (Phil 2:14-16).
- D. 5:9 ... the Holy Spirit in us (as in the apostles) should lead to fruitfulness (Ga 5:22-23).
- E. 5:10 ... our actions show the world the validity and value of God's rules (Rom 12:1-2).
- F. 5:11 ... we avoid unnecessary social friendship with the world (II Cor 6:14-17; Jas 4:4).
- G. 5:12 ... the world is so bad and contrary to God that we take the high road talking of it.
- H. 5:13 ... a godly life is the Lord's light to reprove darkness (Eph 5:8,14-17; Jn 3:19-21).
- I. Reproving here is by actions; in fact, to get along we avoid words (I Cor 5:9-10; 10:27).
- J. Due to the silence of the N.T. and the order to get along peacefully, we do not debate.
- K. Think! How often did Joseph or Daniel rebuke or shame their pagan superiors or peers?

#2 ... You Fight the World by Obedience

- A. Proverbs 28:4 says our disobedience praises the wicked, our obedience condemns them.
- B. Are you not sick seeing and hearing the world's wickedness (Ps 119:136; Acts 17:16)?
- C. You want to be Phinehas with a javelin or David with a sling, but there is a better way.
- D. Your disobedience ends reproof of them by Christians and/or confirms their rebellion.
- E. Your obedience condemns them for being different (think conscience) and bears fruit.
- F. Note carefully that there is no verbal sparring here at all; in fact, it is counterproductive.
- G. Many sinners justify their wicked lifestyles by hypocrisy they have seen; take it away.
- H. Fight abortion by great kids, divorce by a great marriage, sodomy by role beauty, etc.

- I. Fight rebellion and disregard of authority by submitting yourself to all five spheres.
- J. Proverbs 28:4 commentary ... http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/28_04.php.

#3 ... True Love Proves Christianity

- A. John 13:34-35 records that Jesus taught it very clearly to His mighty men, the apostles.
- B. If you think you know better, you contradict the Lord and prove why you have no fruit.
- C. Based on some attitudes and actions, He should have taught them Apache evangelism.
- D. No other men ever had such authority and doctrine, but their mark was brotherly love.
- E. The main point here is grasp that actions are much weightier than anything you can say.
- F. Love is the opposite of contending and fighting, and it is to those within, not without.
- G. Words like this from the Lord should excite and motivate you to consistent affection.
- H. Sermons, *Love Is the Greatest* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/love-is-the-greatest-2.pdf>.

#4 ... Actions Speak Louder than Words

- A. Proverbs 20:11 is an axiom of human existence – that conduct proves your character.
- B. It is harder to lie with your life than with your mouth. Your life proves your religion.
- C. Everyone knows your heart by your life, no matter what you hide or what you think.
- D. Let this burden crush you – the louder your talk, the louder your walk had better be.
- E. A good tree does not bear bad fruit; you can repent and start bearing good fruit today.
- F. Exceptions prove a rule; repentance works; David was loved before and after adultery.
- G. If Proverbs 20:11 is true, we ought to add the rule of James 1:19-20 to stop our talking.
- H. Proverbs 20:11 commentary ... http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/20_11.php.

#5 ... Are You a Living Epistle?

- A. II Corinthians 3:1-3 confirmed Paul's ministry by the changed lives of the Corinthians.
 - 1. How were these church members known and read of all men ... without any words?
 - 2. Their changed lives in one of the world's most lascivious cities spoke quite loudly.
 - 3. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read. Is it consistent and perfect?
 - 4. Is your life a perfect translation of the Holy Spirit of God that wrote in your heart?
 - 5. Sermon outline, *Living Epistles* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/living-epistles.pdf>.
- B. I Peter 3:1-2 teaches that conduct without words can win a pagan spouse (I Cor 7:16).
 - 1. Are you able to read the big, bold print? – this soulwinning is without using a Bible.
 - 2. This is a very hard project of reproof ... to love a spouse and yet gently reprove sin.
 - 3. It is not done with words, especially by a wife under authority; it is done by deeds.
 - 4. Winning a colleague is easier, for you are with them only 40 hours a week, not 24/7.
 - 5. For a detailed exposition of I Peter 3 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/first-peter-three.pdf>.

#6 ... But I Want to Fight More Aggressively

- A. These persons are guilty of the sin of debate, but excuse it by Nehemiah, John, or Jude.
 - 1. Debate is a sin unless it is a debate God has called you to participate in (Rom 1:29).
 - 2. Debate is rightly a *Forgotten Sin* (page 8) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/forgotten-sins.pdf>.
 - 3. Nehemiah contended for truth violently, but he was the governor (Neh 13:23-31).

