

What Should My Posture Be?

The Cultural Shift

Clean and Unclean in the Old Testament

The Pharisees and the Unclean

Jesus and the Unclean

Mark 1:40-42: 40 A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. 41 Moved with compassion [Greek: *splagchnizomai*], Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" 42 Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed.

Paul and the Athenians

Acts 17:16-17: Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked [Greek: *paroxuno* - see Hebrews 10:24: "Let us consider how to spur one another on toward love and good deeds."] within him as he was observing the city full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

We need to move:

- From O_____ to P_____ (C_____ E_____)

Dealing with the Lost

1 Peter 3:15-17: Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

Ephesians 5:18-20: Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. [Note: *In the context of the spiritual battle against principalities and powers*]. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Colossians 4:2-6: Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Greg Koukl's Advice

- Just put a p_____ in their shoe!
- Don't b_____ the fruit!

Listen to People's Story

The Grace and Truth Tension

John 1:14, 16-17: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.... Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and [b] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

Erich Zenger: It strikes me that part of the "well-regulated slumber" of the contemporary Western church is an unnatural focus on "being nice." We see being non-controversial as an essential part of our witness. Yet our emphasis on "niceness" can lead to the absolute denial of the church's awkward, angular, prophetic office that is so clearly outlined both in the prophets and the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels.