

The Church's Public Witness

Standing Firm in Truth with Humility

A Statement on How the Church Engages Moral and Cultural Issues

Synopsis: The Church's Public Witness

This position paper affirms that Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation (Colossians 1:16–18). His authority extends beyond personal faith into every area of life — including culture, ethics, and public life. Because of this, the Church cannot limit biblical teaching to private spirituality while remaining silent about moral issues that affect society (1 Timothy 3:15).

The paper looks to the example of Christ and the apostles, who spoke clearly and courageously in the face of moral confusion and opposition (Acts 5:29; Acts 17:17). Faithful obedience includes public proclamation of truth, even when it is unpopular.

At the same time, Scripture commands that this conviction be joined with humility. Believers are called to be kind, patient, and gentle when correcting others (2 Timothy 2:24–25). The Church must stand firm without becoming combative, speak boldly without becoming arrogant, and trust God alone to change hearts.

The paper rejects two extremes: retreating into silence out of fear, and engaging culture with hostility or triumphalism. Instead, it calls for biblical boldness marked by love (Ephesians 4:15), moral courage, and Spirit-shaped humility.

In summary, the Church's public witness is not about cultural control but about covenant faithfulness to Christ. In times of instability, clarity is more necessary — not less. Therefore, the Church commits to proclaiming truth with courage, anchored in humility and governed by love.

I. Jesus Is Lord Over Everything

We believe without hesitation that Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation (Colossians 1:16–18). His authority is not limited to our private faith or what happens inside a church building. He is Lord over every part of life — personal, family, church, business, education, government, and culture.

The Bible does not teach that faith belongs in church while the rest of life runs on different rules. God rules over everything. Our laws, schools, businesses, and cultural values all reflect what we believe about right and wrong and about human nature. None of these areas are neutral.

Because Jesus is Lord, His Word speaks clearly about justice, the value of life, marriage, sexuality, stewardship, leadership, truth, and human dignity. The Church is called “the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). That means we cannot limit biblical teaching to personal devotion while staying silent about how it applies to public life.

To say Jesus is Lord but refuse to speak about the real-life impact of His teaching would be inconsistent.

II. The Example of Jesus and the Apostles

Jesus showed us how to live faithfully in the world.

He confronted religious hypocrisy (Matthew 23). He corrected misunderstandings of God’s Law. He exposed sin. He boldly proclaimed the Kingdom of God. He did not speak harshly for attention, nor did He avoid hard truths to gain approval. He spoke with clarity and purpose.

The apostles followed His example:

- Peter told government leaders, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
- Paul spoke publicly in synagogues and marketplaces (Acts 17:17), addressing false beliefs and moral confusion.
- The early church’s preaching even disrupted economic systems built on idol worship (Acts 19).

Their courage did not come from cultural support. It came from confidence that Jesus truly is Lord.

We reject the idea that staying silent in times of moral confusion is spiritual maturity. The Bible consistently shows that faithful obedience includes speaking the truth.

III. The Right Attitude

While Scripture calls us to speak clearly, it also tells us how to speak.

Paul writes:

“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.”

— 2 Timothy 2:24–25

This passage guides how Christians should engage others.

1. **Not Quarrelsome** – We do not look for fights or arguments. We do not speak just to win.
2. **Able to Teach** – We must understand what we believe and explain it clearly.
3. **Patient** – We stay faithful even when treated unfairly.
4. **Gentle** – Gentleness is not weakness. It is strength under control. We correct others with the goal of helping, not humiliating.
5. **Trusting God** – Only God changes hearts. We speak the truth, but God brings repentance.

Conviction and humility must go together. We stand firm without being harsh. We correct without cruelty. We speak boldly without arrogance.

IV. Expecting Opposition

The Bible makes it clear that truth often meets resistance.

The prophets were rejected.

Jesus was opposed.

Paul was persecuted.

Difficult times are not unusual in Christian history (2 Timothy 3:1–12).

Opposition does not remove our responsibility — it makes our responsibility clearer.

Fear cannot guide the Church. Wisdom is good. Cowardice is not.

When Christians stay silent out of fear, other voices fill the gap. In moments of moral confusion, neutrality is not really neutral.

V. Boldness Without Hostility

We reject two extremes:

1. **Silence for the Sake of Peace** – Avoiding truth to avoid conflict.
2. **Aggressive Pride** – Trying to dominate culture with anger or contempt.

Biblical boldness is different. It includes:

- Faithfulness to Scripture
- Moral courage
- Care for people
- Serious thinking
- Humility shaped by the Holy Spirit

The Bible tells us to speak “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Truth without love becomes harsh. Love without truth becomes empty.

Our goal is not to control culture. Our goal is to be faithful to Christ.

VI. Why Public Witness Matters

The gospel is not just about personal comfort. It speaks to what is real and true about life itself.

If Jesus is Lord, then His Word shapes:

- How we understand human identity
- How we value life and death
- What we believe about justice
- Our view of marriage and family
- How we handle money and resources
- How leaders should govern

To preach Christ but avoid these issues would be inconsistent.

Our task is not to align with political parties. Our task is to speak clearly from Scripture.

VII. Our Commitment as a Church

As a church body, we commit to:

- Teaching the whole message of the Bible (Acts 20:27).
- Applying Scripture to today's moral questions.
- Thinking deeply and carefully about cultural issues.
- Speaking with humility, patience, and gentleness.
- Trusting God alone to change hearts.



Our goal is not to protect our influence. It is to remain faithful to Christ.

Our confidence is not in cultural approval but in God's sovereignty.

Our hope is not in temporary power but in the eternal Kingdom of God.

In times of cultural uncertainty, clarity becomes more important — not less. Therefore, we will continue to speak the truth with courage, grounded in humility and guided by love.