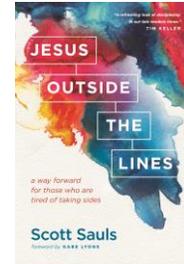


Jesus Outside the Lines—Sermon Outline



Introduction

Slate, the *New York Times*, and the *Atlantic* have all published articles recently on 2014 as "The Year of Outrage." How can Christians lead in the culture as the least offended, and least offensive, people around? According to a former US president, "We have one remaining bigotry. We don't want to be around anyone who disagrees with us."

- **Point 1: No More Us Against Us**

Sibling discord, quarreling, and friction inside the body of Christ are a contradiction to the gospel. Jesus' longest recorded prayer (John 17) is that all his people everywhere would be one. The unity of THE church must supersede loyalty to the tribe. In essentials unity; in nonessentials liberty; in all things charity.

- **Point 2: No More Us Against Them**

Following Jesus means welcoming and eating with those who do not believe as we do. The early church "enjoyed the favor of all the people" in their communities, which remains the ideal for modern times. As Tim Keller says, tolerance is not about not having beliefs. Rather, tolerance is about how our beliefs lead us to treat people who disagree with us. "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders...let your speech *always* be *gracious*" (Colossians 4:6).

- **Point 3: God Against God**

The basis for repudiating outrage is that God the Father punished God the Son on our account, so he would never have to punish us. While we were *still* sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). For us, Jesus was despised and rejected, punished to bring us peace (Isaiah 53). On the cross, Jesus absorbed heaven's justified outrage against us and a sinful humanity. If this is not enough to transform us into people of peace, what *will* be enough?

Visit [Scott Sauls - Love Is Not Easily Offended](#), to hear Scott teach the message of *Jesus Outside the Lines*.