

Not My Job: The Reason You ARE Your Brother's Keeper

Key Takeaways:

- 1. As Jesus' disciples, we have a responsibility to not be stumbling blocks to others.*
- 2. Our freedoms in God's kingdom differ from our rights as citizens of a country.*
- 3. We are called to prioritize the good of others over our individual liberties.*
- 4. Our actions and words, even in digital spaces, can impact others' paths to Christ.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1. The pastor mentioned the contrast between how people presented themselves in public in the past versus today. How do you think this relates to*
- 2. our responsibility as Christians to represent Christ to others?*
- 3. Jesus warns about causing others to stumble. In what ways might we unintentionally become stumbling blocks to others in their faith journey?*
- 4. How does the concept of being "our brother's keeper" challenge our typical understanding of individual rights and freedoms?*
- 5. The sermon touched on the Church of the Nazarene's stance on alcohol. How can we balance personal liberty with being mindful of others who might struggle?*
- 6. In what ways has technology and social media affected our ability to see others as full human beings created in God's image?*
- 7. How can we better represent Christ in our online interactions? What might need to change in our digital behavior?*

8. *The pastor emphasized treating every interaction as if it could determine someone's next step towards or away from Christ. How does this perspective change how we approach our daily interactions?*

Practical Applications:

1. *This week, before posting or commenting online, pause and ask yourself: "How might this impact someone's view of Christ and His followers?"*
2. *Identify one area where you might be exercising your liberty in a way that could potentially cause others to stumble. Pray about how to address this.*
3. *Make an effort to have more face-to-face interactions this week, especially with people you might typically only interact with online.*
4. *Reflect on your rights as a citizen versus your responsibilities as a Kingdom citizen. Journal about any tensions or insights you discover.*
5. *Practice seeing others as full human beings, especially those you disagree with. When tempted to react negatively, pause and pray for that person instead.*
6. *As a group, brainstorm ways your church or small group can be more mindful of those struggling with addictions or past hurts, creating a welcoming environment for all.*

Closing Prayer: *Lord, help us to live as citizens of Your kingdom, prioritizing the good of others over our own rights and comforts. Give us wisdom in our interactions, both online and in person, that we may always point others towards You rather than becoming stumbling blocks. May our lives reflect Your sacrificial love and grace to a world in need. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

QUICK-HIT Questions (for less formal discussion)

Pick and Choose from any questions that might fit your discussion

1. How might our online interactions and social media presence be causing others to 'stumble' in their faith journey, and what can we do to be more mindful of our digital impact?
2. In what ways have we prioritized our individual rights and liberties over our responsibility to care for others in the body of Christ?
3. How can we balance living out our faith boldly while also being sensitive to not becoming a 'stumbling block' for others, especially in divisive cultural issues?
4. What does it mean to truly be our 'brother's keeper' in today's society, and how can we practically live this out?
5. How might our approach to controversial topics like alcohol consumption reflect our understanding of Christian liberty and responsibility to others?
6. In what ways has the digital age affected our ability to see others as full human beings created in God's image, and how can we counter this dehumanization?
7. How can we cultivate a spirit of humility and self-sacrifice in our daily lives, following Paul's example of considering his accomplishments as 'garbage' compared to knowing Christ?
8. What are some practical ways we can prioritize face-to-face interactions and genuine relationships in an increasingly digital world?
9. How might Jesus' strong words about causing others to stumble challenge our approach to evangelism and representing Christ to non-believers?
10. In what ways can we as a church community work to restore unity and heal divisions, both within the body of Christ and in our broader society?