

Open Your Eyes: Eyes Wide Open

Isaiah 58:1-14 (MESSAGE)

Dallas Willard *The Spirit Of The Disciplines* "The world can no longer be left to mere diplomats, politicians and business leaders. They have done the best they could, no doubt. But this is an age for spiritual heroes – a time for men and women to be heroic in their faith and in spiritual character and power. The greatest danger to the Christian church today is that of pitching its message too low."

There's a tendency for us to _____ from God's bold vision and replace it with a much _____ of our own!

Isaiah 1:10-17 (MSG).

James 1:27 (NIV) ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:26-27 (MSG) ²⁶ Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. ²⁷ Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

It's our faith _____ that actually shows and proves the authenticity of our faith

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We tend to be defined more by what we're _____ than what we're _____

The Church has a poor track record for being on the _____ of the great social issues of the day:

Mark 7:6-8 (NIV) *Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.*

What are the _____ in our world right now that we aren't seeing?

Where are we being _____ into the prevailing winds of our culture?

How can we avoid the same _____ that the Church has made in the past?

Matthew 13:13-15 (NIV) ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV) I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation... ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..."

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Martin Luther King Jr. *Letter From Birmingham Jail* "We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."