

SERMON OUTLINE Various Texts

The Great Divide

INTRODUCTION

THE GREAT MARK OF GODLESSNESS: TO OPPRESS OR DEPRIVE JUSTICE FROM THE ORPHAN

THE GREAT MARK OF GODLINESS: TO LOVE AND PURSUE JUSTICE FOR THE ORPHAN

Fighting for the Orphan Is What God Does

Fighting for the Orphan Is What God Commands

Fighting for the Orphan Portrays the Gospel

PRACTICALLY LOVING AND PURSUING JUSTICE FOR THE ORPHAN

1. *Speak up for them*
2. *Provide for their needs*
3. *Support those who support them*
4. *Protect them from harm*
5. *Visit them where they are*
6. *Give sacrificially.*
7. *Encourage them to press on*
8. *Adopt them*
9. *Help mobilize our church*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that the way we treat orphans is the great divide of humanity. And the main takeaways are that we would fight to grow as a church in the kind of Christ-like character out of which orphan-care is entirely natural, and to continue to make a real difference, for the glory of God, according to the Word of God, in the lives of the fatherless.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. In what contexts have you heard someone speak of injustice or oppression? How did it compare to the biblical idea? What does it look like when someone acts on a faulty understanding? What happens when someone fails to act on a right one?
3. What do you think of when you think of Orphan Sunday? Are there any ways that Orphan Sunday has affected you?
4. What are the most significant marks of godlessness? What are the things that most frustrate God? What is most antithetical to God's character? Did oppression of the orphan come to mind in your answers and can you explain why it is?
5. Which of the passages that Pastor Dave quoted best helps you see God's mind/heart regarding the mistreatment of orphans?
6. Had you ever considered the fact that according to God's Word, oppressing orphans is on par with the idolater, the parent-curser, the thief, the most sexually perverse, and the murderer?
7. Did lovingly working for justice and putting down oppression of the fatherless make your list of key expressions of godliness? Which verse from the sermon helps you see that most clearly? Why do you think it doesn't come to mind for many Christians?
8. Can you clearly and confidently explain the God-designed connection between orphan care and the gospel?
9. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Ask one godly person who knows you well to share an area in your life that you might not see very well.
11. Find one specific way, to work with one other person, to go after one of these things for the cause of the orphan: Speak up for them, provide for their needs, support those who support them, protect them from harm, visit them where they are, give sacrificially, encourage them to press on, adopt them, help mobilize your church.
12. If you know of a family pursuing adoption, ask them how you can pray for them, encourage them, and support them.
13. Partner with Together for Good to help keep families intact.
14. Offer to help work on the adoption policy for Grace Church.
15. Begin working toward becoming a foster parent.
16. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
17. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

18. Adoration. Praise God for being Father to the fatherless, defender of the weak, and for merciful to the orphan.
19. Confess. Confess any indifference you have toward the vulnerable or any ways you've oppressed the weak.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God for adopting you into His family through Jesus and for the many good examples we have of, and opportunities for, orphan care at Grace Church.
21. Supplication. Ask God to comfort orphans, put down those who put them down, and strengthen those working in orphan care.