Unashamed

"Navigating the Complexities of Faith and Authority"

1. Paul respects the office even when he does not agree with the man.

2. Trouble comes when we focus on hot button issues, but the wise Christian doesn't get sidetracked away from conversations that matter.

3. There will always be temptation to deny Jesus or be ashamed of our faith. Our desire should be like Paul's, to disciple people to become like Jesus as we are becoming like Jesus.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. ***PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).***

Point #1 Paul respects the office even when he does not agree with the man.

a) What are some ways you've caught yourself, like Paul, speaking evil against authority?

b) Where do you draw the line between respecting the office and having to oppose it?

Point #2 Conversations that matter > Hot button issues

a) What are some of the hot button issues the world sidetracks the church with, or vice versa?

b) Like the Chick-Fil-A CEO, what are the important things we might point people to?

Point #3 There will always be temptation to deny Jesus or be ashamed of our faith. Our desire should be like Paul's, to disciple people to become like Jesus as we are becoming like Jesus.

a) When do you find yourself most ashamed of your faith? (i.e. not wanting it to be brought up or highlighted)

b) Who is someone bold in their faith and sharing the Gospel you want to become more like?

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.
A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at **pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons**.

MONDAY // Read Acts 20:22-24, 21:10-14

- Why do you think Paul was so resolute here? Where do you want this kind of resolve in your faith walk?
- Is there an area of your life you feel moved by the Spirit to some kind of action?
- What are the voices, like the Ephesians pleading with Paul, trying to hold us back from obeying the Spirit?

TUESDAY // Read Acts 22:22-29

- Why do you think Paul chose to utilize his Roman citizenship at this point, but not before when he was persecuted?
- What are privileges or advantages you have that you can utilize for God's purposes?
- Do you think you would hold up under the kind of persecution Paul is facing? Why or why not?

WEDNESDAY // Read Acts 23:1-11

- Where do we need to step back, like Paul, and repent of disrespect for rulers and authority?
- Why might it have been wise for Paul to divide the Pharisees and Sadducees while he was on trial?
- Why would God want Paul to testify to the Gospel in Rome? Where might God be prompting you to testify?

THURSDAY // Read Acts 26:19-32

- In v. 20 Paul says he preached repentance AND good works with it. How does it inform debate on faith vs. works?
- How does vv. 22-23 shed light on questions about the God of the O.T. seeming different from the God the N.T.?
- What does v. 29 tell us about what our purpose should be in evangelism and discipleship?

FRIDAY // Read Romans 13:1-7

- What tendencies do you find in your own life towards rebellion of authority or rulers?
- What does it look like for you to do what is right and be commended for it?
- What are some small ways you can show respect or honor to those who serve us in different capacities?

SATURDAY // Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

- What is the "ignorant talk of foolish men" (vv. 12, 15) that people say against Christians, or might say against you?
- Where do you find yourself needing endurance under unjust suffering?
- What situations do you find yourself needing to "entrust yourself to Him who judges justly"?

MEDITATION VERSE: *And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."* ***Acts 26:29***