

“The Heart of a World-Changer”
October 14, 2018

Ephesians 3:7-12

CORE: Paul encourages the Ephesian churches to be world-changers. His life is an example of what a world-changer looks like.

1. World-changers live in a state of childlike joy & wonder!

- For Paul, **the grace of Jesus never got “old”**
- Stayed amazed at His **undeserved, yet unreserved supernatural empowerment (Def. of “grace”)**
- **As a Pharisee—he had worked himself to death to keep the (613) requirements of God’s Law—finding himself frustrated and powerless to keep all of them (*Romans 7*)**
- **“Forgiven much” he had come to “love much!” (*Luke 7:46-47*)**
- He had found grace to be **“*the working of His mighty power!*” (*Ephesians 1:19*)**

2. World-changers connect with people where they are—in order to connect them with the Father!

- **He wanted everyone to have a life-changing encounter with Jesus.**
- **1 Corinthians 2:4- More than “*persuasive words*”—“*demonstration of the Holy Spirit’s power*”**
- **CONNECTION is the purpose of all gifts/ministry (i.e., healing, prophecy)**
- **“*Make it plain*”—clear, simple, astonishing message of God’s love & power found in Jesus!**
- **1 Corinthians 9:19-23—pliable & adaptable to reach more people**

3. World-changers live in child-like dependence on their Father!

- **Paul had been an angry, self-righteous terrorist raging against the church**
- **One of the most brilliant men of his time. His letters are among the most powerful (*and most read & studied*) pieces of literature ever written**
- **“*Least of all of God’s people*” was not feigned “smallness”—but declaration of the greatness of God’s mercy!**
- **He was deeply convinced he hadn’t worked for any of the anointing he walked in—Jesus was worthy of all thanks for the life-flow thru him!**
- **“*I was the worst of sinners*” (*1 Timothy 1:16*) affirmation that God’s worst enemies can be restored!**

- Fruitfulness in ministry didn't ruin Paul—with more success he only became more grateful
- Humble people rest in their identity—free to encourage others

4. World-changers are unshakeable—as they shake the heavenly realm!

- *“Wisdom of God...made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (v. 10)*
- As we live the Gospel, we not only take an authentic message into the world—we send a terrifying message to the powers of darkness: *“We will not be shaken, we will not compromise, we will follow Jesus, and we will not back down!!!”*
- *“This (terrifying hell) is part of “His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 11)—our actions on earth have a significant impact in the heavenly realm!!!*
 - *As disciples ministered healing & deliverance, Jesus saw Satan “fall like lightning” from place of spiritual influence in a region (Luke 10:18)*
 - *Paul was known and feared in hell (Acts 19:15)*
 - *World-changers are cheered on by Heaven—and are dreaded by hell.*
- The **source of our confidence** is **not self-made**.
 - **Pride & faith are total opposites.** (Pride is self-focused; Faith is God-focused)
- The fact that *“we may approach God with freedom and confidence” (v. 12) makes us unshakeable!*
 - **Confident freedom from fear is only found in knowing what Jesus has done, who Jesus is, and who Jesus is in us!!!**
- **Jesus promises: “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”** *The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe!!!” (Hebrews 12:26-28)*

CONCLUSION-

Being world-changers is our legacy & part of our lineage. It's in our spiritual DNA!!!