

# *Not in It* **to Win It**

## **Andy Stanley**

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### **A New Kind of Kingdom**

- Jesus consistently rejected the tools, slogans, posture, tone, and approach of the kingdoms of this world.
- Jesus came to lose on purpose, with a purpose.
- 1 Peter 2:21, 23 says, “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.... He entrusted himself to him who judges justly” (NIV).
- Our problem with the teaching of Jesus is that we don’t think it will work.
- Jesus was a different kind of king who came to establish a completely different kind of kingdom.

### **A New Covenant Command (17:00)**

- Jesus’ new covenant command replaced all other commands; it was not in addition to them.
- He commanded us to love one another the way that he has loved us.
- We are to take our behavioral cues from him.
- The Apostle Paul realized Jesus’ way was something entirely new, and whether it worked did not matter.
- The early church changed the world by doing what love required.
- The tools of this world have never accomplished the will of God in this world.

### **Forgetting the Way (22:52)**

- So many Christians have lost their Christianity.
- The moment we start picking up the weapons on this world, we have lost before the battle has begun.

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- Christians have no excuse, because we have a king, and he's made his will known. It intersects with every single relationship and every dollar we spend in every moment of our lives.
- The reactions during this season revealed an ugly reality lurking beneath our Bible-laced rhetoric and faith claims, that perhaps the church values the same thing every ideologically driven group values: winning. Perhaps we fear what every ideologically driven group fears: losing.

### **A Losing Battle (28:00)**

- The church always looks better when we are fighting for other people's rights rather than our own.
- The moment we start fighting for our own rights, we have lost.
- The best way for us to lose our religious freedom is to pick up the weapons of the kingdoms of this world and implement them in the church.
- Influential Christian leaders have acted as if the kingdom of God hung by the thread of the success of a political party or a candidate.
- Have we forgotten what it means to be Christian?
- "Before you demand Christianity be taught in schools, maybe you should demand it be taught in churches."

### **Reactions Speak Louder (30:00)**

- Actions speak louder than words, but reactions speak louder than either.
- Our reactions when things don't go our way say more about our confidence in God than anything else.
- Much of the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus saying not to react like everybody else.
- When Christians react like everybody else, it confirms the suspicions of those who are already suspicious, that our religion is just a tool we use to get our way until it gets in the way.

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- Jesus' greatest concern for the future church was not our theology but our unity.
- The problem isn't that people don't believe what we believe. The problem is they don't believe we believe what we say we believe.

## **Like Jesus (33:19)**

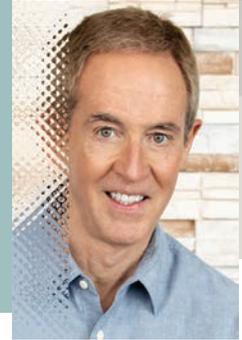
- You get to choose whether or not to follow Jesus. You do not get to choose what following Jesus looks like, because it has been prescribed to us.
- It looks like, sounds like, acts like, and reacts like Jesus.

## **Partisans of a King (34:13)**

- The early Christians in Antioch had not changed religions; they had changed allegiance.
- In ancient times, the secular and the spiritual were in two different realms. The gods did not care how you behaved, and Rome did not care who you worshiped.
- Christians followed a king who was not just concerned about how they worshiped, but who told them how to live.
- Let's be Christian again.
- Do what love requires of you.
- All the imperatives in the teaching of Paul are just applications of Jesus' one imperative, to love others the way that God through Christ has loved you.
- Let's be kind and yet willing to call out unkindness.
- Let's be honest and willing to call out dishonesty, especially when it undermines somebody's dignity, regardless of which party they're in.
- Let's do everything without grumbling, arguing, or complaining.

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## **The Conscience of Nations (39:42)**

- Let's do what's just, not what we can justify.
- Let's do what's responsible, not what's permissible.
- Let's do what's moral, not what's modeled.
- Let's lose our fear of losing.
- Uncompromising devotion to our better king will make the world a better place.