

The Tyranny of the Respectable

Sent from my iPhone

1/The soft tyranny of "respectable" Christianity is a faith that has been carefully declawed, house-trained, and told it may bark in the sanctuary but must whisper in the streets.

It says: Preach vaguely. Don't offend. Blend in. Mind optics. Avoid headlines. In short, behave.

2/We have confused gentleness with timidity. We have mistaken prudence for paralysis. We have traded prophetic clarity for public approval. We have learned how to speak just enough truth to sound faithful and just little enough to remain safe. So we hedge. We qualify. We soften.

3/And all of it is justified in the name of "keeping our witness." But a witness that never risks anything is not a witness. It's, as josh daws calls it, the "idol of evangelism." It is background noise in a culture moving fast and paying no attention to our niceness.

4/The apostles did not say, "We must obey God... unless the optics are bad." They said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

And yet we have raised a generation of leaders fluent in institutional survival & illiterate in holy courage instead of speaking truth.

5/We get sermons that are safe but forgettable. Convictions that never collide with power. Worship that is comfortable but not transformative. Piety without boldness. And discipleship that never costs anything. All the while, culture marches on, unbothered.

6/This is what "respectable Christianity" produces: Believers who are sincere but sidelined. Pastors who are orthodox but irrelevant. Churches that are tolerated b/c they are harmless. We say we know nothing of persecution but that is b/c we do nothing worthy of any persecution.

7/ Christ did not die to create a harmless people. He died to purchase a bold one. A people who fear God more than headlines. Who love truth more than applause. Who value faithfulness more than funding. Who would rather lose influence than lose integrity.

8/Those that are not loud for the sake of noise or outrage. But courageous for the sake of Christ .

Not culture warriors.

Kingdom witnesses.

Prophetic servants.

The hour is late and the fog is thick.

"Respectable" Christianity will not hold.

Only costly Christianity will.