4. John Baptist rebuked Herod for adultery, but he was a man from God (Luke 3:19).
 5. Jude wrote to earnestly contend for the faith, but it was in the church (Jude 1:3-4).
 6. Instead of making so much odious and offensive noise, exalt much greater godliness.
- B. These persons get too excited by I Peter 3:15 by not understanding its context or issue.
1. First, you must have full sanctification of God in your heart and meekness and fear.
 2. Sanctifying God in your heart is exalting Him as the Lord of your life in all conduct.
 3. Meekness and fear are a humble, reticent, and submissive spirit, not a fiery debater.
 4. Being ready always with an answer is for questions on trial for your religion (3:14).
 5. This is not you trying to shove truth down anyone's throat, for they must ask first.
 6. The same rule applies to the passage by Solomon, they must ask first (Pr 22:17-21).
 7. They must ask about your hope, which is only shown by living above circumstances.
 8. You must give them a reason for your hope, not blustering condemnation of fools.
 9. For a detailed exposition of I Peter 3 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/first-peter-three.pdf>.
- C. Sharing truth with someone that has not asked is often sinning against Christ (Matt 7:6).

#7 ... A Few Verses of Reproving the World

- Dan 6:4-5 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.
- Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- Phil 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
- 1Thess 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.
- 1Tim 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
- 1Tim 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
- Titus 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
- Titus 2:9-10 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.
- 1Pet 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- 1Pet 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

#8 ... A Few Examples of Reproving the World

- If you hate *slothfulness* ... be the hardest worker at your company without workaholism.
- If you hate *rebellion* ... stop your compromise or disrespect with any sphere of authority.
- If you love *the Bible* ... live perfectly in obedience to it, since Bible-haters are watching.
- If you hate *drunkenness* ... drink with the caution and limitations of being a king-priest.
- If you hate *bankruptcy* ... live within your means, save systematically, and avoid risk.
- If you hate *rebellious youth* ... train yours like the Bible teaches and honor your parents.
- If you hate *mocking authority* ... be careful to fully submit and reverence all five spheres.

If you hate **abortion** ... love your children and grandchildren and promote happy families.
If you hate **complaining** ... make sure you give thanks and praise more than anyone else.
If you hate **moodiness** ... rule your spirit and do not give into your own bouts of despair.
If you hate **sodomy** ... have the most fantastic, opposite-sex marriage and love life ever.
If you hate **divorce** ... be you the world's greatest spouse by God's perfect, written rules.
If you love **Christ** ... make your job full-time service to Him as it is written (Col 3:22-25).
If you hate **dysfunction** ... be the most organized and happy person they have ever seen.
If you hate **transgendering** ... be the perfect example of your gender to all, everywhere.
If you love **truth** ... be the most consistent, faithful, persevering person to goals and rules.
If you love **Christ** ... show what the world expects of Christians – joy, love, peace, hope.
If you hate **conflict** ... be the gentlest and most peaceful person, ignoring all circumstances.
If you hate **jesting** ... be a sober talker with joy and pleasure with thanksgiving and praise.
If you hate **stealing** ... make sure you are perfectly free from job purloining (Titus 2:9-10).

Conclusion:

1. Do you love how the apostles turned the world upside down by their reproofing work by the Spirit?
2. Then embrace your duty to live such a holy life that it turns the spotlight of God on worldly darkness.
3. It was expedient for apostles Jesus left for the Spirit to come, are your choices expedient (I Cor 10:23)?
4. Do you get frustrated at the moral implosion and Christian compromise taking place on every side?
5. Then embrace your duty to live such a holy life that it convicts and condemns others for their treason.
6. Words of accusation without a perfect life only add to your hypocrisy in the sight of God and of men.
7. Blustering declarations of doctrine or quotations of scripture without holiness mock Christ's religion.
8. Let the only charge they can ever bring against you is faith in Jesus Christ backed by righteous living.

For Further Study:

1. Great Commission is Fulfilled (PPT slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/great-commission.pdf>.
2. Three Basic Rules for Living (PPT slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/three-rules-preached.pdf>.
3. Actions Speak Louder ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/actions-speak-louder-2.pdf>.
4. Things Becoming Sound Doctrine ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/things-becoming-sound-doctrine.pdf>.
5. Living Epistles ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/living-epistles.pdf>.
6. Lights in the World ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/lights-in-the-world.pdf>.
7. A Good Name (PPT slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/good-name-04-27-2016.pdf>.
8. Evangelism – One Soul at a Time ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/evangelism-one-at-a-time.pdf>.
9. Evangelism – For Love of a Soul ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/love-of-a-soul.pdf>.
10. Proverbs 11:30 Commentary ... http://www.letgodbetruer.com/proverbs/commentaries/11_30.php.
11. Proverbs 20:11 Commentary ... http://www.letgodbetruer.com/proverbs/commentaries/20_11.php.
12. Small-Pill Evangelism Explanation ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/evangelism-small-pill.pdf>.
13. Small-Pill Evangelism Examples ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/evangelism-small-pill-table.pdf>.
14. Why No Invitation? ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/why-no-invitation.pdf>.
15. Why Preach the Gospel? ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/why-preach-the-gospel.pdf>.
16. When Was Cornelius Saved? ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/salvation/when-was-cornelius-saved/sermon.php>.
17. Revelation 3:20 Reclaimed ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/bible/heresies/rev3-20.php>.