

Red Lights and the People of God A Set Free Movement Bible Study

Oude Kerk is the oldest church in Amsterdam. Surrounding this church today is the largest red light district in the city where women stand in 270 windows selling their flesh to men. Why is this so?



Many years ago members of Oude Kerk, seeking to protect their youth from the abuse of sailors coming into port and others, invited the women involved in prostitution to establish the red light district within the shadows of the church, where the church members could keep an eye on things.

The church helped established the red light district in Amsterdam.

Today the red light district is a thriving business fueled by human trafficking. Meanwhile, there are no youth left to protect and no one worships Jesus any longer in the church. Oude Kerk is now a museum.

Questions:

1. What is your gut level reaction to this?
2. How do you reconcile the actions of this church with I Peter 2:9 & 10?
3. Every Christian and every church struggles with compromise. We are all contributing to injustice through our attitudes, consumerism, words, and actions. What are you personally convicted about in your lifestyle?
4. Read and discuss I Peter 4:10 & 11.
 - a. How are you and your church stewards of God's grace?
 - b. What do you think about speaking the very words of God?
 - c. We don't operate with our own strength, but with God's strength. What is your struggle with this?
 - d. Peter is saying we are and do all for the glory of God centered on Jesus. Is this true for you and your church? What is your struggle with putting Jesus in the center of your life and action?
5. Taking both I Peter 2:9 & 10 and I Peter 4:10 & 11, it's obvious we are not powerless in the face of terrible problems. We live in the power of the resurrection. We are children of God. Therefore:
 - a. What is holding you back from embracing the power of God and being an agent of hope and healing?
 - b. What is holding you back from being all God has called you to be as a son or daughter?
6. Read out loud Ephesians 3:16-20. Note the words about power and see that Paul is calling the community to be and do guided by the Holy Spirit. Let this be your benediction as you finish this study. Pray the scripture. Ask God to do more than you can ask or imagine in your life and in the world.



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