

The Kingdom Counter-Punch

by John Brown

Acts 17:6-7

Matthew 20:20-28

I John 4:15-21

- The Apostolic Ministry of Paul and Silas (and the New Testament Church) was “turning the whole world upside down.” Acts 17:6-7. Can we be accused of that today?
 - **Subculture:** (a) A group (within a society) of persons of the same age, social or economic status, ethnic background, etc. and having its own interests, goals, etc. (b) The distinct cultural patterns of such a group. – Webster’s New World College Dictionary.
 - **Counter-culture:** a culture, as that of many young people of the 1960’s and 1970’s, manifested by a lifestyle that is opposed to prevailing culture. – Webster’s New World College Dictionary.
 - Comparison of subculture and counter-culture:
 - ‘Sub’ means under or beneath:
 - Sub-marine
 - Sub-terranean
 - Sub-way
 - Sub-par
 - ‘Counter’ means alternative or opposition:
 - Counter-intelligence
 - Counter-maneuver
 - Counter-offensive
 - Counter-revolution
 - Counter-point
 - “...Those who turned the Roman Empire upside down have arrived here, also. And these, all of them, are doing things contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another King of a different nature, Jesus.” Acts 17:6-7, Wuest Translation.
- There is another kingdom and another King, Jesus!
 - The Kingdom of darkness:
 - Colossians 1:13
 - Galatians 1:4
 - Ephesians 2:1-10
 - I John 5:18-19
 - The Kingdom of God
 - John 18:33-37
 - The word in NASB for realm (v 36) is also translated “side” and “source”: “but really the source of My Kingdom is not here” ...John 18:36 – The Berkley Version of the NT.
 - “My Kingdom...does not belong to this world...my Kingdom has not this origin...” John 18:36 – The Weymouth NT
 - “My Kingdom is not from here...” – The Interlinear Bible.
 - The gospel of the Kingdom

- Teaching and proclaiming the Good News, Matthew 4:23
 - Healing the sick, Matthew 9:3-5, Luke 11:20, Luke 4:18-20.
- The Kingdom Effect, Romans 14:17
 - The Kingdom is not “natural”.
 - The Kingdom is spiritual.
- The Kingdom of God is designed to be a counter-culture NOT a subculture.
 - The world system could not ‘overcome’ or ‘overpower’ the ministry of Jesus and His Kingdom. John 1:1-5, Psalm 145:13
 - We have been rescued from the system of this world and are part of the Kingdom. Colossians 1:13, Galatians 1:4
- The Church – Ambassadors of Divine Espionage – II Corinthians 5:17-21, I John 4:4, I John 4:17-18.
 - We are agents of the Kingdom of God (the counter-culture) rooted in spiritual reality, grounded in love and equipped for covert activity...bringing people to Jesus! Matthew 16:13-18.
- The church: we are agents equipped both to be “violent” and vivacious”, Matthew 11:12, Luke 12:32, I John 3:8.
 - Authority through servant hood and submission
 - John 6:38 – For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
 - John 8:28-29 – So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”
 - God’s will, His purpose, His imitative and His pleasure illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 20:20-28
 - We must have “20/20” spiritual vision.
 - A servant’s heart and mind-set are powerful weapons against the spirit of this age.
 - A servant’s heart, a life that serves thoroughly counter-acts the plans of the enemy.
 - A life that serves is a true-counter-punch to the evil one because he plans on your being full of yourself...like he is.
 - Condition of the heart life:
 - Selfish
 - Self-righteous
 - Self-impressed
 - Self-centered
 - These are all dealt with by this one attitude of heart::self-less (see I John 4:15-21)
 - Power and authority are inseparably linked to the grace and humility of serving Him and all those He loves.
 - It’s “your serve”.
 - We are being prepared via the process known as transformation. Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20.
 - Learn from the leaven. Matthew 13:33
 - We have the enemies training manual and playbook. Psalm 18:26
 - The opposition can’t break our coded instructions...power via gentleness and humility.
 - Strength and courage in the midst of human weakness. II Corinthians 12:9
 - Freedom through committed abandonment to Jesus. John 8:31-36, I John 4:18
 - We conquer via two secret ingredients...Salt and Light. Matthew 5:13-16