

Big Impact

Big Church #8

Pastor Ken Ritz * August 18, 2013 * New Life Vineyard Church

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 5:41-42

"One of the things we were asked to look into was, what accounted for the success, in fact, the pre-eminence of the West over the world? We studied everything we could from the historical, political, economic, and cultural perspective. At first, we thought it was because you had more powerful weapons than we had. Then we thought it was because you had the best political system. Next we focused on your economic system.

But in the past twenty years, we have realized that the heart of your culture is your religion: Christianity. That is why the west has been so powerful. The Christian moral foundation of social and cultural life was what made possible the emergence of capitalism and then the successful transition to democratic politics. We don't have any doubt about this. Studies by Chinese sociologists reveal that, in rural areas of China where traveling evangelists introduced the Christian faith, opium addiction goes down, crime drops, and Christian families grow wealthier than their neighbors."

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Galatians 5:16-24

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Does the church matter in our world?

It makes more difference than you can even imagine, because we are the stewards not only of eternal life, but we are the stewards of a better life, a better kind of life, based on better values.

*All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted