

# Exposing Darkness Without Wielding the Sword

*A Christian Response to Fear, Power, and Faithful Witness*

In moments of national pain, fear spreads quickly. When violence, injustice, or abuse of power enters public view, many begin to fear escalation—retaliation on one side, overreach on the other. Some worry that disorder will be used to justify greater control, even at the cost of dignity or democratic trust.

These fears do not arise from nothing. Real harm has occurred. Real people have suffered.

But fear is not the same as discernment. Scripture calls the Church to something deeper than reaction.

Paul writes, *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them”* (Ephesians 5:11). This command is often misunderstood. To expose darkness is not to seize power or enforce righteousness by force. It is to walk in the light so clearly that falsehood is revealed for what it is.

**Scripture calls believers to expose darkness by walking in the light, not by wielding the sword.**

**Judgment belongs to God; witness belongs to the Church.**

## Exposure Is Not Control

Jesus Himself draws a sharp line between His kingdom and worldly power. When violence threatened, He refused it.

*“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting”* (John 18:36).

Christ exposes sin through truth and presence, not coercion. Light reveals; it does not dominate. When Christians confuse exposure with enforcement, fear quietly replaces faithfulness, and power begins to masquerade as righteousness.

History shows that fear erodes conscience faster than chaos. Violence becomes “necessary.” Silence becomes “wise.” Control becomes “moral.” The gospel offers another way.

## Fear Versus Faithful Discernment

Fear rushes. It imagines worst-case outcomes and demands immediate action. Faithful discernment slows down. It listens. It refuses to treat speculation as prophecy or anxiety as wisdom.

Scripture does not call Christians to predict political collapse. It calls them to remain rooted in Christ when societies are strained.

This does not mean ignoring injustice. It means responding without surrendering our souls to panic. We may seek accountability without vengeance. We may pursue justice without becoming what we fear.

## **A Different Posture**

Christians are called to be witnesses, not enforcers. Our task is not to control history, but to remain faithful within it.

We expose darkness when we speak truth without hatred.

We expose darkness when we refuse to dehumanize.

We expose darkness when we remain Christlike even when fear tempts us to abandon restraint.

This posture does not weaken the Church. It preserves its credibility. It guards conscience. And it keeps the gospel from being captured by power.

Because these questions cannot be resolved in a single reflection, I've written a short companion book for those who want to think more carefully and prayerfully about how Christians live faithfully in times like these.