

Sermon - More Than Conquerors

Pastor Ed Blonski | January 1, 2023

In a world that increasingly sets the standard of life as "win or lose" God comes to us and says, "You are more than conquerors."

New Years' Resolutions

This is the time of year to reflect and make resolutions.

Many people take a moment to look back on the year, to take stock on what happened, what results there were, and maybe even the disappointments because of what didn't happen.

And it is good to do this! Maybe for you it was an incredible year!

Maybe for you it was such a disappointment that you just can't wait for 2023.

No matter where you fall on that spectrum of reflection, I'm here to say that in a world that increasingly sets the standard of life as "win or lose" God comes to us and says, "You are more than conquerors."

Win!

Many people make resolutions at this time of year.

It could be that your resolution for 2023 is to win!
Win the race. Win the promotion. Win the new job.
Win the lottery.

Happiness!

Or your resolution for 2023 is to find happiness! Find the job that'll make you happy. Find the vacation destination that'll make you happy. Find the car or bike that'll make you happy.



Love!

Maybe it's to finally find love! You're going to find that special someone that'll make you happy for the rest of your life!

Whatever your resolutions for the new year, I want to explore with you for a moment how the world's standards of them don't match up with God's - and how that's a good thing!

The World's Standards - Win or Lose

The world's standard for life is that you either win or lose. It's a zero-sum game.

You either win at life - by working hard or winning life's lottery, as one politician once put it - or you are one of the billions who are losers because you don't have enough money, happiness, love, power or anything else the world considers the standard for a winner.

I thank God there is a better way!

But God Says, "You Are More Than Conquerors"



In Romans 8, God tells us that there is more to life than what the world considers the standard. When we look at what the world offers and sets as the standard for conquering life, God's Word should ring in our ears that "you are more than conquerors."

There is more to life than just winning or losing

God says there is more to life than just winning or losing. Or, at least there's a better way to look at how life plays out than just as winning or losing.

Because life is more than just a game.

Oh, I know the world plays life like it was game.

"He who dies with the most toys wins" is the popular saying.

So, you better get while the getting is good. Get the biggest house, the best car, the most powerful computer, the job that pays the most and gives you the most power.

But you know people who play life that way. Are they truly happy and fulfilled?

There is more to life than happiness

No. Because there is more to life than happiness. Someone who is happy all the time or smiles all the time is not considered winning, they are usually considered borderline psychotic!

No one wakes up every morning happy. Even the most well-adjusted person or the most secure marriage has times of sadness mixed in with the happiness.

There is more to life than love

Because there is more to life than happiness and there's more to life than just love.

In my position as pastor, I get to counsel couples before they get married. And that year before the wedding is usually a time of great joy and happiness - along with the stress of planning.

That gives me the opportunity to caution them to not think getting married will make them happy. I counsel them to not look at marriage as the thing that will finally bring the love they've been seeking all their lives.

That kind of love needs to be present before the wedding. And a good, Godly marriage will strengthen that love.

Because there is more to life than love.

How do I know? Because Jesus is the greatest and foremost example of someone who is more than a conqueror that we are seeking to become in this new year.

Jesus is our great example of someone who is more than a conqueror

As we just celebrated the birth of Jesus, you know that he didn't stay a baby. Jesus grew up to live a perfect life for us.

And he is the great example of someone who is more than a conqueror.

He lost his case and lost his life before Pilate and the Sanhedrin

Winner or loser? Jesus lost his trial to the Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate. And he lost his life, from the world's standard.

He ended up alone at the end. Very sad

Jesus ended up alone. No one spoke up for him. No one took his place. Jesus hung on that cross for all the world to see. And some of the people who witnessed it wailed in sadness.

He extended the hand of love and was rejected and killed for it

Jesus was on that cross because for three years he extended the hand of love and compassion. And since he wasn't on the same page as the religious leaders of his country, they hated him for it.

But Jesus did all this, not in a losing effort, but in order to win the salvation for all people - including you and me!



You are more than conquerors



Because Jesus did all this for you. Because Jesus forgives your sins and gives you His very life of righteousness and faith, you are more than conquerors!

You are more than a win or a loss

You are more than a win or a loss.

If you didn't get that promotion, you didn't lose. God has something special in mind for you that doesn't involve that promotion at this time.

You are more than just a happy or sad person

You are more than just a happy or sad person. Christ fills you with joy - even in the times of sadness. Christ fills you with joy that makes the happy times all the more sweeter!

You are more than just a person in love or seeking love

You are more than just a person in love or seeking love. You are a person loved specially by Christ. And that shapes how you love and are loved by others!

You are more than conquerors

You are more than conquerors! You are loved by God in Christ Jesus!

Jesus came so that you could be more than conquerors!

That's why Jesus came! So that you could be more than conquerors.

More than just win

Life is more than just a lottery to win. Life is to be lived with purpose and fulfillment.

More than just be happy

Life is more than just being happy. It is living with joy - whether exuberant or subdued, but joy nonetheless.

More than just find love

Life is more than just something you do to find love.

Being more than conquerors means that you know love found you! The love of God in Christ Jesus has found you and gives you joy, fulfillment and purpose.

Wide Open Horizons for more than Conquerors

On this brink of a new year, look at that horizon! It is wide open with possibilities and purpose!

Look at that horizon with the eyes of a follower of Jesus!

Follower of Jesus

a) Share wins & losses

You can share the wins and losses of the world. Because they don't define you, you define them as something to be enjoyed and learned from! And you can share wins and losses with others because you are in a position as a follower of Jesus to reach out a hand of service and compassion to them!

b) Share happiness - even amidst sadness

You can also share happiness even amidst sadness. There will be sad days as well as happy days in 2023. You can share the joy of being a follower of Jesus when you go through them or someone you know goes through them.

c) Share love - the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

You can share love. You are loved by God. Jesus loves you so much He sacrificed himself to take your sins away!

As a follower of Jesus you are going to live forever in the paradise prepared by Jesus.

That's a love that can and should be shared with others!

More Than Conquerors - Conclusion

In a world that increasingly sets the standard of life as "win or lose" God comes to you and says, "You are more than conquerors."

Take that into the new year and show the world what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

