

(#14) “Leaving Counters”

What is anyone _____ these days?

- **The world is _____.**

- **The Word is _____.**
 - Jesus is Matthew 12:30 & Luke 11:23

 - Jesus in Mark 9:38-40

 - 7 “P.K.’s” in Acts 19:11-17

Do others know what _____

more than what _____?

- Paul in Philippians 1:15-18

God is _____!

- Romans 8:31

Takin’ it “to-go”:

(#14) “Leaving Counters”

What is anyone **FOR** these days?

- The world is **CONFUSING**.

- The Word is **CRYSTAL CLEAR**.
 - Jesus in Matthew 12:30 & Luke 11:23

 - Jesus in Mark 9:38-40

 - 7 “P.K.’s” in Acts 19:11-17

Do others know what **I’M FOR**

more than what **I’M AGAINST?**

- Paul in Philippians 1:15-18

God is **FOR US!**

- Romans 8:31

Takin’ it “to-go”: *Living FOR Christ leaves the Gospel in scoring position!*

HOME STUDY QUESTIONS & MESSAGE SUPPLEMENT

Sunday, October 10, 2021: *Deliver the Rock #14: Leaving Counters*

Thinking about it: In the sport of curling, “Counters” are stones that sit with potential to score... they are in the “house” and closer to the button than any of the opponents’ stones... each will be a scoring stone if one of your stones is closest to the button at the end. They have been played in a way, with the right touch, to be left in scoring range unless the opponent leaves one closer to the button.

Getting/Staying closest to the “button”: Dr. Corey remembered a pastor’s advice to him, **“Spend more time on what you are for than what you are against.”**

- How might this approach “soften our edges” and help us develop (*get in the “house”*) and maintain (*stay closest to the “button”*) influence with the unsaved in our culture?

Some quotes from **“Love Kindness” Chapter 13 “Thoughts on Softening Our Edges”**

- (Q) *I kept thinking of the many things we need to be against, those sins that need to be overcome in ways that lead to reconciliation and justice. We must be against racism, human trafficking, pornography, rampant materialism, inflated pride, bad theology, and the list goes on.*
- (Q) *Those who continue the path of belittling or backstabbing or battling will be marginalized from the most important conversations, or they’ll simply sing to their own choirs.*
 - (SIDE NOTE: THIS WAS WRITTEN IN 2016, 5 YEARS AGO!)
- (Q) *Maybe for a while we need to turn down the volume, listen more, and err on the side of head-turning kindness, which is not necessarily what our culture is expecting from us.*
- (Q) *Christians tend to love extra-large strategies that pledge to impact the world in short order. We’ve tried this time and again, and we’ve accomplished very little. We need to take the long view through respectful collaborations and earnest conversations, all done in a spirit of kindness.*
- (Q) Pastor in the 1800’s, Adoniram Judson Gordon: **“Our task is not to bring all the world to Christ, our task is to bring Christ to all the world.”**
- (Q) *Kindness calls us off the soapbox and into the cities and villages where we live the life of grace.*
- (Q) *... we will be known as a people committed more to what we are for than to what we are against. We are for reconciliation. We are for excellence in the arts. We are for unburdening the marginalized and the oppressed. We are for life’s sacredness. We are for sound business ethics. We are for safe communities. We are for healthy relationships and marriages. We are for, above all, the atoning and renewing work of Christ.*
- **ANY AGREEMENTS OR DISAGREEMENTS WITH THESE QUOTES?**

From the message: We looked at how Jesus said that anyone who is not FOR Him, is against Him. And on the flip side, anyone who is not against Him, is for Him. What we are for, and what we are against needs to all grow out of sincerely being FOR CHRIST. For His work to be our most important “career development.”

What do these scriptures tell us about living FOR God and His purpose?

- **Luke 11:23**
- **Mark 9:38-40**
- **Acts 19:11-17**
- **Philippians 1:15-18**
- **Romans 8:31**

PRAY: *Thank God that He is FOR YOU! He sent Jesus FOR YOU! Jesus died FOR YOU! He has sent His Holy Spirit FOR YOU! He did all this FOR THE UNSAVED in your community, too! Thank Him that, because He is FOR YOU, NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST YOU! Commit to LIVE FOR HIM AND FOR HIS PURPOSE... IN YOUR LIFE... AND THROUGH YOUR LIFE TO OTHERS!*