

Saying “Yes” in a “No Way” World

Saying Yes to Standing Up for What’s Right

Cultural unrest seems like it’s becoming the cultural norm these days. Protests are a daily occurrence ... so much so that only the most violent are even making the news these days. I don’t know about you, but I sometimes wonder why we seem to be dealing with the same issues our nation and our world have been dealing with for hundreds of years. Surely we’d expect to have made progress after all these years, after all those protests, and after all those legislative laws meant to put an end to poverty, injustice, racism, and oppression. But like the Whack-A-Mole game, the isms keep popping their heads up. What’s holding us back? In a “No Way” world, how can we effectively say “Yes!” to Standing Up for What’s Right?

Acts 5:17–42

1. Why do you think Jesus and the early church chose not to address the world’s most pressing problems?

2. The church stood up for _____, not against _____.

3. The early church was hyperfocused on one thing: _____.

4. The church isn’t here to _____ ... we’re here to _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I’ll personally invite one person to join me for worship next week
- I’m ready to sign up for the Directions Discipleship Course
- I want to “Get Involved” with the RCC Ministry (online or otherwise)

Digging Deeper

Saying “Yes” in a “No Way” World by Standing Up for What’s Right

Scripture: Acts 5:17–42

Introduction: The world has a different idea about how to “fix things” than the church does – or at least, like the church is supposed to. Let’s be honest, the United States was founded on protests. The Boston Tea Party was one of the first public protests against those in authority. After over 200 years, not much has changed. Those in power are different, but societally we’re still struggling with racism, poverty, gender oppression, and a host of ‘isms. But the church has a secret – protesting against something isn’t nearly as powerful as standing for what is right.

1. Read Acts 5:17–20. Why were the religious leaders “jealous” of the apostles and the church?
2. What was the message the angel told the apostles to share with the crowd gathered in the temple courts?
3. What would you say about this “new life” if an angel instructed you to share it with the public?
4. Read Acts 5:33–40. Why do you think Gamaliel had so much influence over the Sanhedrin?
5. Why do you think the message of the “new life” was so inviting to the crowds? Why do you think it was so threatening to the established religious leaders?
6. Read Acts 5:41–42. How did the apostles and the church respond to the unfair and oppressive behavior of the religious leaders?
7. Dr. Bill said that the apostles and early church were hyperfocused on disciple making. Why do you think this was? (You may want to revisit Acts 1:8.)
8. What will you be doing this week to focus more on disciple making?

***Next Week: Saying Yes to Doing the Right Thing
Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?***